

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

600 CAMP STREET, ROOM 300

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70130

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has tentatively selected Brenda T. Rhoades for appointment as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Texas at Plano, subject to further consideration after background investigations are conducted. The vacancy on the bankruptcy bench will occur when Chief Judge Donald R. Sharp retires on August 31, 2003. Upon her appointment, Ms. Rhoades will become the first Asian-American on the bankruptcy bench in the Fifth Circuit.

Ms. Rhoades was born in Seoul, Korea and became a naturalized citizen in 1974. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Arizona State University, College of Law, in 1989 and presently is a partner with the law firm of Baker Botts, L.L.P. in Dallas, Texas, where she has been practicing since 1996. Previously, Ms. Rhoades was engaged in private practice at the law firms of Bogle & Gates, P.L.L.C. (1994-1996) in Anchorage, Alaska; Weil, Gotshal & Manges (1991-1994) in Dallas and Miami, Florida; and Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld (1989-1991) in Dallas.

Bankruptcy Judges are appointed to the bench for a term of 14 years.

DATED: May 8, 2003