



Annual Report **2007**



Honorable Vincent P. Zurzolo
Chief Judge

Jon D. Ceretto
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Executive Summary	3
The Bankruptcy Judges of the Central District of California	4

COURT APPOINTMENTS, COMMITTEES AND PROGRAMS

Appointments and Milestones	5
2007 Judicial Committees	6
Alternative Dispute Resolution	7

BANKRUPTCY FILING STATISTICS

<i>Pro Se</i> Debtors and <i>Pro Bono</i> Services	10
San Fernando Valley Help Desk Launched	10
<i>Pro Bono</i> Services Across the District	10

COURT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Lodged Order Upload Program	11
Other Automation Enhancements	11
Archiving Initiatives	11
Los Angeles Intake Move and Facilities Upgrades	11

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staffing Highlights	12
Ombudsperson and Workplace Liaison	12
Training and Staff Development	12
Summer Intern Program	13
Career Intern Program	13
Employee Recognition	14

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Central District Hosts Serbian Judges	15
Legal Community Training and Programs	15
Collaboration with Other Federal Agencies	15
2007 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)	15

WHO WE ARE

District Profile	16
Population Served	16

LONG RANGE PLAN

Accomplishments	20
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Chief Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo and
Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/ Clerk of Court

The year 2007 was one of change and innovation. Fueled by the mortgage credit crisis, the Central District's post-BAPCPA (Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005) filings continued to skyrocket, outpacing national increases. 2007 highlights include:

- A total of 34,041 bankruptcy cases were filed in the Central District, a 91 percent increase over 2006, compared to a 38 percent increase nationally.
 - Chapter 13 filings now represent 24 percent of bankruptcy petitions, up from 9 percent prior to BAPCPA. Chapter 13 filings are significantly more labor intensive than chapter 7 filings.
- Riverside Division filings are increasing faster than the rest of the district, increasing from 23 percent pre-BAPCPA, up to 27 percent of the entire district's case filings.
 - Chief Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo began his four-year term as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court on January 1, 2007.
 - We said a fond farewell to Judge John E. Ryan and welcomed Judge Robert N. Kwan to the Santa Ana Division.
 - Judge Erithe A. Smith completed her term on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP) and Judge Meredith A. Jury was appointed to the BAP.
 - The Ninth Circuit announced that Judge Ernest M. Robles, Judge Thomas B. Donovan and Judge Erithe A. Smith were reappointed to a second 14-year term.
 - On April 1, 2007, CM/ECF usage became mandatory for attorneys filing at least five documents in a calendar year.
 - The court's Bankruptcy Mediation Program has remained at the forefront of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs with a total of 3,768 matters assigned to mediation since the program's 1995 inception.
 - The Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program was launched districtwide in November. LOU works in collaboration with CIAOI, the court-developed calendaring program, to enable CM/ECF users to electronically lodge orders in Microsoft Word format. LOU is the only program of its kind in the nation to enable judges to substantially modify electronically lodged orders.
 - The San Fernando Valley Self-Help Desk was developed through the coordinated efforts of the Court, the local bar association, and other *pro bono* organizations.
 - The Ombudsperson and Workplace Liaison Programs were launched to increase communication throughout the court.
 - The clerk's office introduced a Career Internship program to recruit and prepare employees for judiciary careers.

These accomplishments were made possible by the contributions and team effort of all Bankruptcy Judges and staff.

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Top Row (From Left)

Theodor C. Albert, Victoria S. Kaufman, Ernest M. Robles, Peter H. Carroll, David N. Naugle,
Alan M. Ahart, Thomas B. Donovan

Center Row (From Left)

Richard M. Neiter, Robin L. Riblet, Robert N. Kwan, Erithe A. Smith, Meredith A. Jury,
Samuel L. Bufford, Ellen Carroll

Front Row (From Left)

Geraldine Mund, Barry Russell, Maureen A. Tighe, Vincent P. Zurzolo (Chief Judge),
Sheri Bluebond, Mitchel R. Goldberg, Kathleen Thompson

APPOINTMENTS AND MILESTONES

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Chief Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo began his four-year term on January 1, 2007. Chief Judge Zurzolo succeeds former Chief Judge Barry Russell, and maintains chambers at the Los Angeles Division.

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Judge John E. Ryan retired from the Santa Ana Division bench on January 2, 2007. Judge Ryan began his career as a Bankruptcy Judge in 1986.

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Judge Meredith A. Jury was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP) of the Ninth Circuit, effective August 1, 2007. Judge Jury succeeds Judge Eritha A. Smith, and maintains chambers at the Riverside Division.

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Judge Robert N. Kwan was sworn in as a Bankruptcy Judge on February 5, 2007. Judge Kwan succeeds retired Judge John E. Ryan, and maintains chambers at the Santa Ana Division.

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Judge Ernest M. Robles was reappointed for a second 14-year term, effective June 12, 2007. Judge Robles maintains chambers at the Los Angeles Division.

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Judge Thomas B. Donovan was reappointed for a second 14-year term, effective March 21, 2008. Judge Donovan maintains chambers at the Los Angeles Division.

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Judge Erithe A. Smith was reappointed for a second 14-year term, effective May 2, 2008. Judge Smith maintains chambers at the Santa Ana Division.

2007 JUDICIAL COMMITTEES

In accordance with the Court Governance Plan, judicial committees address court-related issues, providing feedback to the entire Board of Judges regarding court operations and administrative issues. Clerk's office staff attend meetings and provide support to the committees. Chief Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo and Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Jon D. Ceretto are *ex-officio* members of each committee. The members of the 2007 judicial committees are:

EXECUTIVE

Vincent P. Zurzolo, Chair

Alan M. Ahart
Theodor C. Albert
Sheri Bluebond
Ellen Carroll
Peter H. Carroll
Kathleen Thompson

CASE MANAGEMENT

Sheri Bluebond, Chair

Alan M. Ahart
Maureen A. Tighe

CHAPTER 13

Meredith A. Jury, Chair

Victoria S. Kaufman
Robert N. Kwan
Kathleen Thompson

EDUCATION AND TRAINING/RETREAT

Geraldine Mund, Chair

Alan M. Ahart
Samuel L. Bufford
Richard M. Neiter

RULES

Peter H. Carroll, Chair

Theodor C. Albert
Thomas B. Donovan

SPACE AND SECURITY

Ellen Carroll, Chair

Geraldine Mund
David N. Naugle
Robin L. Riblet
Erithe A. Smith

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Maureen A. Tighe, Chair

Mitchel R. Goldberg
Barry Russell

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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Hon. Margaret M. Morrow
United States District Court

The Central District of California Bankruptcy Mediation Program was established in July 1995 to provide the public with effective and reliable assistance in resolving disputes. The court has remained at the forefront of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs since then. With about 190 mediators on the panel, it is the largest bankruptcy ADR program in the nation. Since the program's inception, 3,768 matters

have been assigned to mediation. The majority of cases, 64 percent, were in Los Angeles. The settlement rate has consistently averaged 63 percent, with approximately 90 percent of respondents polled reporting satisfaction with the mediation process, and 96 percent indicating they would use the program again.

