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PRESS RELEASE

MELVIN S. HOFFMAN IS SELECTED FOR THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT IN WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON (December 9, 2009) — Chief Judge Sandra L. Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit announced today that Melvin S. Hoffman has been selected to fill the vacancy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, created by the retirement of Judge Joel Rosenthal. Mr. Hoffman will be appointed to the bankruptcy bench upon FBI clearance and will sit in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Hoffman received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yeshiva University and a J.D. degree from Syracuse University Law School. Mr. Hoffman is presently a partner in the firm of Looney & Grossman LLP in Boston, where he practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency work. He has a wealth of experience handling all manner of bankruptcy issues including representing commercial lenders and borrowers, serving as debtor's counsel in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganizations, appearing in Chapter 7 cases on behalf of trustees, secured and unsecured creditors, and representing consumer debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 cases. Following his graduation from law school, Mr. Hoffman clerked for Judge Harold Lavien of the

Massachusetts Bankruptcy Court, as the first law clerk ever appointed by a bankruptcy judge in Massachusetts. Mr. Hoffman has been active in the Bankruptcy Section of the Boston Bar Association and has provided pro bono representation to consumers in need of bankruptcy relief under the auspices of the Boston Bar Association. He has published numerous articles in the field of bankruptcy law and has presented many continuing legal education programs.

Chief Judge Lynch stated that “the Court is extremely pleased that a bankruptcy practitioner of Mr. Hoffman's stature will fill this important judgeship. The Worcester community and the District as a whole will benefit greatly from Mr. Hoffman's knowledge and experience.”

Chief Judge Lynch also expressed her sincere gratitude to the members of the Bankruptcy Merit Selection Panel, which was chaired by Circuit Judge Jeffrey R. Howard. The members of the Panel were: District Judge F. Dennis Saylor, District of Massachusetts; Deborah Birnbach, Goodwin Procter, Boston, MA; Denise Pappalardo, Chapter 13 Trustee, Worcester, MA; Richard Sheils, Bowditch & Dewey, Worcester, MA; and Gary Wentz, Circuit Executive, Boston, MA.