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NEWS RELEASE

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Senate Confirms Michael W. Fitzgerald as District Judge for Central District of California

SAN FRANCISCO – The United States Senate today confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Los Angeles attorney Michael W. Fitzgerald to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. The Senate vote was 91-6 in favor of the nomination.

Mr. Fitzgerald, 52, was nominated on July 20, 2011, and had his nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on November 3, 2011. He fills a judgeship left vacant when District Judge A. Howard Matz took senior status on July 11, 2011.

A defense attorney and former federal prosecutor, Mr. Fitzgerald has been a partner since 1998 in the firm of Corbin, Fitzgerald & Athey LLP, which specializes in commercial litigation, internal investigations and white-collar criminal representation. He handles civil and criminal litigation in both federal and state courts and at both the trial and appellate levels.

Mr. Fitzgerald worked previously in Law Offices of Robert L. Corbin PC, from 1995 to 1998, and at the law firm of Heller, Ehrman, White & McAuliffe LLP from 1991 to 1995. He served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California from 1988 to 1991.

Mr. Fitzgerald serves on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and is a member of the American Bar Association’s White-Collar Crime Committee, and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers. He served as a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, from 2006 to 2008, and on the Ninth Circuit Attorney Admission Fund Committee, from 2001 to 2003.

A Los Angeles native, Mr. Fitzgerald received his A.B. from Harvard University in 1981, graduating *magna cum laude*. He received his J.D. with Order of Coif in 1985 from the

the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, where he served as managing editor of the *Industrial Relations Law Journal*. Upon graduation from law school, he clerked for Circuit Judge Irving R. Kaufman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The U.S. District Court for the Central District of California is one of the nation's busiest federal trial courts with 16,571 new case filings in fiscal year 2011. The court is authorized 28 judgeships, including one temporary judgeship, and currently has two vacancies.

Federal district court judges, appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. Their current annual salary is \$174,000.

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