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ATTORNEY GENERAL APPOINTS UNITED STATES TRUSTEE TO OVERSEE BANKRUPTCY CASES IN ARIZONA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Attorney General Janet Reno has appointed Brenda Moody Whinery, an Arizona native, as United States Trustee to oversee the administration of bankruptcy cases in the Judicial District of Arizona, the Justice Department announced today.

Whinery, whose appointment as United States Trustee for Region 14 runs for five years, will assume her duties today. As United States Trustee, Whinery will play an important oversight role in the administration of bankruptcy cases--appointing and monitoring individuals employed to represent bankruptcy estates, assessing the feasibility of reorganization plans, reviewing fee applications of attorneys and other professionals, and investigating and assisting in the prosecution of bankruptcy crimes. The principal office for Region 14 is located in Phoenix, Ariz.

Until December 31, 1997, Whinery was a shareholder with the Phoenix law firm Ryley, Carlock & Appelwhite, where she was co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group. Whinery joined the firm in 1985, and in 1993 she became a member of its board of directors.

Whinery has extensive experience in Chapter 11 commercial cases. Among other appointments, she acted as co-counsel to the unsecured creditors' committee in the Chapter 11 reorganization of America West Airlines; as counsel to the unsecured creditors' committee in the jointly administered Chapter 11 cases of the restaurant Bobby McGee's U.S.A. Inc.; and as counsel for various major financial institutions, insurance companies, and title insurance companies in bankruptcy proceedings and restructurings.

Whinery received her Juris Doctor in 1985 from the University of Arizona College of Law in Tucson, where she was Note Editor for the Arizona Law Review from 1984 to 1985. In

1982, Whinery earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with high distinction from the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Whinery occupies a number of professional leadership positions. Last October, she was selected by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to serve a three-year term as an Arizona Lawyer Delegate to the Ninth Circuit. During 1996-1997, she headed the Bankruptcy Section of the Arizona State Bar. Whinery also sits on the board of directors of the Maricopa County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section. Furthermore, she was named by Today's Arizona Woman as one of Arizona's 100 top women in business in both 1997 and 1998.

Additionally, Whinery is a member of the Arizona Women Lawyer's Association and the American Bankruptcy Institute. She has written articles on bankruptcy for the Arizona Law Review and the Arizona Bankruptcy Journal.