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NEWS RELEASE

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New Bankruptcy Judge Appointed to Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Los Angeles attorney Julie Wagner Brand to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Ms. Brand, 52, who will maintain chambers in Los Angeles, is scheduled to take her oath of office on October 24, 2011. She will fill a judgeship being vacated by retiring Bankruptcy Judge Geraldine Mund, who has been serving in a recalled capacity since February 10, 2011.

Ms. Brand has practiced bankruptcy law in Los Angeles for more than 20 years. Since October 2010, she has been a shareholder in the law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Shreck LLP, assisting in developing the firm's bankruptcy practice in the areas of natural resources, energy and public debt restructuring. Prior to that, she was of counsel for 11 months to Danning Gill Diamond & Kollitz LLP, where she represented debtors, creditors and estate representatives in Chapters 7 and 11 bankruptcy filings.

From 2007 to 2009, Ms. Brand was a partner in the law firm of Liner Grode Stein Yankelevitz Sunshine Regenstreif & Taylor LLP, where she served as bankruptcy group chair and worked on corporate and bankruptcy matters. From 1991 to 2007, she was a partner at the law firm of Katten Muchin Rosenmann LLP, representing secured creditors and debtors, and serving on the firm's finance and reorganization department and on its professional responsibility committee. Prior to working at Katten, Ms. Brand was an associate at Gendel Raskoff Shapiro & Quittner and Bolton Dunn & Moore.

Ms. Brand received her B.A. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1981. She received 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.

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Throughout her career, Ms. Brand has volunteered her time on behalf of her community. She served on an advisory committee to the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies and as a board member of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She is the former Network Chair and current Communication Chair for the Southern California Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation. Her volunteer service also includes mentoring USC law students; *pro bono* representation of indigent immigrant children in immigration proceedings; and serving as a panelist for educational programs focusing on issues related to bankruptcy law.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California is authorized 24 bankruptcy judges. The court is one of the nation's busiest, reporting 138,585 filings in fiscal year 2010, up 42.2 percent from the prior year.

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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