

Nominee for Federal Circuit: Todd M. Hughes

Todd M. Hughes, a career staff attorney in the Civil Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, and President Obama's most recent nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, sailed through his recent confirmation hearing in just 10 minutes.

Hughes has 18 years of experience at the Justice Department, including the last six years as deputy director of the commercial litigation branch. A 1992 honors graduate of Duke Law School, Hughes began his legal career as a Law Clerk to Judge Robert Krupansky of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit before joining the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Department of Justice in 1994. During his time there, he has specialized in federal personnel and whistleblower law, veterans benefits, international trade, and government contracts. Among the cases he handled were the Harbor Maintenance Tax Cases in which he helped defend against attempts to invalidate parts of the Harbor Maintenance Tax as conflicting with the Constitution's Export Clause.

Hughes also has argued 45 cases before the Federal Circuit, including veterans benefit cases, trade law, government contracts, and government personnel cases. The American Bar Association has rated Hughes as Unanimously Qualified for the Federal Circuit bench.

With Hughes's confirmation hearing finished, his nomination will be referred to the Senate, which could confirm his nomination at any time.

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