In 2007, the Court continued to make significant progress in implementing technological improvements, including enhancements to the automated custom software that is used to track cases assigned to the Program and generate statistical reports. The Court also arranged for the Straus

Institute for Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law to conduct a two-day mediation training program in June entitled "Basic Refresher Techniques and Cross-Cultural Skills in Mediation," which was attended by four of our judges as well as many mediators. In addition, Susan M. Doherty, Esq., the Program's Coordinator, was presented with the Robert F. Peckham Award for Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution in July.

In November 2007, the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court and District Court hosted the ninth annual joint luncheon to honor our mediators and the District Court's settlement officers for their service in 2006-07. Over 100 guests attended the event, including the Hon. Barry Russell of the United States Bankruptcy Court, Administrator of the Bankruptcy Court Mediation Program, and the Hon. Margaret M. Morrow of the United States District Court, Chair of the Civil Justice Report Act and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee.

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Hon. Barry Russell
United States Bankruptcy Court

Figure 1

United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Mediation Matters by Chapter: 1995-2007

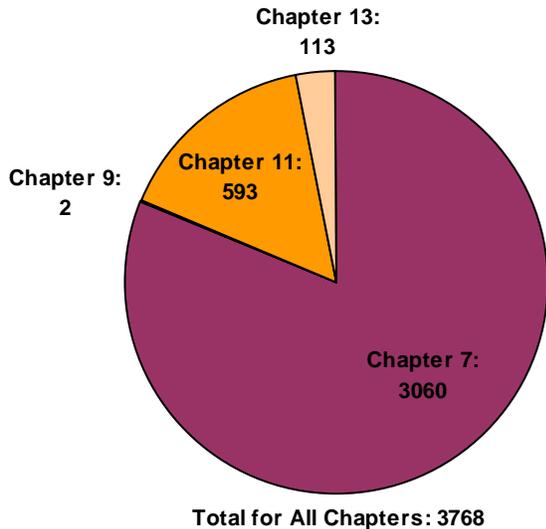
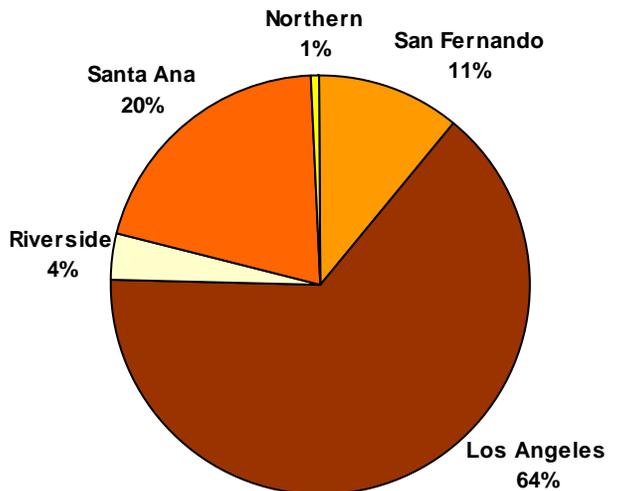


Figure 2

United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Mediation Matters by Division: 1995-2007



BANKRUPTCY FILING STATISTICS

In 2007, 34,040 bankruptcy cases were filed in the Central District, a 91 percent increase over 2006, compared to a 38 percent increase nationally. During the last quarter of calendar year 2007, the Central District received the highest case filings in the nation. Of all cases filed in 2007, 75 percent were filed under chapter 7; 1 percent under chapter 11; and 24 percent under chapter 13. This represents a major shift in the court's caseload. Chapter 13 filings, which increased from 9 percent in 2006 to 24 percent in 2007, are significantly more labor intensive than chapter 7 filings. While 2007 filings overall increased in all chapters, most notable was the surge in non-business chapter 13 filings, which grew to 7,917 cases, a 142 percent increase over 2006. Riverside Division filings increased from 23 percent in 2006 to 27 percent of the district's total in 2007.

The number of attorneys registered to file electronically has doubled since 2006 to 1,692 registered attorneys. Since August 2006, the clerk's office has conducted over 240 CM/ECF classes for over 1,300 attorneys and their staff. The significant rise in registered CM/ECF users has translated into an increase in electronic filing. More than 85 percent of all bankruptcy petitions filed by attorneys were filed through CM/ECF, or a total of 33,522 petitions. This represents an increase of 242 percent over 2006. The district handled the electronic filing of 20,112 petitions; 1,228 adversary proceedings; and 12,182 Relief from Stay Motions in 2007.

Figure 3

United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Bankruptcy Cases Filed: 1997-2008 (projected)

