



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for United States Trustees

PRESS RELEASE

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DICK THORNBURGH SELECTED AS EXAMINER IN WORLDCOM INC. BANKRUPTCY CASES

WASHINGTON, D.C.– The appointment of former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh as Examiner in the WorldCom bankruptcy cases was approved last night by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. The Justice Department, through the United States Trustee in New York, made the appointment Aug. 1, 2002. The court allowed three business days for parties to object. No objections were filed.

WorldCom filed bankruptcy July 21, 2002. The United States Trustee sought approval to appoint an examiner on July 22, 2002, and the court granted approval the same day. Under the court's order, the examiner is authorized to investigate any allegations of fraud, dishonesty, incompetence, misconduct, mismanagement, or irregularity in the arrangement of the affairs of any of the debtors by current or former management. The Examiner shall file a report within 90 days of the date of appointment, unless the court extends that time.

“The Examiner’s appointment will help protect WorldCom's creditors and shareholders by bringing transparency to these cases and ensuring that issues of possible mismanagement and civil fraud are thoroughly investigated,” said Attorney General John Ashcroft. “I am pleased that Dick Thornburgh, a person of integrity and independent stature, has agreed to take on this task. I am confident that he will examine carefully all the facts and file with the court a report that will help bring these cases to an appropriate resolution.”

Thornburgh is currently of counsel to the national law firm Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP in Washington, D.C. He has been engaged in public service for more than 25 years. Thornburgh served as Attorney General from 1988 to 1991, and as Under-Secretary-General at the United Nations from 1992 to 1993. He was a two-term Governor of Pennsylvania, elected first in 1978 and again in 1982. Thornburgh headed the Justice Department’s Criminal Division from 1975 to 1977, and served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania from 1969 to 1975.

A native of Pittsburgh, Thornburgh received an engineering degree from Yale University and a law degree from University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He has been awarded honorary degrees by 30 other colleges and universities.

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