



Gonzalo P. Curiel is a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California. Curiel was born in East Chicago, Indiana in 1953. His parents Salvador and Francisca, both immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico, were naturalized citizens. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Indiana University in 1976 and his Juris Doctor from the Indiana University School of Law in 1979.

He was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of California from 1989 to 2002, and in the Central District of California from 2002-2006. While in the Southern District, he served as Deputy Chief (1996-1999) and then Chief (1999-2002) of the Narcotics Enforcement Division. During his tenure with the Narcotics Enforcement Division, Curiel led the Arellano Felix Cartel Task Force which investigated and prosecuted the leaders of the Tijuana, Mexico cartel.

Then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Curiel in 2006 to the state superior court, where he worked for six years before ascending to the federal court. President Barack Obama's nominated Curiel in November 2011 and he was approved by the U.S. Senate in September 2012. He received his commission as a United States District Judge on October 1, 2012.