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NEWS RELEASE

October 20, 2011

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New Judge Appointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Los Angeles

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 Neil William Bason to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Mr. Bason, 49, who will maintain chambers in Los Angeles, is scheduled to take his oath of office on October 24, 2011. He will fill a new judgeship authorized in March 2011 by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Mr. Bason has been special counsel at Duane Morris LLP in Los Angeles since 2009. He represents bankruptcy trustees in recovery and disposition of property and claim objections, and loan servicers and receivers in receivership matters, and handles other general bankruptcy and commercial law matters. He was special counsel from 2008 to 2009 at Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin, P.C., where he represented debtors, creditors, equity holders and purchasers in complex Chapter 11 proceedings.

Mr. Bason also served as a law clerk to Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali of the Northern District of California from 2000 to 2008. He had been an associate for the former law firm of Hovis, Smith, Stewart, Lipscomb & Cross, LLP, 1996 to 1999, and a contract attorney for various law firms from 1993 to 1996.

A native of Washington, D.C., Mr. Bason received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1984. His undergraduate studies includes attending the University of London from 1982 to 1983. He received his J.D. in 1988 from Boston University, School of Law, where he graduated *magna cum laude* and was a note editor for the Boston University Law Review. He received the American Jurisprudence Award in land development law and professional responsibility.

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Mr. Bason has served as a panelist and speaker on a variety of bankruptcy topics. He was a guest lecturer at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, in 2008, and was a member and co-vice chair of the Insolvency Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California. Mr. Bason has also volunteered with Project Open Hand and was a past participant in the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, providing *pro bono* assistance to individuals.

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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