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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Tucson Judge Appointed to Serve on Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel**

SAN FRANCISCO – Bankruptcy Judge Scott H. Gan of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona has been appointed to the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which hears appeals of decisions made by federal bankruptcy courts in the western states. He replaces Bankruptcy Judge Frank L. Kurtz, who retired from the BAP on September 30. Judge Gan's seven-year term on the BAP commences today, October 1, 2019.

Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania, Judge Gan was appointed as a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Arizona in 2014. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Gan had been an attorney with the law firm Mesch, Clark & Rothschild, P.C. in Tucson, first as an associate in 1986 and then as a shareholder and partner beginning in 1993. His tenure there included serving as chair of the firm's Appellate Practice Section and as a member of the firm's Bankruptcy Section. Judge Gan began his legal career as an attorney with the Pima County (Arizona) Office of the Public Defender and then briefly joined a firm that represented claimants before the Social Security Administration and the Arizona Industrial Commission. Judge Gan, 64, received his bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona in 1977 and his juris doctorate from that same university's James E. Rogers College of Law in 1980.

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit – the governing body for federal courts in the western states – established the BAP in 1979 as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. The council is responsible for the appointments of judges to the BAP, which is authorized seven bankruptcy judges who serve seven-year terms and may be reappointed for an additional three years. BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from their respective districts.

Headquartered in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 45 and 60 percent of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In 2018, the BAP handled 290 of 597 new bankruptcy appeals; the panel disposed of 373 appeals during the year.

The Ninth Circuit, which is composed of nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions, was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. For more information, visit <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/bap/>.