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NEWS RELEASE

January 20, 2011

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**Court of Appeals Appoints New Bankruptcy
Judges for Central District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointments of three new judges for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Attorneys Scott C. Clarkson and Mark S. Wallace were appointed to fill temporary judgeships approved by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit in 2009. They were sworn into office today and will have chambers in Santa Ana. Attorney Wayne E. Johnson was appointed to fill a judgeship left vacant by the retirement of Bankruptcy Judge Samuel Bufford in August 2010. He will receive the oath of office soon and will have chambers in Riverside.

“We have been fortunate to find such knowledgeable and experienced bankruptcy attorneys to serve as judges of one of our busiest bankruptcy courts. We welcome them to the bench,” Judge Kozinski said of the appointees.

Mr. Clarkson, 56, was the managing attorney of Clarkson, Gore & Marsella, APLC, in Torrance, California, and has been a practicing attorney for over 20 years. He was a direct observer of and participant in the creation of the 1978 Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since 1989, he has practiced at all levels of bankruptcy law including working with individuals, and public and private corporations. Mr. Clarkson has worked as a litigator, who was significantly involved in both the prosecution and defense of preference and fraudulent avoidance actions, and recovery actions.

Mr. Clarkson is a longtime member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. He served on its Bankruptcy Committee, as chair from 2004 to 2006, and its Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, as chair from 2008 to 2009. Mr. Clarkson was also a member of the Bar Advisory Board Committee of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

A native of Houston, Texas, Mr. Clarkson received his B.A. from Indiana University in 1979 and his J.D. from George Mason University, School of Law, in 1982.

Mr. Johnson, 43, has been a sole practitioner in Redlands, California, since February 2003. Prior to that, he was a bankruptcy attorney in the Commerce and Finance Group of Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, LLP, in Los Angeles from 1996 to 2003. Mr. Johnson was an adjunct professor of law at Trinity Law School in Santa Ana, California, from 1999 to 2001. He worked as a bankruptcy attorney at Lewis, D'Amato, Brisbois & Bisgaard, LLP, in Los Angeles from 1994 to 1996.

Mr. Johnson has published numerous articles on bankruptcy matters and is an active participant in bar association activities and programs including the Bar Advisory Board for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum, and the American Bankruptcy Institute.

A native of Pasadena, California, Mr. Johnson received his B.A. in 1989 from Cornell University, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1992.

Mr. Wallace, 57, has been of counsel at the law firm of Stutman, Treister & Glatt, P.C., since 1991. He has worked on medium to large-size corporate and partnership Chapter 11 reorganizations. From 1979 to 1991, Mr. Wallace was a shareholder at the Phoenix law firm of Osborn, Maledon, P.A., where he practiced tax and corporate law, and was the firm's principal tax lawyer.

Mr. Wallace is a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum and has served as its liaison to the Pro Bono Bankruptcy Subcommittee since 2006. He also served as a director on the Board of Directors of Public Counsel from 2006 to 2009 and as chair from 2005 to 2007 of the Bankruptcy and Workouts Committee, an organization in which he was a founding member.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Mr. Wallace received his B.A. in 1974 from Princeton University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. He received his J.D. in 1977 from Columbia University, School of Law, where he was the notes and comments editor of the Columbia Law Review.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California serves seven Southern California counties. The court is authorized 24 judgeships, three of which are temporary. It received 138,585 bankruptcy filings in fiscal year 2010, up 42.2 percent from the previous 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.