



## U.S. Department of Justice

*Executive Office for United States Trustees*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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#### **ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTS UNITED STATES TRUSTEE TO OVERSEE BANKRUPTCY CASES IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Attorney General Janet Reno today appointed Maureen Tighe as United States Trustee to oversee the administration of bankruptcy cases in the federal judicial district of Central California. Tighe's appointment as United States Trustee for Region 16 runs for five years; she will assume her duties April 1.

The United States Trustee Program is an arm of the Justice Department that supervises the administration of bankruptcy cases nationwide. As United States Trustee, Tighe will perform a variety of duties, including: investigating and assisting in the prosecution of bankruptcy crimes; appointing and monitoring professionals employed to represent bankruptcy estates; assessing the feasibility of Chapter 11 reorganization plans, and reviewing fee applications of attorneys and other professionals.

In 1997, 118,335 bankruptcy cases--8.4 percent of the national case load--were filed in Region 16. The principal office for Region 16 is located in Los Angeles; other offices are located in Santa Ana, Calif.; San Bernardino, Calif.; and Santa Barbara, Calif.

Tighe brings to her new post 10 years of experience in the Los Angeles office of the United States Attorney. She has served since 1995 as Deputy Chief of the Major Frauds Section, supervising 30 Assistant United States Attorneys who investigate and prosecute a broad spectrum of white-collar crimes, including bankruptcy fraud, financial institution fraud, securities and commodity fraud, telemarketing fraud, and equity skimming and other real estate fraud.

Tighe joined the United States Attorney's office in 1988 under a special program established by the United States Trustee, and she initially occupied the dual positions of Special Assistant United States Attorney and Attorney-Adviser to the United States Trustee's Office. Tighe served as coordinator of the Central District of California's Bankruptcy Fraud Task Force,

and initiated the nation's first joint United States Attorney-United States Trustee pilot program to target bankruptcy fraud.

During her tenure at the United States Attorney's office, Tighe also designed the first bankruptcy fraud undercover project in the country, which resulted in 19 bankruptcy fraud convictions. She helped develop and teach a training program for federal prosecutors and law enforcement agents on how to detect, investigate, and prosecute bankruptcy crimes, as well as how to use information gleaned from bankruptcy proceedings to investigate and prosecute other offenses. Additionally, Tighe served as a member of the Attorney General's Working Group for Bankruptcy Fraud, through which she helped organize a national bankruptcy fraud "takedown" in February 1996.

Tighe frequently lectures on bankruptcy fraud, parallel proceedings, business credit fraud, real estate fraud, and other white collar crime issues. She has written numerous Justice Department in-house publications on bankruptcy fraud. She is admitted to the bar in California, New York, and New Jersey.

Before Tighe joined the United States Attorney's office, she worked from 1986 to 1988 as a litigation associate in the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell. From 1984 to 1986, she was law clerk to District Judge Harold A. Ackerman of the District of New Jersey.

Tighe received her Juris Doctor with high honors in 1984 from Rutgers Law School, Newark, N.J., where she was law review editor-in-chief in 1983-84. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in German with highest honors in 1979 from Douglass College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. In 1977-78, Tighe independently applied and matriculated at Tuebingen University, Tuebingen, West Germany.

Tighe's appointment fills a vacancy created in September 1997, when Marcy J.K. Tiffany resigned as Region 16 United States Trustee to become general counsel for Hughes Electronic Corp.

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