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NEWS RELEASE

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**Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judges for
Central, Eastern Districts of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointments of Los Angeles attorneys Catherine Bauer and Deborah J. Saltzman to serve as judges of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, and Sacramento attorney Ronald H. Sargis to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California.

Ms. Bauer will fill a judgeship vacant in Riverside since April 2008, when Bankruptcy Judge Mitchell Goldberg retired. Ms. Saltzman will also fill a judgeship left vacant in Riverside by the retirement of Bankruptcy Judge David Naugle in September 2008. Mr. Sargis will fill a vacant judgeship in Modesto resulting from reassignments of the bankruptcy court bench. All appointments are contingent upon approval of background clearances.

Ms. Bauer, 49, is a lawyer in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. As an assistant U.S. attorney, she represents the federal government in all civil, non-tax bankruptcy matters in consumer and commercial cases in every chapter of bankruptcy in the Central District.

Ms. Saltzman, 39, has practiced bankruptcy law for the last 10 years in the Los Angeles area. She is currently an associate with the law firm of DLA Piper in Los Angeles. She also has practiced at Hennigan Bennett & Dorman, LLP, from 2006 to 2008; at O'Melveny & Myers, LLP, from 2001 to 2005 and from 1996 to 2000; and Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern, LLP, from 2000 to 2001.

Mr. Sargis, 52, has practiced with Hefner, Stark & Marois, LLP, since 1983. He became partner in 1989 and was the managing partner from 1997 to 1998. His practice includes representation of business and individual clients in Chapter 11 and 12 reorganizations, individual debtors in Chapter 13 and 7 cases, creditors, Chapter 11 trustees, and creditors' committees.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Ms. Bauer received her B.A. in political science from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1982. She received her J.D. in 1985 from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, where she was on Moot Court and received an American Judicature Award.

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Ms. Bauer has served on the Central District's bankruptcy mediation panel since 1995. She is an active member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, California State Bar, Los Angeles County Bar, American Bar Association, National Civil Trial Competition, Federal Executive Board, and Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (formerly Angeles Girl Scout Council).

A native of New York City, Ms. Saltzman received her B.A. in history from Amherst College in 1991 (Phi Beta Kappa, 1990), and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1996. While in law school, she was a semifinalist in the William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition and a winner of the Bracewell & Patterson First Year Oral Argument Award.

Actively involved in her community, Ms. Saltzman has taught a continuing education program on bankruptcy and restructuring. She is a mentor to young people involved in the local chapter of the Young Storytellers Foundation. She was voted by attorney peers as a Southern California Rising Star for five consecutive years, 2004-2008.

A native of Merced, California, Mr. Sargis received his B.A. in political science in 1979 from Stanford University and his J.D., *with distinction*, in 1982 from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Mr. Sargis was admitted to the California bar in 1982. He has continuously served as the general counsel to the California Association of Collectors, Inc, since 1985. He is a member and for two terms served as a board member of the Sacramento Valley Bankruptcy Forum. Mr. Sargis serves as chancellor to his church and as church attorney to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California serves seven Southern California counties. The court is authorized 24 judges, which includes three authorized temporary judgeships, and received 65,856 bankruptcy filings in 2008.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California is authorized seven judges, including one temporary judgeship. In 2008, the court received 32,154 bankruptcy filings.

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing 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 reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$160,080, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.