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**United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

March 21, 2014

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## **Judge Ralph B. Kirscher Reappointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Montana**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the reappointment of Chief Bankruptcy Judge Ralph B. Kirscher to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Montana.

Judge Kirscher, 62, was first appointed to the bankruptcy bench on November 18, 1999. His reappointment to a second term will be effective May 18, 2014. Judge Kirscher is the only full-time judge on the Montana bankruptcy court, which handled 1,851 cases in fiscal year 2013.

Judge Kirscher has been an adjunct lecturer in bankruptcy law at the University of Montana, School of Law, from 2004 to present and from 1992 to 1997. He is a member and former chair of the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges, which advises the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on governance and other matters.

Judge Kirscher has served on various other Ninth Circuit committees, including the Court-Council Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Appointments, the Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee, and the Public Information and Community Outreach Committee, now known as the Courts and Community Committee.

A native of Livingston, Montana, Judge Kirscher received a B.A. from the University of Montana at Missoula in 1974; an M.P.A. from American University in Washington, D.C., in 1975; and a J.D. from the University of Montana, School of Law, in 1979. He engaged in private practice in Missoula, Montana, from 1979 to 1999.

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 and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code

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