



Intellectual Property Alert

What's In the Pipeline for Judicial Vacancies?

November 4, 2011

A number of important changes to the federal judiciary are underway behind the bench at the Federal Circuit and in district courts where a significant number of patent cases are pending. Several long-serving judges are retiring or taking senior status, and new judges are being selected to fill the vacancies. Below is a chart that lists relevant recent vacancies, identifies replacements that have been nominated to fill the vacancies, and the status of the nomination. The entries are listed in order of the date that a replacement was nominated to fill the vacancy.

Confirmation of judicial nominees has been a very slow process during this Congress. While October 2011 saw a total of 15 judicial nominees confirmed, none of the confirmations included nominees to fill the seats on the list below. While four of the nominees have been reported out of committee, and two more nominees are scheduled for committee hearings this week, none of the nominees are currently scheduled for a confirmation vote on the Senate floor, and two vacant benches are still without nominees.¹ We will update this chart periodically as the nomination process moves forward for various nominees.

To view the chart, please [click here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions concerning this alert, please contact —

Michael Simons
msimons@akingump.com
512.499.6253
Austin

Sanford E. Warren, Jr.
swarren@akingump.com
214.969.2877
Dallas

¹ See <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/hearings/hearing.cfm?id=9b6937d5e931a0b792d258d9b32603b8>