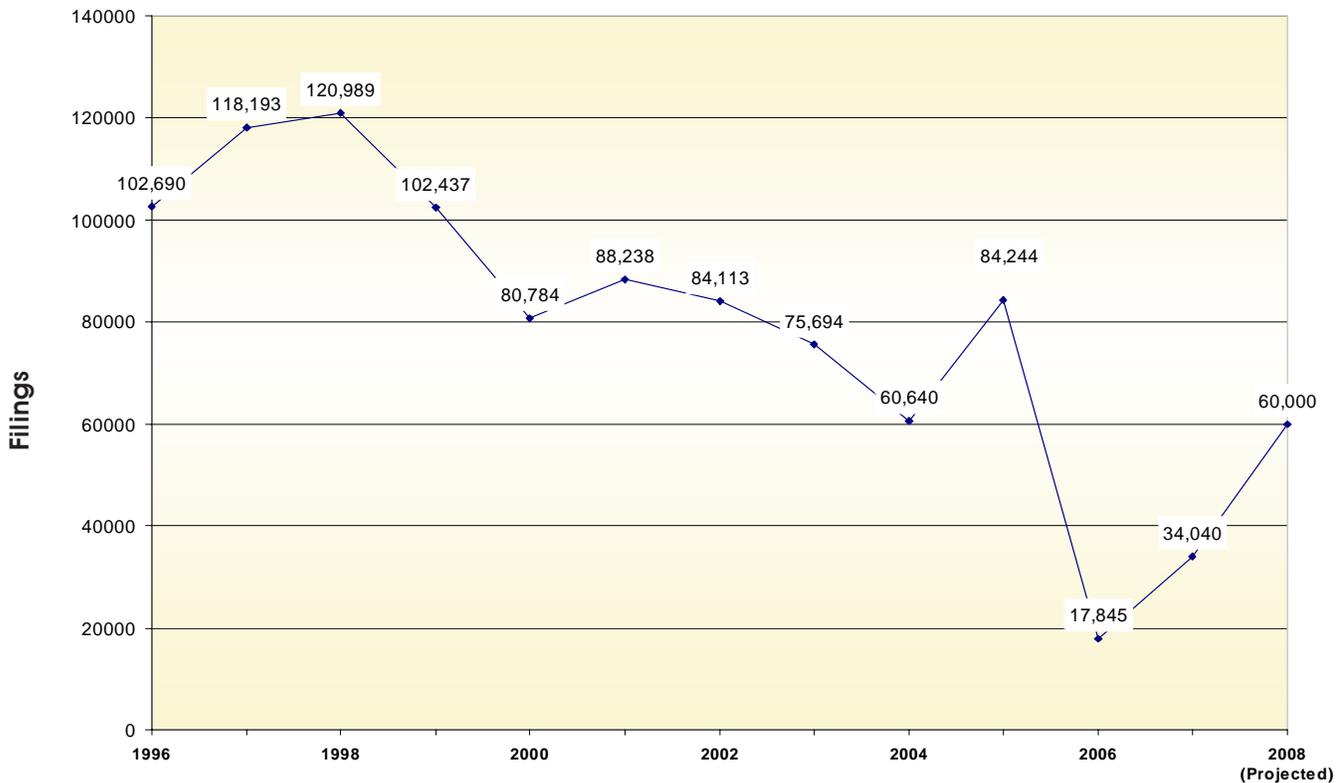


Figure 4

**United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings Post BAPCPA:
November 2005 - December 2007**

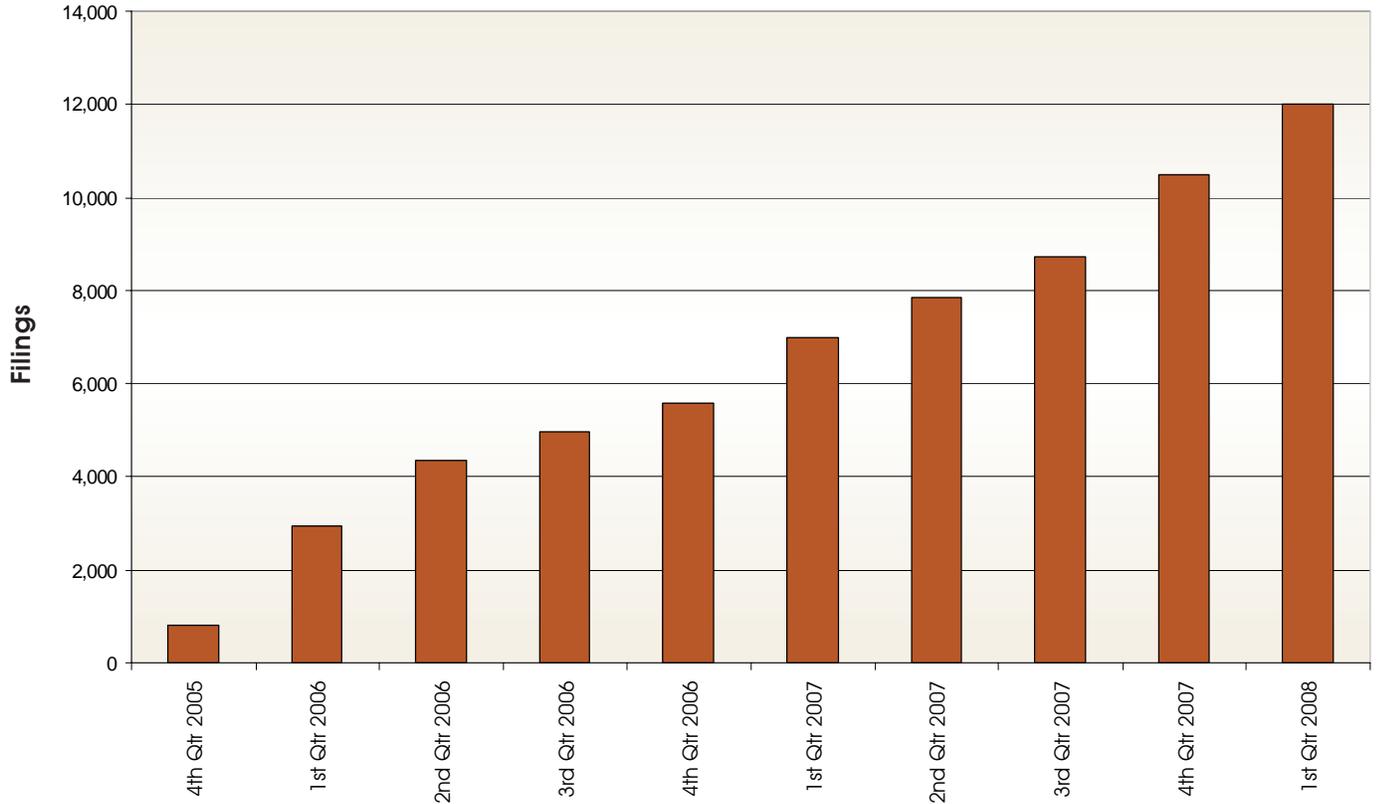
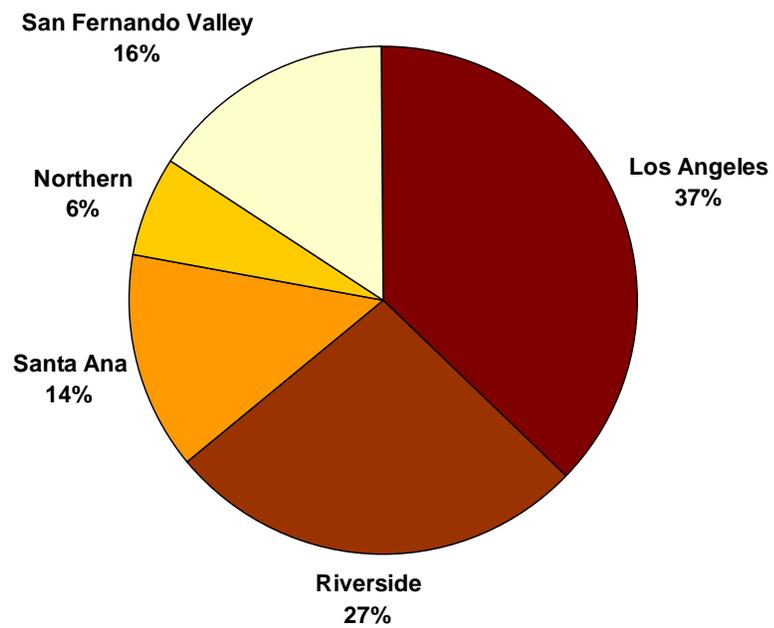


Figure 5

**United States Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California
Percent of Bankruptcy Filings by Division: 2007**



PRO SE DEBTORS AND PRO BONO SERVICES

The overall percentage of *pro se* debtors (i.e., debtors who file without attorney representation) in 2007 remained stable at 20 percent compared to 2006. Chapter 7 filings dropped from 19 to 17 percent. However, chapter 13 filings increased from 28 to 31 percent, the highest percentage of *pro se* chapter 13 filings in a decade. *Pro se* debtors at all Divisions now have access to *pro bono* and low cost legal services. A complete listing of *pro bono* programs and contact information is now available on the court website under the link: "Don't Have An Attorney?"

Figure 6

US Bankruptcy Court - Central District of California			
Pro Se Filing by Chapter:			
1997-2007			
Year	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
1999	33%	29%	31%
2000	27%	19%	24%
2001	29%	24%	28%
2002	28%	22%	27%
2003	27%	22%	26%
2004	26%	22%	26%
2005	28%	19%	27%
2006	19%	28%	20%
2007	17%	31%	20%
Average	28%	26%	27%

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY HELP DESK LAUNCHED

The San Fernando Valley Division launched a Self Help Desk on September 17 to provide assistance to *pro se* debtors. On Mondays, a trained paralegal provides assistance to walk-in *pro se* debtors, including bankruptcy information, forms, and referrals to *pro bono* seminars and attorneys. Judge Maureen A. Tighe led a collaborative effort between the court and the local bar and *pro bono* clinics to develop this program. The Self-Help Desk is funded in part by the district's Attorney Admissions Fund.

