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NEWS RELEASE

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**Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy
Judge for Southern District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today announced the appointment of San Diego attorney Margaret M. Mann to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California.

Ms. Mann will fill a judgeship now held by Bankruptcy Judge James W. Meyers, who will retire on February 28, 2010. The appointment is contingent upon successful completion of background clearances.

Ms. Mann, 52, is presently a partner in the San Diego office of Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP. She has been with the firm since 2008 and represents clients in commercial transactions, bankruptcy matters, and litigation in state and federal courts. From 2003 to 2008, Ms. Mann was a shareholder in the San Diego office of Heller Ehrman LLP, where she managed the firm's practice group which consisted of 20 attorneys in the U.S. and China. From 1984 to 2003 Ms. Mann was an associate then partner in the San Diego law firm of Luce Forward.

Ms. Mann has represented trustees and secured creditors in real estate and Ponzi scheme cases, and debtors in large Chapter 11 cases. She has handled pro bono Chapter 7 and 13 cases, and served as a mediator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California for over 10 years.

A Chicago native, Ms. Mann was graduated *with distinction* from the University of Illinois and the Tilburg School of Economics in the Netherlands in 1978. She received her J.D. from the University of Southern California Law School in 1981. She has been a member of the Hale Moot Court Honors Program and participated in the International Moot Court Competition in 1980. She also served an internship with the Securities and Exchange Commission following her graduation from USC.

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Ms. Mann served as a Ninth Circuit lawyer representative co-chair for the Southern District of California from 2008 to 2009 and was a lawyer representative from 2006 to 2007. She serves on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California's Local Rules Committee and is a court-appointed special advocate for foster children.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California is authorized 4 judges. In fiscal year 2009, the court received 19,282 bankruptcy filings.

Judges of the U.S. 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.

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