



United States Courts for the First Circuit  
Office of the Circuit Executive  
John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse  
1 Courthouse Way - Suite 3700  
Boston, MA 02210

Gary H. Wente  
Circuit Executive  
617-748-9613

CONTACT: Susan J. Goldberg  
Deputy Circuit Executive  
617-748-9614

**For Immediate Release**

**Press Release**

**Eric Alexander Vos to Become  
Federal Public Defender  
for the District of Puerto Rico**

BOSTON (April 10, 2014) — Chief Judge Sandra Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today that the Court has selected Eric Alexander Vos to serve as the next Federal Public Defender for the District of Puerto Rico upon Hector E. Guzman's retirement from that position on August 19, 2014. Mr. Vos will assume the position pending the successful completion of a full F.B.I. background investigation.

Mr. Vos grew up in Puerto Rico where he attended grade school and high school until he enrolled in Clark University, where he graduated with a B.A. in geography and international development in 1984. After graduating from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1992, Mr. Vos opened his own law firm where he engaged in private practice for several years. Mr. Vos began his first employment with Federal Defenders' Offices in 1996, when he first worked as a trial attorney with the Federal Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. There, Mr. Vos managed a high volume of complex litigation, and supervised the work of investigators, paralegals and other attorneys. After ten years in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Mr. Vos became an Assistant Federal Defender in the District of Maine, where he served for three years. Presently, Mr. Vos is an Attorney Advisor at the Defender Services Office, Legal Policy &

Training Division, where he has worked since October 2009. As an Attorney Advisor, Mr. Vos has traveled to dozens of Federal Defenders' Offices, including in Puerto Rico, to provide training tailored to the local needs of both Federal Defenders and Criminal Justice Act panel members.

Chief Judge Lynch stated "the First Circuit Court of Appeals is extremely pleased that an attorney with Mr. Vos's experience, who has earned the respect of the bench and the bar in Puerto Rico, will serve as the next Federal Defender. The Court is confident that, under Mr. Vos's leadership, the office will ably respond to the needs of the defense community and the federal courts in the District of Puerto Rico." Chief Judge Lynch expressed appreciation to Hector Guzman for his many years of dedicated service as Federal Defender. Chief Judge Lynch also thanked Circuit Judge Juan Torruella, who chaired the screening committee, and Circuit Judge Jeffrey Howard, who also served on the committee. In addition, Chief Judge Lynch commended the attorney members of the committee, José Aguayo, Linda Backiel, Thomas R. Lincoln and José Novas-Debien.

###