

# Battaglia Confirmed As District Court Judge in San Diego

By Robert Iafolla  
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WASHINGTON — U.S. Magistrate Judge Anthony J. Battaglia won Senate confirmation on an 89-0 vote Monday to become a district court judge in San Diego.

Battaglia will fill a seat that's been open since U.S. District Judge M. James Lorenz took senior status in October 2009.

The Senate has confirmed two district court judges since the new Congress convened earlier this year. Six vacancies remain on California district courts, with two each in the state's Southern, Central and Northern Districts. The Obama administration has named candidates for two of those open seats: Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John A. Kronstadt and U.S. Magistrate Edward M. Chen.

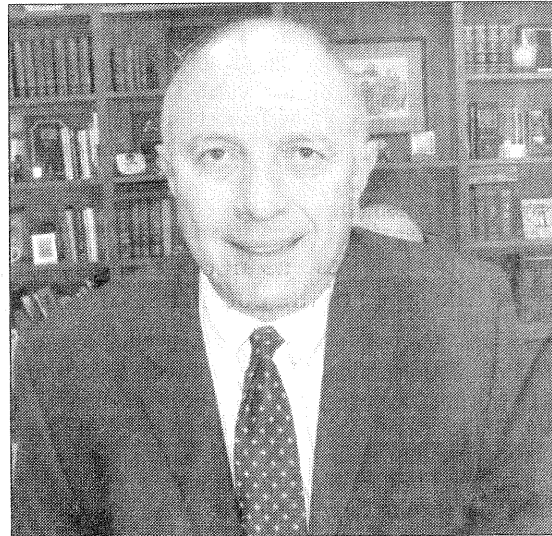
Battaglia became a federal magistrate judge in 1993. The judges of the Southern District reappointed him twice over the succeeding years.

In January 2010, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. tapped Battaglia to represent all magistrate judges on the Judicial Conference, which makes policy for the administration of federal courts and supervises the Administrative Office of the Courts.

California Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer recommended Battaglia to the Obama administration. The White House first nominated him last May, but he did not receive a floor vote, despite clearing the Senate Judiciary Committee on a unanimous vote. The administration renominated him in January.

"I'm thrilled to have been nominated," the judge said, "and very eager to begin work in my new role."

Boxer said in a prepared statement that Battaglia's career "stands as a testament to his dedication and devotion to the law and the legal community of San Diego



Anthony J. Battaglia

— both inside and outside of the courtroom."

Battaglia practiced law in San Diego for nearly 20 years before taking the bench. Primarily a plaintiffs' attorney, he concentrated on maritime personal injury matters for his first half-dozen years and later expanded his practice into product liability and third-party negligence cases.

A native of San Diego, Battaglia earned his law degree at California Western School of Law.

He's known in the local legal community for his commitment to legal education. Stanley J. Panikowski III, a former president of the San Diego chapter of the Federal Bar Association, told the Daily Journal in 2009 that he refers to Battaglia as "Mr. CLE."

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