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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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New Bankruptcy Judge Appointed in Southern 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 Christopher B. Latham, an assistant U.S. attorney in San Diego, to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. The appointment is effective October 1, 2012, and has a term of 14 years.

Mr. Latham, 47, will fill a judgeship being vacated by Bankruptcy Judge Peter Bowie, who is retiring. He will maintain chambers in San Diego.

“We are very pleased to have Mr. Latham join the federal bench. He is well established and highly regarded in the legal community and will be an asset to the bankruptcy court,” Judge Kozinski said in announcing the appointment.

Mr. Latham has been an assistant U.S. attorney since 2008, representing the federal government, its agencies and officers in a range of civil matters, including bankruptcy, eminent domain, mortgage fraud, tax, medical malpractice and other tort claims, as well as in criminal bankruptcy fraud prosecutions. He also served on the U.S. Department of Justice’s Evaluation and Review Staff, performing intensive on-site evaluations of U.S. attorney’s offices throughout the country.

Before entering public service, Mr. Latham worked as an attorney at the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP from 1993 to 2008. While in private practice, he served as a judge *pro tem* of the San Diego Superior Court for a decade. Mr. Latham has been active in various professional, community and public service organizations. He was a member of the Ninth Circuit’s Conference Executive Committee and Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee for several years. In addition, he was co-chair

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of the Southern District of California lawyer representatives and chair of the Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee.

A native of Southern California, Mr. Latham received his B.A. from the University of California at Irvine in 1986, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*. He earned a master of philosophy degree from Yale University in 1989, and a J.D. in 1992 from Yale Law School, where he was a member of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*, the *Yale Law and Policy Review* and the Thomas Swan Barristers' Union. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

As a private practitioner, Mr. Latham regularly provided *pro bono* service to indigent clients. He served on the board of directors of the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program from 2003 to 2007, and received eight Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Awards for Legal Services from the State Bar of California.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California received 21,486 filings in calendar year 2011. The court is authorized four bankruptcy judges. At the court's request, Judge Bowie will continue to serve as a recalled bankruptcy judge available to preside over cases.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment and for reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year, renewable term, at a salary of \$160,080, and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the Bankruptcy Code.

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