PRO BONO SERVICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT

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(From Left)
Ret. Judge William J. Lasarow, Judge Maureen Tighe,
James King, Faye C. Barta, Judge Thomas Donovan,
Marissa Hawkins

Chief Judge
Vincent P. Zurzolo

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All Divisions benefit from free or low cost services sponsored by local bar associations. The Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Divisions are served by the Debtor Assistance Program (DAP), sponsored by the Public Counsel Law Center, the largest *pro bono* law office in the nation. While the Los Angeles, Riverside, and Northern Divisions provide hotline numbers, several divisions now offer expanded services. *Pro bono* legal services are available onsite at the newly launched San Fernando Valley Division Self-Help Desk, available weekly, while the Santa Ana Division continues to hold an onsite *pro bono* clinic for chapter 7 *pro se* debtors twice per month.

LODGED ORDER UPLOAD PROGRAM

The clerk's office developed and launched the Lodged Order Upload (LOU) module districtwide on November 19. LOU enables CM/ECF users to submit proposed electronic orders into CM/ECF, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. LOU is unique in that it accepts orders in Microsoft Word format, as opposed to Adobe Acrobat format. This enables judges to interlineate, or edit orders, as needed. In 2007, a total of 711 orders were uploaded through LOU, about 22 percent of potential orders. By the end of 2007, LOU orders were being submitted at the rate of 1,000 per month, with almost half of all orders submitted electronically.

OTHER AUTOMATION ENHANCEMENTS

The court upgraded both CM/ECF and the CIAO! calendaring program in 2007 with new features designed to enhance their effectiveness. Other new systems and projects launched in 2007 include: Fiscal Integrated Sanction Tracker (FIST), Judicial Committee Online Meeting Minutes (JCOMM), and an offsite e-mail backup system. Replacing manually produced spreadsheets maintained at each Division, the FIST system allows staff across the district to enter and track approximately 600 pending sanctions and fines from a central database. JCOMM enables judges to search all judicial committee minutes, going back over ten years, by word or phrase. Finally, the clerk's office began moving the court's e-mail backup system offsite to a data center on the east coast. Once completed, if an e-mail server fails or a disaster occurs at our e-mail server site, court staff e-mail will shift to the offsite server.

ARCHIVING INITIATIVES

During 2007, many archiving projects were completed across the district. The Los Angeles Division shipped 3,452 main cases and 1,445 adversary proceedings. Another 1,700 documents that had been imaged (but were not in case files) were also shipped. The Riverside Division shipped 511 boxes of main cases and 135 boxes of adversary proceedings, closed from 1999 through 2005. The San Fernando Valley Division shipped 216 boxes of cases closed in 2004 and 2005. The Santa Ana Division archiving initiative is in progress. The Northern Division shipped 130 bankruptcy cases and 166 adversary proceedings, closed in 2005, as well as audio recordings and log notes from court hearings.

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Los Angeles Intake Ribbon Cutting

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Los Angeles Intake Department

LOS ANGELES INTAKE MOVE AND FACILITIES UPGRADES

On February 20, the Los Angeles Intake section and the Public Information area, previously located in the Los Angeles Street Federal Building, opened to the public on the ninth floor of the Roybal Federal Building. As a cost-saving measure, the court relinquished approximately 16,000 square feet of office space to the General Services Administration (GSA). The public benefits from a more convenient, "one stop" location, while staff members benefit from being closer to all departments. Replacement of the aging video conference system used for judicial committees and other video conference meeting was also completed. The new video conference system enables a video conference between all five Divisions at the same time.

STAFFING HIGHLIGHTS

In 2007, chambers and clerk's office staff totaled 281 employees, not including approximately 70 externs, who spend one semester with the court. Thirteen court employees accepted the early out/buyout package offered by the court. Though offset by 16 appointments (including 11 interns), the number of Clerk's office staff is seven percent lower than 2006.

2007 Court Staff		Staff Reduction	
Bankruptcy Judges	21	Early out/buyout	13
Judicial Staff*	44	Voluntary separation	10
Clerk's office staff	216	Temporary/summer intern	9
Total**	281	Total	32

* Does not include Externs

** Includes Full-Time, Part-Time, Temporary Limited, and Temporary Indefinite employees

OMBUDSPERSON AND WORKPLACE LIAISON

In accordance with the court's Long Range Plan, two programs were launched in 2007 to provide additional mechanisms for line staff to provide feedback to management staff: the Ombudsperson Program launched in January, and the Workplace Liaison Program launched in November. Neither program replaces the role of the Human Resources department or any other formal channels of communication. The Ombudsperson Program was established to increase effective communication, and hear suggestions, comments, or concerns from both clerk's office and chambers' staff about how the organization is operating. Chief Judge Zurzolo served as the program's first Ombudsperson. The Workplace Liaison program provides staff with an informal and confidential process to deliver feedback to management staff; approach concerns; and seek feedback or guidance in resolving an issue. Two clerk's office staff were selected as Workplace Liaison contacts.

TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Both classroom and online learning opportunities were available to chambers and clerk's office staff. The number of training sessions held increased 8 percent over 2006, from 158 to 171 sessions, and number of staff participant hours increased 4 percent, with staff logging 5,040 training hours in 2007. The majority of training offered was technical, including CM/ECF, Lodged Order Upload (LOU), and related topics. IT training offered during the year included Adobe applications, Microsoft applications, and Autodesk AutoCAD. This year's mandatory IT Security Training focused on secure passwords, workstation security, and remote access to e-mail.

Other staff training included a district-wide presentation of the court's Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Plan, introducing the court's EDR Coordinators. A Clerk's Seminar, "Building the Team of the Future," was held in April. The third annual Fall Education Seminar, "Shape Your Future From A to Z" in September was attended by 182 clerk's office staff, 24 chambers staff and a number of judges. All clerk's office staff also attended a Human Resources (HR) Symposium at the Los Angeles Division, which introduced the new HR web page. Finally, in keeping with the court's objective of enhancing leadership skills, about 20 participants in the Supervisors Development Program entered the third and final phase of the FJC program: "Enhancing Supervisory Skills." Participants are required to complete 50 hours of independent and group study.

Figure 7

2007 Districtwide Training		
Year	Number of Classes	Staff Participant Hours
2006	158	4,837
2007	171	5,040
Percent Change	8%	4%

SUMMER INTERNS

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(Top left to right)
Sebastian Roeder, Christopher Granger,
Andy Mean, Edward Morena
(Bottom left to right)
Carlene Natan, Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk,
Sade Osilaja

SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

For the fourth year in a row, the court held a Summer Intern Program. Seven interns joined the court to serve an eight-week appointment. Interns were assigned to both Operations and Administration departments, including Courtroom Services, Analysis & Information, and Information Technology. Interns completed a total of 11 projects, including analyzing petition deficiency cure rates, documenting quality control editing processes, and creating a demo for a website content management program. This was the final year in which this program was offered, as it has been superseded by the new Career Intern Program.

