

Biden Lauds Bipartisanship In Confirming Record No. Of Judges

By Courtney Bublé · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (January 2, 2025, 5:48 PM EST) -- With less than three weeks left in office, President Joe Biden on Thursday celebrated putting 235 lifetime judges on the federal bench.

The Senate confirmed his last judges on [Dec. 20](#), giving him one more lifetime confirmation than President Donald Trump.

"Today I want to recognize a major milestone," Biden said in his remarks in the White House State Dining Room. "The Senate recently confirmed its 235th federal judge, which is the largest number of confirmations in a single presidential term since the early '80s."

He noted this includes one [U.S. Supreme Court](#) justice, 45 circuit judges, 187 district court judges, and two judges on the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Biden touted the "record number" of his judges who have experience in civil rights and advocacy, and in serving as public defenders. Also, "I've appointed the most demographically diverse slate of judicial nominees ever."

Despite the contentious political atmosphere, Biden said that senators from Republican-leaning states like Indiana, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas were able to work with him for district judges in their states. This is due to the "blue slip" process, which forces cooperation between home state senators and the White House.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., outgoing chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and majority whip, was also at Thursday's event, saying more than one in four federal judges were picked by Biden, and his "high point" was Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson becoming the first Black woman to serve on the high court.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said these judges are coming "just in time" as "democracy faces an uncertain future," seemingly referring to Trump's return to office with a Republican-led House and Senate.

But he did acknowledge "some support from a group of Republican senators" in confirming some of Biden's judges.

Related, on Dec. 23, Biden signed a bipartisan bill that would make permanent 10 judgeships in the [Eastern District of Texas](#), District of Hawaii, Northern District of Alabama, [Central District of California](#), [District of New Mexico](#), [District of Arizona](#), [Southern District of Florida](#), District of Kansas, Eastern District of Missouri, and Western District of North Carolina.

The Senate passed the bill unanimously in April, and the House similarly [passed it](#) unanimously on Dec. 16.

In a statement on Dec. 24, the White House thanked Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii — both members of the Senate Judiciary Committee — along with Reps. Lance Gooden, R-Texas, Ted Lieu, D-Calif., Nathaniel Moran, R-Texas. — all members of the House Judiciary Committee — "and many others for their leadership."

This law means "we can cut through the red tape and make a key judgeship in Texas permanent," Cruz said in a statement to Law360. "This isn't just about courtrooms; it's about ensuring Texans can count on timely, fair resolutions to the issues that matter most in their lives, without the chaos of annual funding fights grinding progress to a halt."

The signing of this bill was announced after the president [vetoed](#) the Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act, which would have added more judgeships over the next decade.

U.S. District Judge Robert J. Conrad Jr., the director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, said the veto was "extremely disappointing" in a statement on Dec. 24.

"This veto is a deviation from the long historical pattern of approving judgeship bills that awarded new judgeships to sitting presidents," said Judge Conrad. "The president's veto is contrary to the actions of Senator Biden, who helped pass many of those bills."

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.