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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Announces New Clerk of Court

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today its unanimous approval of the appointment of Molly Dwyer as Clerk of Court.

Ms. Dwyer has served the Court with distinction since 1988. She succeeds Cathy A. Catterson, who was appointed Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive last December.

“In Molly Dwyer we have a very experienced attorney and administrator who has a wonderful working relationship with the judges of the court, the court staff and the legal community, ” Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski said in announcing Ms. Dwyer’s promotion.

"Molly has been an enormous asset in all phases of court operations," added Ms. Catterson. "I look forward to working with Molly even more closely as a full member of the Court's management team."

Ms. Dwyer was sworn into office today at the Federal Bar Association of the Northern District of California's annual luncheon honoring the Ninth Circuit. More than fifty federal judges from the Ninth Circuit and Northern District of California and approximately 450 lawyers were in attendance.

Ms. Dwyer will serve as chief administrative officer for the largest and busiest federal appellate court in the nation with 49 judges and nearly 13,000 filings in 2007. She will manage a staff of more than 200 working in the court’s headquarters in San Francisco and divisional offices in Pasadena, Portland and Seattle. Her immediate priority will be the court’s migration from a paper-based to electronic case management and filing system, an effort now under way.

Ms. Dwyer was hired by the Court of Appeals in September 1988 and assigned to the Office of Staff Attorneys, which helps screen and process cases for the court. She worked as a staff

attorney in the civil research and motions units before being promoted to supervising staff attorney in the motions unit. Promoted to chief deputy clerk in 1994, she also oversaw the Office of Staff Attorneys.

Ms. Dwyer received her B.A. in history in 1981 from Saint Michael's College in Vermont. She continued her studies at the London School of Economics, where she received an M.A. in international history in 1984. She received her J.D. in 1988 from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. She was editor of the Buffalo Public Interest Law Review and a research assistant while in law school.

During and prior to law school, Ms. Dwyer was an extern to District Judge John T. Curtin of the Western District of New York; pro bono counsel in an immigration clinic run by the State University of New York at Buffalo; a law clerk to a San Francisco civil rights attorney, Mary Dunlap; and an assistant to Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Lessing, while studying in London. She also was a restaurant manager and painting contractor.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit hears appeals of decisions from federal trial courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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