CAREER INTERNS

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(Top left to right)
Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk, Richard Hsiao,
Carlene Natan, Vanita Subherwal, Phillip Mai
(Bottom left to right)
Cristina Bautista, Jessica Willimas, HR Generalist

CAREER INTERN PROGRAM

Building on the success of the Summer Intern Program, the court launched a Career Intern Program in September 2007. This program is designed to prepare interns for future roles within the court, as part of the court's succession planning strategy. Five Career Interns joined the court to serve a two-year appointment. Interns will complete four 90-day rotations, and one year long rotation to both Operations and Administration departments. Interns may complete their Operations rotations in either Los Angeles, Riverside, the San Fernando Valley, or Santa Ana.

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Los Angeles Division

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Riverside Division

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FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

Santa Ana Division

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FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

Northern Division

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FOR PUBLIC VIEWING

San Fernando Valley Division

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

ePlause, an employee recognition program which acknowledges accomplishments in the areas of Customer Service, Outstanding Performance, Teamwork, Suggestion, Special Act, and Special Service, continued into its second year. Sixty-Six court staff members throughout the district were recognized at one of nine ePlause award ceremonies held at all Divisions.

CENTRAL DISTRICT HOSTS SERBIAN JUDGES

In June, Serbian judges and their support staff toured the Central District through the bankruptcy study program coordinated by Judge Samuel L. Bufford. Upon arrival, the visitors attended a hearing and met with Judge Geraldine Mund, Judge Maureen A. Tighe, and Judge Kathleen Thompson at the San Fernando Valley Division. From there, the group of 16 members traveled to the Los Angeles Division, where they were welcomed by Judge Bufford, Judge Barry Russell, and Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court. While in Los Angeles the group took a tour of the clerk's office, and participated in meetings with automation experts. As part of the program, the visitors met with United States Trustee Peter Anderson and attended a symposium on the reorganization of business under bankruptcy law. At the end of their stay, the visitors attended hearings and met with Judge Robin L. Riblet of the Northern Division.

BROWN BAG WITH THE JUDGE

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LEGAL COMMUNITY TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The court continued to provide training, information, and other support for the legal community. In preparation for mandatory electronic filing, court staff conducted 253 CM/ECF (the court's electronic filing system) classes throughout the district for attorneys and their support staff. This resulted in the training of 1,186 attorneys and 1,692 registered CM/ECF users. Bankruptcy judges throughout the district also held or participated in a number of bar-related events. A number of "brown bag" lunch programs, informative programs for the bar held in an informal setting, were held on subjects such as chapter 13 practices and procedures, the impact of electronic filing, and other bankruptcy-related topics. The bankruptcy judges also actively participated in numerous local bar events such as the "Annual Ask the Judges Night," as well as meetings, forums, and other special programs for the local bar.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

The court worked closely with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1935 to administer the National Labor Relations Act. In May, the CM/ECF team expanded training beyond attorneys and trustees by offering training to seven staff members from the IRS. The IRS files a high volume of claims in the Central District and the court accommodate their needs by offering specialized training in filing claims through CM/ECF. In August, the Northern Division's courtrooms were used by the NLRB. The Honorable William Kocol presided over a high profile trial in which the NLRB is prosecuting the Santa Barbara News-Press for alleged labor law violations. During the first week of the trial, the courthouse was filled to capacity with subpoenaed witnesses, media representatives, and spectators.

CLERK'S OFFICE STAFF AT CFC

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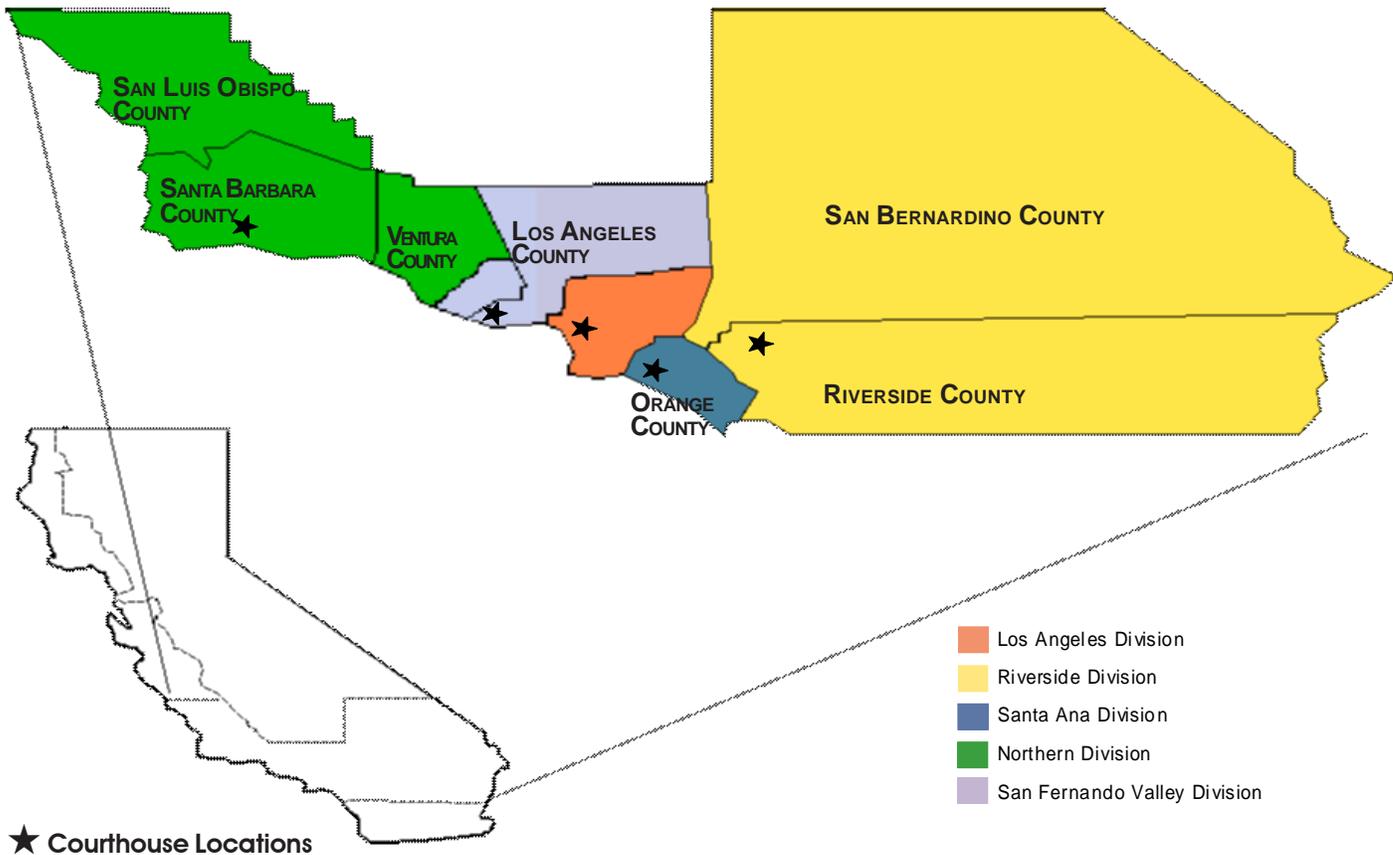
(Left to Right)

Michael E. Rotberg, Chief Deputy of Operations, Litaun Lewis,
Michael Cooper, Wendy Wesley, Valecia Caldwell

2007 COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC)

The Central District once again participated in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), a national workplace charity program in which Federal civilian, postal and military employees can donate to different nonprofit organizations. The court has participated in the CFC for over a decade, and raised \$35,707 in 2007. For the second year in a row, the Riverside Division had 100 percent participation and was honored with several awards at the Keyworker Recognition Awards Luncheon for the Western Riverside CFC. The Los Angeles Division was also recognized this year for their participation in the CFC with a "Silver Award" at the CFC Awards Lunch and Ceremony in Long Beach.

