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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms New Judges for U.S. District Court for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today voted to confirm President Donald Trump’s nominations of attorney Mark C. Scarsi, California Superior Court Judge Stanley Blumenfeld, Jr., and attorney John W. Holcomb to serve as U.S. district judges for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The Senate voted 83-12 for Mr. Scarsi, 92-4 for Judge Blumenfeld, and 83-12 for Mr. Holcomb.

Mr. Scarsi and Judge Blumenfeld were nominated for the judgeships on February 6, 2019, and had their hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 13, 2019, while Mr. Holcomb was nominated for the judgeship on November 21, 2019. Their nominations were among the 15 out of the 17 judicial nominations pending in the Ninth Circuit federal courts that were returned to the president when the First Session of the 116th Congress adjourned on January 3, 2020.

President Trump renominated Mr. Scarsi and Judge Blumenfeld on January 9, 2020, and their nominations were reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 5, 2020. President Trump renominated Mr. Holcomb on February 13, 2020. He had his hearing June 17, 2020 before the Senate Judiciary Committee, which reported his nomination out of the committee on July 23, 2020. Mr. Scarsi fills a judgeship vacant since January 6, 2017, when District Judge George H. King retired; Judge Blumenfeld fills a judgeship vacant since August 1, 2014, when District Judge Audrey B. Collins retired; and Mr. Holcomb fills a judgeship vacant since January 28, 2016, when District Judge Dean D. Pregerson assumed senior status.

“As a Court, we are excited to have three new colleagues,” said Chief District Judge Philip S. Gutierrez. “We are grateful to the Senate for confirming them. They have wonderful backgrounds and will be stellar District Judges,” he added.

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Mr. Scarsi had worked as a partner at the Los Angeles law firm of Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP since 2007 and was the firm's managing partner beginning in 2013. Previously, he engaged in private practice as an associate then partner with the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP in L.A. from 1998 to 2003 and from 2003 to 2007, respectively. Mr. Scarsi was a summer associate then associate at Christie, Parker & Hale LLP in Pasadena, California, from 1994 to 1996 and from 1996 to 1998, respectively. He had worked as an engineer since 1987 at Martin Marietta which was acquired by GE Aerospace and then merged with Lockheed Martin Corporation, where he continued to work as a part-time engineer from 1993 to 1994.

Born in Syracuse, New York, Mr. Scarsi received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Syracuse University, School of Computer and Information Science, in 1987 and 1993, respectively. He received his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude and Order of the Coif, in 1996 from the Georgetown University Law Center, where he received the Leon Robbin Patent Award in 1996.

Mr. Scarsi has been a member of the American Bar Association since 1996 and served as co-chair of the ABA's Federal Trial and Practice Subcommittee from 2003 to 2004. He was a member of the American Business Trial Lawyers; a member of the Italian American Lawyers' Association and its board; a member of the Los Angeles County Bar and its Professional Responsibility and Ethics Committee; and a member of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association and its board.

Judge Blumenfeld was appointed to the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, by then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law, since 2009 and was an adjunct professor at Southwestern Law School from 2011 to 2014. Judge Blumenfeld engaged in private practice at O'Melveny & Myers in Los Angeles, where he was a partner from 1998 to 2006, special counsel from 1996 to 1998, and an associate from 1993 to 1996. He served as a special assistant U.S. attorney and as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California from 1993 to 1996 and from 1989 to 1993, respectively.

Born in Patchogue, New York, Judge Blumenfeld received his Bachelor of Arts degree, Phi Beta Kappa, from Binghamton University in 1984; his Master of Arts degree from New York University in 1985; and his Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif, in 1988 from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law, where he was a staff member then editor-in-chief of

the UCLA Law Review from 1986 to 1987 and from 1987 to 1988, respectively. Following law school, he clerked for Circuit Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1988 to 1989.

Judge Blumenfeld is a member of the American Bar Association and the California Judges Association. He was a member of the American Judges Association and a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and its Complex Courts Committee. Judge Blumenfeld is a member of Los Angeles Superior Court's Criminal Psychiatrist/Psychologist Committee, Trial Jurors Committee, and the Technology Committee. He served on the court's Criminal Court Committee, Executive Committee, and Research Attorney Committee.

Mr. Holcomb has been a partner at Greenberg Gross LLP in Costa Mesa, California, since 2019. Previously, he was a sole practitioner in Rancho Santa Margarita, California. He engaged in private practice as an associate then partner at Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear LLP in Irvine and Newport Beach, California, from 1997 to 2001 and from 2002 to 2018, respectively. Mr. Holcomb was an associate at Irell & Manella LLP in Newport Beach, Calif., from 1994 to 1997.

Born in Olean, New York, Mr. Holcomb received a four-year Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1984. Following college, he served on active duty as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy from June 1984 to August 1989, when he separated from active duty as a Lieutenant (O-3). In 1993, Mr. Holcomb received his Master of Business Administration degree and his Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School, respectively. Following law school, he clerked for Bankruptcy Judge Ronald Barliant of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois from 1993 to 1994.

Mr. Holcomb has been a panel mediator for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California since 2012 and a member of the court's Pro Bono Civil Rights Panel since 2009. Mr. Holcomb was a member of the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel and a member of the Local Rules Advisory Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California; a member of the Long Range Planning Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California; and served as a lawyer representative for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

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The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California had 16,890 new case filings in calendar year 2019. The court is authorized 28 judgeships, which includes one temporary judgeship, and currently has seven vacancies.

Appointed under Article III of the U.S. Constitution, federal district court judges are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior.

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