

Media Release
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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**Ninth Circuit Reappoints Six Judges
to Central District Bankruptcy Court**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of six judges to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. They are:

- Judge Alan M. Ahart, effective April 4, 2002. Judge Ahart, who maintains chambers in Los Angeles, has authored or co-authored numerous articles relating to bankruptcy law and is a frequent panelist and speaker on bankruptcy matters. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 1988, he had been in private practice or affiliated with other attorneys in Van Nuys, where he represented financial institutions. Judge Ahart earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley, his J.D. from the University of New York Law School, and his LL.M. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.
- Judge Mitchel R. Goldberg, effective June 1, 2002. Judge Goldberg, who maintains chambers in Riverside, has served as chair of bankruptcy court's Chapter 13 Forms Committee. He chairs the Central District Court's Pro Se Committee, and serves on its Jury Committee. He is a member of the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum and is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy issues in family law, ADR, and bankruptcy. Judge Goldberg received undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Colorado.
- Judge Arthur M. Greenwald, effective March 9, 2002. Judge Greenwald, who maintains chambers in Woodland Hills, is active in various professional organizations. He is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the Ninth Circuit Historical Society, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and serves as a director of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum. Prior to his first appointment in 1988, he served as an assistant United States attorney for the Central District of California, Tax

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- Division, for 24 years. Judge Greenwald earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, and his law degree from the Southwestern University School of Law.
- Judge Kathleen Thompson Lax, effective April 4, 2002. Judge Lax, who maintains chambers in Woodland Hills, is active in professional organizations. She is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, serves on the governing boards of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum and the Financial Lawyers Conference, and is an editorial advisor to the California Bankruptcy Journal. Prior to her first appointment in 1988, she had been an associate with the Los Angeles law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas and her law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law.
- Judge Robin L. Riblet, effective March 30, 2002. Judge Riblet, who maintains chambers in Santa Barbara, is active in professional circles, speaking regularly at events sponsored by the Los Angeles and California bankruptcy forums, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and others. First appointed in 1988, she was previously associated with the Los Angeles law firm of Stutman, Treister & Glatt. She earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science from the University of Florida, her JD from the University of San Diego, and a LL.M. from the New York University School of Law.
- Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, effective April 18, 2002. Judge Zurzolo, who maintains chambers in Los Angeles, serves on the court's Executive Committee and chairs its Space and Facilities Planning Committee, which oversees facility planning, design and construction. He chairs the court's Case Management Committee and Pro Bono Publico Committee. First appointed to the bankruptcy bench in 1988, he previously practiced bankruptcy law with the Los Angeles firm of Greenberg, Glusker, Fields, Claman & Machtinger. Judge Zurzolo earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California at San Diego, and his law degree from the University of California at Davis.

The judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit are charged with the statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing the 68 bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for the reappointment of bankruptcy judges. Bankruptcy judges serve for 14-year, renewable terms, at a salary of \$133,492, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.