WHO WE ARE



DISTRICT PROFILE

The Central District of California is the largest bankruptcy court in the United States. From the coast of California eastward to the Nevada and Arizona borders, the Central District covers approximately 40,000 square miles. The Court has jurisdiction over the Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties, with courthouses in downtown Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, and Woodland Hills.

The Central District is part of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which encompasses the federal courts of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Guam (a U.S. Territory) and the Northern Mariana Islands (a U.S. Commonwealth). The Ninth Circuit is the largest of the 12 federal circuits in size, population, number of federal judges, and volume of litigation. There are 13 bankruptcy courts within the Ninth Circuit.

POPULATION SERVED

With a population of more than 19 million people, the Central District of California approximately represents 50 percent of the state's population. Based on estimates from the Demographic Research Unit of the California Department of Finance, the Central District of California is home to four of the five most populous counties in the state, and two of the five most populous counties in the United States (Los Angeles and Orange counties). In terms of per capita filings (filings per 1,000 population), in 2007, California averaged 1.99 filings per thousand residents.

Figure 8

Bankruptcy Filings and Percentage Change: 1980-2007								
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA								
Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1980	17,935	N/A	317	N/A	1,963	N/A	20,215	N/A
1981	19,145	6.7%	787	148.3%	5,723	191.5%	25,655	26.9%
1982	21,027	9.8%	2,022	156.9%	10,528	84.0%	33,577	30.9%
1983	21,831	3.8%	2,128	5.2%	11,074	5.2%	35,033	4.3%
1984	22,669	3.8%	2,003	-5.9%	10,001	-9.7%	34,673	-1.0%
1985	25,983	14.6%	1,937	-3.3%	9,018	-9.8%	36,938	6.5%
1986	34,286	32.0%	2,079	7.3%	10,452	15.9%	46,817	26.7%
1987	38,097	11.1%	1,675	-19.4%	9,903	-5.3%	49,675	6.1%
1988	39,962	4.9%	1,360	-18.8%	9,548	-3.6%	50,870	2.4%
1989	41,869	4.8%	1,394	2.5%	10,838	13.5%	54,101	6.4%
1990	47,663	13.8%	1,482	6.3%	10,345	-4.5%	59,490	10.0%
1991	64,338	35.0%	2,272	53.3%	12,355	19.4%	78,965	32.7%
1992	76,842	19.4%	2,542	11.9%	14,483	17.2%	93,867	18.9%
1993	74,864	-2.6%	2,423	-4.7%	15,353	6.0%	92,640	-1.3%
1994	65,933	-11.9%	2,057	-15.1%	16,696	8.7%	84,686	-8.6%
1995	66,276	0.5%	1,449	-29.6%	15,104	-9.5%	82,829	-2.2%
1996	83,366	25.8%	1,065	-26.5%	18,253	20.8%	102,684	24.0%
1997	96,277	15.5%	911	-14.5%	20,999	15.0%	118,187	15.1%
1998	99,461	3.3%	622	-31.7%	20,904	-0.5%	120,987	2.4%
1999	82,623	-16.9%	472	-24.1%	19,340	-7.5%	102,435	-15.3%
2000	64,183	-22.3%	573	21.4%	16,028	-17.1%	80,784	-21.1%
2001	73,179	14.0%	573	0.0%	14,482	-9.6%	88,234	9.2%
2002	69,940	-4.4%	484	-15.5%	13,686	-5.5%	84,110	-4.7%
2003	65,227	-6.7%	371	-23.3%	10,088	-26.3%	75,686	-10.0%
2004	54,892	-15.8%	302	-18.6%	5,445	-46.0%	60,639	-19.9%
2005	79,948	45.6%	268	-11.3%	4,028	-26.0%	84,244	38.9%
2006	14,278	-82.1%	241	-10.1%	3,326	-17.4%	17,845	-78.8%
2007	25,681	79.9%	342	41.9%	8,017	141.0%	34,040	90.8%

LOS ANGELES DIVISION								
Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1980	12,430	N/A	202	N/A	1,041	N/A	13,673	N/A
1981	13,055	5.0%	508	151.5%	4,162	299.8%	17,725	29.6%
1982	13,868	6.2%	1,291	154.1%	7,655	83.9%	22,814	28.7%
1983	14,825	6.9%	1,361	5.4%	8,074	5.5%	24,260	6.3%
1984	15,950	7.6%	1,309	-3.8%	7,484	-7.3%	24,743	2.0%
1985	18,051	13.2%	1,263	-3.5%	6,473	-13.5%	25,787	4.2%
1986	23,206	28.6%	1,423	12.7%	7,169	10.8%	31,798	23.3%
1987	25,599	10.3%	1,125	-20.9%	6,392	-10.8%	33,116	4.1%
1988	26,365	3.0%	886	-21.2%	5,746	-10.1%	32,997	-0.4%
1989	28,017	6.3%	870	-1.8%	5,423	-5.6%	34,310	4.0%
1990	32,306	15.3%	1,008	15.9%	5,718	5.4%	39,032	13.8%
1991	42,894	32.8%	1,586	57.3%	7,107	24.3%	51,587	32.2%
1992	47,853	11.6%	1,768	11.5%	8,678	22.1%	58,299	13.0%
1993	44,065	-7.9%	1,694	-4.2%	9,286	7.0%	55,045	-5.6%
1994	27,701	-37.1%	1,190	-29.8%	9,189	-1.0%	38,080	-30.8%
1995	26,661	-3.8%	700	-41.2%	7,485	-18.5%	34,846	-8.5%
1996	34,165	28.1%	518	-26.0%	8,989	20.1%	43,672	25.3%
1997	39,533	15.7%	498	-3.9%	10,086	12.2%	50,117	14.8%
1998	42,181	6.7%	343	-31.1%	10,721	6.3%	53,245	6.2%
1999	36,837	-12.7%	220	-35.9%	10,668	-0.5%	47,725	-10.4%
2000	28,008	-24.0%	203	-7.7%	8,306	-22.1%	36,517	-23.5%
2001	32,010	14.3%	296	45.8%	7,009	-15.6%	39,315	7.7%
2002	30,626	-4.3%	181	-38.9%	6,252	-10.8%	37,059	-5.7%
2003	28,661	-6.4%	146	-19.3%	4,380	-29.9%	33,187	-10.4%
2004	24,664	-13.9%	153	4.8%	2,204	-49.7%	27,021	-18.6%
2005	37,166	50.7%	91	-40.5%	1,542	-30.0%	38,799	43.6%
2006	6,043	-83.7%	97	6.6%	1,119	-27.4%	7,259	-81.3%
2007	9,662	59.9%	117	20.6%	2,861	155.7%	12,640	74.1%

