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NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney Paul J. Watford Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has nominated Los Angeles attorney Paul J. Watford, to serve as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The White House announced the nomination today.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Watford would fill a judgeship left vacant when Circuit Judge Pamela Ann Rymer died on September 21, 2011.

Mr. Watford, 44, is a litigation partner at the Los Angeles law firm of Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP, where he has worked since 2001. His practice focuses primarily on appellate litigation in state and federal courts. Mr. Watford first joined the firm as an associate in 1996 then left in 1997 to serve as an assistant U.S. attorney until 2000 for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Central District of California, where he worked in the Major Frauds Section, Criminal Division. He worked as an associate at Sidley & Austin LLP in Los Angeles from 2000 to 2001.

Mr. Watford received his B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989 and his J.D. in 1994 from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law, where he was editor of the UCLA Law Review, and Order of the Coif. Following law school, he clerked for Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, now chief judge, from 1994 to 1995, and for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court from 1995 to 1996.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by executive branch agencies and federal trial courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court normally meets monthly in Seattle, Washington, San Francisco, California, and Pasadena, California; every other month in Portland, Oregon; three times per year in Honolulu, Hawaii; and twice a year in Anchorage, Alaska. The court is authorized 29 judgeships, four of which are currently vacant.

Judges of the federal appellate courts, who are appointed under Article III of the Constitution, are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. The current annual salary of a circuit judge is \$184,500.

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