



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Central District of California
255 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Alan M. Ahart
United States Bankruptcy Judge

TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE GUIDELINES
FOR
HON. ALAN M. AHART

Policy Governing Telephonic Appearances

Telephonic appearances before Judge Alan M. Ahart in courtroom 1375 are allowed only due to extenuating circumstances as to why a party(ies) cannot appear in person. In order to appear telephonically counsel must strictly adhere to the following procedure:

I. Standard Procedure

At least 72 hours prior to the hearing, counsel must call the Courtroom Deputy for Judge Ahart to arrange their telephonic appearance. Counsel may reach the Courtroom Deputy at 213.894.5856

II. Emergency Procedure (Approval requested without 72 hours notice)

If an unexpected emergency arises that prevents counsel from following the standard procedure detailed above, counsel must telephone the courtroom deputy to obtain approval to appear telephonically. The courtroom deputy will only approve tardy requests for legitimate and unanticipated emergencies.

III. Procedure for Telephonic Appearance

Telephonic appearances are connected directly with the courtroom's public address system and electronic recording equipment so that a normal record is produced. To ensure the quality fo the record, the use of car phones, cellular phones, speaker phones, public telephone booths, or phones in other public places is prohibited except in the most extreme emergencies. Participants should be able to hear all parties without difficulty or echo. At the time your matter is scheduled for hearing, the court clerk will call and connect you to the court's public address system.

After your call is connected to the courtroom, the Judge will call the case, request appearances, and direct the manner in which the hearing proceeds. Each time you speak, you should identify yourself for the record. When the Judge informs participants that the hearing is completed, you may disconnect.

Before the hearing you should check Judge Ahart's Calendar on the website, www.cacb.uscourts.gov, and review any Tentative Ruling concerning the matter on calendar. If the court has issued a Tentative Ruling prior to the hearing, each individual who appears telephonically should have reviewed the Tentative Ruling prior to the hearing.

If an individual schedules a telephonic appearance and then fails to respond to the call of a matter on calendar, the court may pass the matter or treat the failure to respond as a failure to appear. Furthermore, in deciding to appear telephonically, counsel is agreeing to waive any prejudice attributable to quality or irregularities of the record that may result.