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DIVISION

(Filings prior to 1994 were included in Los Angeles Division)

Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1994	8,560	N/A	261	N/A	1,859	N/A	10,680	N/A
1995	8,524	-0.4%	239	-8.4%	1,794	-3.5%	10,557	-1.2%
1996	12,470	46.3%	167	-30.1%	2,836	58.1%	15,473	46.6%
1997	14,451	15.9%	131	-21.6%	3,466	22.2%	18,048	16.6%
1998	14,490	0.3%	62	-52.7%	3,531	1.9%	18,083	0.2%
1999	12,005	-17.1%	68	9.7%	3,088	-12.5%	15,161	-16.2%
2000	9,344	-22.2%	101	48.5%	2,284	-26.0%	11,729	-22.6%
2001	10,123	8.3%	76	-24.8%	2,164	-5.3%	12,363	5.4%
2002	9,652	-4.7%	68	-10.5%	2,019	-6.7%	11,739	-5.0%
2003	9,063	-6.1%	52	-23.5%	1,505	-25.5%	10,620	-9.5%
2004	7,440	-17.9%	45	-13.5%	873	-42.0%	8,358	-21.3%
2005	11,083	49.0%	68	51.1%	658	-24.6%	11,809	41.3%
2006	2,054	-81.5%	41	-39.7%	626	-4.9%	2,721	-77.0%
2007	3,671	78.7%	74	80.5%	1,630	160.4%	5,375	97.5%

RIVERSIDE DIVISION

Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1980	2,324	N/A	25	N/A	417	N/A	2,766	N/A
1981	2,886	24.2%	91	264.0%	696	66.9%	3,673	32.8%
1982	3,370	16.8%	200	119.8%	1,354	94.5%	4,924	34.1%
1983	3,394	0.7%	202	1.0%	1,540	13.7%	5,136	4.3%
1984	3,255	-4.1%	220	8.9%	1,384	-10.1%	4,859	-5.4%
1985	3,994	22.7%	194	-11.8%	1,363	-1.5%	5,551	14.2%
1986	5,622	40.8%	194	0.0%	1,861	36.5%	7,677	38.3%
1987	6,483	15.3%	166	-14.4%	2,091	12.4%	8,740	13.8%
1988	7,403	14.2%	164	-1.2%	2,570	22.9%	10,137	16.0%
1989	7,838	5.9%	162	-1.2%	3,428	33.4%	11,428	12.7%
1990	8,017	2.3%	164	1.2%	2,908	-15.2%	11,089	-3.0%
1991	11,494	43.4%	229	39.6%	3,255	11.9%	14,978	35.1%
1992	14,715	28.0%	237	3.5%	3,613	11.0%	18,565	23.9%
1993	15,080	2.5%	213	-10.1%	3,737	3.4%	19,030	2.5%
1994	13,846	-8.2%	189	-11.3%	3,128	-16.3%	17,163	-9.8%
1995	15,015	8.4%	146	-22.8%	3,343	6.9%	18,504	7.8%
1996	18,484	23.1%	116	-20.5%	3,841	14.9%	22,441	21.3%
1997*	18,616	0.7%	77	-33.6%	4,093	6.6%	22,786	1.5%
1998	21,761	16.9%	65	-15.6%	4,062	-0.8%	25,888	13.6%
1999	18,110	-16.8%	48	-26.2%	3,658	-9.9%	21,816	-15.7%
2000	14,933	-17.5%	93	93.8%	3,951	8.0%	18,977	-13.0%
2001	17,540	17.5%	46	-50.5%	4,080	3.3%	21,666	14.2%
2002	17,026	-2.9%	67	45.7%	4,185	2.6%	21,278	-1.8%
2003	15,445	-9.3%	64	-4.5%	3,266	-22.0%	18,775	-11.8%
2004	12,306	-20.3%	31	-51.6%	1,751	-46.4%	14,088	-25.0%
2005	15,623	27.0%	40	29.0%	1,185	-32.3%	16,848	19.6%
2006	3,020	-80.7%	36	-10.0%	1,164	-1.8%	4,220	-75.0%
2007	6,436	113.1%	48	33.3%	2,659	128.4%	9,143	116.7%

SANTA ANA DIVISION

Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1980	3,181	N/A	90	N/A	505	N/A	3,776	N/A
1981	3,204	0.7%	188	108.9%	865	71.3%	4,257	12.7%
1982	3,789	18.3%	531	182.4%	1,519	75.6%	5,839	37.2%
1983	3,612	-4.7%	565	6.4%	1,460	-3.9%	5,637	-3.5%
1984	3,464	-4.1%	474	-16.1%	1,133	-22.4%	5,071	-10.0%
1985	3,938	13.7%	480	1.3%	1,182	4.3%	5,600	10.4%
1986	5,458	38.6%	462	-3.8%	1,422	20.3%	7,342	31.1%
1987	6,015	10.2%	384	-16.9%	1,420	-0.1%	7,819	6.5%
1988	6,194	3.0%	310	-19.3%	1,232	-13.2%	7,736	-1.1%
1989	6,014	-2.9%	362	16.8%	1,987	61.3%	8,363	8.1%
1990	7,340	22.0%	310	-14.4%	1,719	-13.5%	9,369	12.0%
1991	9,950	35.6%	457	47.4%	1,993	15.9%	12,400	32.4%
1992	12,095	21.6%	416	-9.0%	1,841	-7.6%	14,352	15.7%
1993	11,933	-1.3%	394	-5.3%	1,764	-4.2%	14,091	-1.8%
1994	10,929	-8.4%	301	-23.6%	1,945	10.3%	13,175	-6.5%
1995	11,149	2.0%	285	-5.3%	1,933	-0.6%	13,367	1.5%
1996	13,361	19.8%	217	-23.9%	2,036	5.3%	15,614	16.8%
1997*	17,839	33.5%	171	-21.2%	2,647	30.0%	20,657	32.3%
1998	15,548	-12.8%	124	-27.5%	1,936	-26.9%	17,608	-14.8%
1999	11,449	-26.4%	119	-4.0%	1,405	-27.4%	12,973	-26.3%
2000	8,599	-24.9%	150	26.1%	1,094	-22.1%	9,843	-24.1%
2001	9,736	13.2%	118	-21.3%	899	-17.8%	10,753	9.2%
2002	9,092	-6.6%	141	19.5%	924	2.8%	10,157	-5.5%
2003	8,780	-3.4%	77	-45.4%	714	-22.7%	9,571	-5.8%
2004	7,434	-15.3%	53	-31.2%	443	-38.0%	7,930	-17.1%
2005	11,505	54.8%	58	9.4%	480	8.4%	12,043	51.9%
2006	2,212	-80.8%	57	-1.7%	314	-34.6%	2,583	-78.6%
2007	4,008	81.2%	91	59.6%	632	101.3%	4,731	83.2%

