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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Steven G. Kalar Named Federal Public Defender for Northern District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Steven G. Kalar to serve as the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California.

Mr. Kalar, 46, succeeds Barry Portman, who retired on December 31, 2011, after serving 37 years in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California. Mr. Kalar will take the office upon completion of an updated background investigative report.

Mr. Kalar has worked in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for Northern California since 1998 and was promoted to senior litigator in 2003. In addition to carrying a full caseload, he serves as a training attorney and mentor to new assistant federal defenders, and acts as a liaison and resource to the Northern District's Criminal Justice Act panel attorneys. He also co-chairs complex cases undertaken by the office and is closely involved in obtaining representation for federal capital habeas inmates in the Northern District.

“Mr. Kalar is an outstanding litigator, a strong administrator and an experienced teacher. He is well-regarded by his peers and will be welcomed as the next Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California,” Judge Kozinski said in announcing the appointment.

Prior to his public service, Mr. Kalar worked briefly in as an associate in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster, LLP.

A native of Santa Rosa, California, Mr. Kalar received his A.B. in 1988 from Harvard University, graduating *cum laude*, and his J.D. in 1996 from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where he served as a board member and associate notes editor of the Hastings International and Comparative Law Review. After law school, he clerked for Judge Harry Pregerson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

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Mr. Kalar has been a guest lecturer at Hastings and Stanford Law School and has taught locally and nationally on indigent defense and other matters.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of California has a staff of more than 60 employees working in offices in San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose. The office opened 1,198 new cases in fiscal year 2011, up 4.4 percent from the prior reporting period.

The Office of the Federal Public Defender was created by Congress to fulfill the constitutional requirement that indigents charged with crimes in the federal justice system be provided with professional legal representation at no cost. Congress funds the Offices of the Federal Public Defender through the Defender Services Division of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

By statute, judges of the courts of appeals select and appoint the federal public defender for a renewable term of four years. The court makes its initial appointment after a nationwide recruitment and the use of a local screening committee pursuant to Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines. A federal public defender may be reappointed if the court concludes that he or she is performing in a highly satisfactory manner based upon a broad survey and performance evaluation process.

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