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## Preface to Issue No. 1

Scott D. Sanford

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The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the largest of the thirteen federal circuits. Ninth Circuit decisions affect nearly 51 million people living within nine Western states and two United States territories. The court's territory includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. In the last year, the Ninth Circuit has experienced a four percent increase in new filings.

The purpose of this twenty-fifth edition of the Ninth Circuit Survey is to inform the readers of some of the important decisions of the 1999 - 2000 court term. This edition includes student-written critique and analysis of recent Ninth Circuit decisions pertaining to current environmental, employment and criminal procedure issues. Second, this edition contains summaries that provide an in-depth analysis of recent decisions impacting intellectual property law, employment law, and criminal law. These summaries are also composed of a brief discussion of the decisions' potential implications in the particular field of law.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the associate editors, particularly the invaluable contributions of Rema Titcomb, Thomas Murphy and Zach Dalton. I thank Editor-in-Chief Jennifer DeWitt for her determination and leadership. I congratulate and commend Ninth Circuit Survey writers Kenneth Sogabe, Holly Larsen, Scott Smithline and Beth Wolf for their hard work, patience and dedication. Recognition is also well deserved for the Ninth Circuit Survey writers: Jennifer DeWitt; Jennifer Benesis; Cynthia O'Brien; Jim Wilkins; Patricia Caldwell and Marnee Milken for their hard work. In addition, I thank James Mitchell for his contribution of updating the biography of each jurist serving on the Ninth Circuit. Finally, I thank my family and friends for their support and encouragement.

**Scott D. Sanford**  
**Senior Editor, Ninth Circuit Survey**