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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Remarks Upon Passing of Renowned Lawyer

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued the following statement today regarding the passing of Sanford "Sandy" Svetcov, a renowned appellate lawyer from San Francisco, who served for many years as coordinator of the Court's pro bono representation program in the Northern District of California.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Sandy Svetcov, a longtime friend and supporter of the Ninth Circuit. Sandy was a respected lawyer who cared deeply about achieving justice for all. His work on behalf of the Court's pro bono program ensured competent legal representation for many appellants who had meritorious cases but lacked the means to hire a lawyer. By serving as a pro bono attorney himself, he led by example, influencing many of his colleagues to also volunteer their time and services. He will be sorely missed."

Mr. Svetcov died earlier today at his home in Larkspur after a 16-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 72.

Mr. Svetcov, a partner in the San Francisco office of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, briefed and argued more than 300 cases in state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He had practiced law for 47 years and was considered to be the dean of appellate lawyers appearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Svetcov was the recipient of the Ninth Circuit's 2012 John Frank Award, recognizing an outstanding lawyer practicing in the federal courts of the western states.

Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder of Phoenix, who presented the John Frank Award, said of Mr. Svetcov:

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"Sandy was not only a respected and admired lawyer in our court, but a beloved figure as well. Although his zeal for his client's cause was unmatched, his word was uniquely trusted. He should serve as a role model for us all."

In addition to his service to the Ninth Circuit, Mr. Svetcov also served the federal courts at the national level. Appointed by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, he sat on the Federal Appellate Rules Advisory Committee from 1999 to 2005. His other memberships and service commitments to the legal profession include: American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers; the Bar Association of San Francisco (Appellate Courts Section); the American Bar Association (Appellate Judges Conference) Committee on Appellate Practice; and the Northern California Federal Bar Association, Board of Directors.

Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Svetcov earned his B.A. in 1961 from Brooklyn College, graduating *cum laude*, and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, in 1964.

Survivors include his wife of 42 years, Carol; a son, Eric, and his wife, Dagmara; a daughter, Danielle Svetcov, and her husband, Kyle Waldinger; four grandchildren; and a sister, Naomi.

Services will be held on February 17, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., at Sha'arei Shalom, Mount Tamalpais Cemetery, 2500 5th Avenue in San Rafael.

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