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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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California Judges Receive Appointments to Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today announced the appointments of Bankruptcy Judges William J. Lafferty, III, and Julia W. Brand, to seven-year terms on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which resolves appeals arising out of bankruptcy court decisions in the western states.

Judge Lafferty is one of nine judges sitting on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, which handled 11,471 cases in calendar year 2015. His appointment to the BAP is effective August 1, 2016.

Judge Lafferty, 62, has been a bankruptcy judge in the Northern District since 2011. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he had been an attorney with the San Francisco law firm of Howard Rice since 1987. He became director and member of the firm's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group in 1993.

Judge Lafferty received his B.A. in 1978 from the University of California at Berkeley, where he graduated with honors and his J.D. in 1985 from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of the Constitutional Law Quarterly. Following law school, he clerked for Bankruptcy Judge Thomas E. Carlson of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California from 1985 to 1987.

Judge Brand is one of 27 bankruptcy judges sitting on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, which handled 46,523 cases in calendar year 2015. Her appointment to the BAP is effective December 1, 2016.

Judge Brand, 57, has been a bankruptcy judge in the Central District since, 2011. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Brand had practiced bankruptcy law in Los Angeles for more

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than 20 years. She had been a shareholder in the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck LLP from 2010 to 2011. Prior to that, she was of counsel for 11 months to Danning Gill Diamond & Kollitz LLP. From 2007 to 2009, Judge Brand was a partner in the law firm of Liner Grode Stein Yankelevitz Sunshine Regenstreif & Taylor and a partner at the law firm of Katten Muchin Rosenmann LLP from 1991 to 2007. Prior to working at Katten, Judge Brand was an associate at Gendel Raskoff Shapiro & Quittner and Bolton Dunn & Moore.

Judge Brand received her B.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1981 and her J.D. in 1985 from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law, where she served as editor of the Computer Law Journal and received the American Jurisprudence Award for Labor Law.

The BAP is based in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California. Historically, the BAP has handled between 49 percent and 60 percent of all bankruptcy appeals originating out of bankruptcy courts throughout the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder).

The BAP was established in 1979 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. Since then, it has disposed of more than 15,000 cases, including more than 5,000 decided on the merits. New bankruptcy appeals filed numbered 782 in fiscal year 2015.

BAP judges serve a term of seven years and are eligible for a 3-year extension. Other bankruptcy judges from around the circuit also serve on appellate panels on a pro tem basis.

The Ninth Circuit was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. Other circuits with bankruptcy appellate panels are the First, Sixth, Eighth and Tenth circuits. For more information, visit: <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap/>.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the federal district and bankruptcy courts in 15 judicial districts serving nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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