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NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy Judge for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointment of Robert Kwan, currently an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, as a bankruptcy judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Mr. Kwan, 53, will succeed Bankruptcy Judge John E. Ryan, who has announced his retirement. Subject to completion and approval of background checks by the FBI and IRS, Mr. Kwan will commence his 14-year term on January 2, 2007, when Judge Ryan officially steps down.

Mr. Kwan has been an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California since July 1989. He has been the deputy chief of the Tax Division, where he is responsible for civil and criminal tax litigation, since 1994. His federal service began in Washington, D.C., where he participated in the Attorney General's Honors Law Graduate Program, 1979 to 1983, and worked in the Department of Justice's Tax Division, 1983 to 1987. He also practiced privately in business litigation with a tax emphasis.

Mr. Kwan received his undergraduate degree in 1975 from Yale University, and his J.D. in 1979 from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. He also attended Georgetown University and completed a Master of Laws in Taxation (LL.M) degree in 1985. During law school, Mr. Kwan was a member of the Thurston Society, a law school honor society, participated in the *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review*, and was a student coordinator and civil procedure tutor for the Hastings Legal Education Opportunity Program. He also held summer law clerk positions in the Legal Aid Society and in the U.S. Attorney's Office, both in San Francisco.

As an expert on tax law, Mr. Kwan was invited to be a panelist on the Bankruptcy Tax Program for the L.A. Bankruptcy Forum in 2001 and has been a faculty member of District Judge Robert Takasugi's Pro Bono Bar Review course for the past 12 years. He also has been a consultant in personal and small business bankruptcy practice and has been active in the L.A. County Bar Association. In October 2005, he co-authored a

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chapter on bankruptcy tax issues in a Continuing Education of the Bar treatise on consumer and small business bankruptcy law practice in California.

Born in Los Angeles and a third generation Southern Californian, Mr. Kwan has been involved in a number of community service organizations, including the Friends of the Chinese American Museum, and the City of South Pasadena Planning Commission, Library Board and Cultural Heritage Commission.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California is the nation's busiest with more than 84,000 bankruptcy filings in calendar year 2005. The court has 21 bankruptcy judges and five divisional offices serving seven counties.

Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have 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 reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at an annual salary of \$151,984, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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