

## **O.C. native named as possible nominee to replace the late Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court**

By [MARTIN WISCKOL](#)

2016-02-15 17:36:37

Garden Grove-born Paul J. Watford, a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, is being widely mentioned as a possible nominee to replace the late Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Watford, 48, grew up in Orange County before leaving to attend college at UC Berkeley and then UCLA, where he received his law degree, according to a 2011 White House press release. He went on to clerk for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and was a partner in the Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson, where he specialized in appellate cases.

He was nominated by President Barack Obama to be an appellate judge in 2011 and confirmed by the Senate in a 61-34 vote the next year. He is African American.

“He’s very bright and considered to be a moderate,” said Wylie Aitken, a prominent Orange County attorney and former chairman of the Democratic Foundation of Orange County. “There’s talk that he’s confirmable if anybody is confirmable in the current political environment – but I’m not sure anybody is.”

Among those listing Watford as one of several possible candidate are The New York Times and The Washington Post. Watford works out of the Pasadena office of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, according to the court’s website.

**Contact the writer:** [mwisckol@ocregister.com](mailto:mwisckol@ocregister.com)