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NEWS RELEASE

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René Lastreto II Named Judge of U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Eastern California

SAN FRANCISCO — Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of attorney René Lastreto, II, as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California.

“We welcome Mr. Lastreto to the bench and look forward to his contributions to the ongoing work of the bankruptcy court in the Eastern District,” Judge Thomas said in making the announcement.

Mr. Lastreto, who will maintain chambers in Fresno, California, will receive the oath of office on Monday, September 14, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. at the Robert E. Coyle U.S. Courthouse there. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Christopher Klein of the Eastern District of California will preside over the swearing-in ceremony. A formal investiture is tentatively scheduled in December.

Mr. Lastreto, 59, is a partner and owner of Lang, Richert & Patch in Fresno. He joined the firm in 1999 and served as managing partner from 2004 to 2005. He is currently the lead attorney of the Financial Services Practice, serves on the Management Committee and is the chief financial officer for the firm.

Mr. Lastreto has primarily represented creditors in numerous types of commercial disputes, including litigation in state courts from motion practice through trial and judgment. His practice includes all aspects of bankruptcy disputes, including litigation of contested matters and adversary proceedings in Chapters 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13. In the last 10 years, most of his practice has consisted of representing institutional creditors in Chapters 7 and 11 cases. He has litigated federal claims in district courts as well.

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Born in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Lastreto received his B.S., cum laude, from the University of Utah in 1978, after spending his first two years of college at the California State University in Fresno. He received his J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1981. During law school, he received honors for moot court in 1978 and 1979.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California received 21,057 filings in calendar year 2014. The court is authorized seven bankruptcy judges.

Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. 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. For reappointments, the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.

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