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NEWS RELEASE

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‘A Court of All Seasons’ Highlights Historic Courthouse and Esteemed Judge

SAN FRANCISCO – The historic James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco and the esteemed judge for whom it is named are the subjects of an absorbing new video now available for public viewing from the Internet website of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Titled “A Court for All Seasons,” the 19-minute video features historic photos of the landmark courthouse, which was built in 1905 and survived both the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 and the Loma Prieta Earthquake of 1989. With its marble-walled hallways, mosaic-tiled murals and elaborate decorative carvings, the courthouse is considered one of the nation’s most beautiful public buildings.

The video also features excerpts of past interviews with Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning, an eminent jurist and innovative administrator who is widely credited with shaping the modern federal court system in the West. Now 91, Judge Browning is the court’s most senior member, appointed by President Kennedy in 1961. Congress authorized the naming of the courthouse for him in 2004.

Interviewed for the video were Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, a former Ninth Circuit judge from 1975 to 1988; current Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski and Judges Sidney R. Thomas, Marsha Berzon, M. Margaret McKeown; Circuit and Court of Appeals Executive Cathy A. Catterson and other court staff; docents; and architects involved with renovating the building following the 1989 earthquake.

Funded by the court’s Attorney Admission Fund Committee, the video was created by Current Rutledge, a well known documentary video production company in Seattle.

To view the video online, visit www.ca9.uscourts.gov.

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