NORTHERN DIVISION

(Filings prior to 1992 were included in Los Angeles Division)

Year	Ch 7	% Chg	Ch 11	% Chg	Ch 13	% Chg	Total	% Chg
1992	2,179	N/A	121	N/A	351	N/A	2,651	N/A
1993	3,786	73.7%	122	0.8%	566	61.3%	4,474	68.8%
1994	4,897	29.3%	116	-4.9%	575	1.6%	5,588	24.9%
1995	4,927	0.6%	79	-31.9%	549	-4.5%	5,555	-0.6%
1996	4,886	-0.8%	47	-40.5%	551	0.4%	5,484	-1.3%
1997	5,838	19.5%	34	-27.7%	707	28.3%	6,579	20.0%
1998	5,481	-6.1%	28	-17.6%	654	-7.5%	6,163	-6.3%
1999	4,222	-23.0%	17	-39.3%	521	-20.3%	4,760	-22.8%
2000	3,299	-21.9%	26	52.9%	393	-24.6%	3,718	-21.9%
2001	3,770	14.3%	37	42.3%	330	-16.0%	4,137	11.3%
2002	3,544	-6.0%	27	-27.0%	306	-7.3%	3,877	-6.3%
2003	3,278	-7.5%	32	18.5%	223	-27.1%	3,533	-8.9%
2004	3,048	-7.0%	20	-37.5%	174	-22.0%	3,242	-8.2%
2005	4,571	50.0%	11	-45.0%	163	-6.3%	4,745	46.4%
2006	949	-79.2%	10	-9.1%	103	-36.8%	1,062	-77.6%
2007	1,904	100.6%	12	20.0%	235	128.2%	2,151	102.5%

LONG RANGE PLAN

Strategic Issues and Objectives

Accomplishments

Case Management

Expand site-based <i>pro bono</i> assistance program.	<i>San Fernando Valley Division Self-Help Desk established to provide free legal information and reference material. Santa Ana Division provides onsite pro bono assistance.</i>
Encourage increased use of telephonic and video appearances where appropriate.	<i>Promoted by individual members of the Education Committee.</i>
Encourage judges to serve in a different division at least once a year.	<i>Judge Robles volunteered to assist Riverside Division following retirement of Judge Goldberg.</i>
Facilitate the judges' ability to prepare more orders.	<i>Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program launched in September 2007. Implemented multiple enhancements to CIAO!</i>
Reduce Clerk's Office labor component for all case processing and case management functions.	<i>Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program launched in September 2007. CM/ECF usage became mandatory on April 1, 2007. High volume claim filers registered to use CM/ECF. Quality Control tracking development to provide targeted instruction to users. San Fernando Valley Division reduced inconsistencies between judge teams to improve team coverage with reduced staff.</i>
Standardize docket entries.	<i>Trained registered CM/ECF attorneys to use correct docket codes. Discontinued routine docketing of unused orders. Quality Control tracking under development to provide targeted instruction to users.</i>
Explore the ability to process documents while working at an alternate work location.	<i>Proposals from trustee working committee forwarded to Rules Committee for consideration.</i>

Community Outreach

Expand relations with minority bar associations.	
Obtain funding for foreign language interpretation and translation services.	<i>The Debtor Assistance Project is requesting funding from the Attorney Admissions Fund for translation services.</i>
Encourage effective cross-cultural communication in the courtroom.	<i>Obtained approval from the Board of Judges to translate material on the court's website.</i>
Create bankruptcy education programs.	<i>The Education Committee continues to arrange bankruptcy education programs for the off-site BOJ Seminar, other quarterly BOJ meetings, and for interns/law clerks.</i>
Create pamphlets in Spanish available to the public and revise it to accord with changes in the law.	<i>This objective is being fulfilled by the Case Management Committee who agreed to solicit volunteers to request funding from the Attorney Admissions Fund to hire a translator to translate material from the court's website into Spanish.</i>
Review all information available to the public and revise it to accord with changes in the law.	<i>Public Information QC Subcommittee project underway to review the Court's web site/some changes implemented. "Don't Have An Attorney?" section added to the Court's website.</i>
Update the Web site periodically to keep it current and user-friendly.	<i>The court's website is updated regularly to reflect local rules, notices, etc. Additionally, the court is developing a project plan for the next iteration of the website.</i>
Encourage legal assistance from pro bono attorneys for parties who cannot afford an attorney. (See also Facilities and Security Objective # 7)	<i>Ongoing effort with LA County Bar's Pro Bono Bankruptcy Subcommittee and other local bar associations.</i>
Make electronic filing more accessible to the public.	<i>Completed multiple CM/IECF training sessions for members of the local and national bar. Case Management Committee believes that in other respects, this objective is not feasible.</i>

Strategic Issues and Objectives

Accomplishments

Facilities and Security

Create a plan for Court operation in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophe that affects all or substantially all of the district.

The Space and Security Committee's discussions on this issue will resume as soon as information on the District Court's plan has been obtained. A meeting with representatives of the District Court on this issue is being scheduled.

Determine the amount of space used by the Court that is necessary to serve the public.

The Space and Security Committee has merged this Objective with Facilities and Security Objective # 1 above.

Establish a "virtual" courtroom system.

Judge Robles will pilot a virtual courtroom in the Riverside Division.

Validate efficacy of Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) on a continuing basis.

The court's COOP plan is being updated to ensure it adheres to the latest available version/template and that it reflects the court's current organizational structure. In addition, the COOP development / implementation team has attended several COOP workshops and validated the court's plan with those suggested by these workshops. The team also drafted a COOP checklist and form aimed at facilitating the collection and sharing of critical information during a COOP emergency.

Explore providing space in the courthouses for providing *pro bono* legal assistance. (See also Community Outreach Objective #9)

*San Fernando Valley Division Self-Help Desk established to provide free legal information and reference material. Santa Ana Division provides onsite *pro bono* assistance.*

Make electronic locks and access to doors, elevators, and locations more universal, and limit physical keys and cipher locks.

Card readers and security cameras have been installed in the judicial chambers within the Roybal building. These will reduce the number of metal keys being issued and provide greater security and access control.

Strategic Issues and Objectives**Accomplishments****Human Resources**

Evaluate and modify, if necessary, the use of the telework program. (See also Case Management Objective #7).	<i>Clerk's office reviewed the telework program in 2007, refining the overall process, policy, and making recommendations for new positions eligible for telework.</i>
Ensure a smooth transition as senior staff members retire.	<i>Clerk's office initiated Career Intern program in 2007.</i>
Recruit and retain a workforce consistent with the court's technology.	<i>Clerk's office hired 12 interns in 2007 through its annual Summer Intern Program and new Career Intern Program. Workforce received extensive training, as included in Human Resources Objective #4.</i>
Enhance training for all staff.	<p>A. <i>The Fall Education Seminar focused on retirement planning. Speakers addressed the mechanics of retiring from Federal Service and concepts of financial planning in anticipation of retirement. Additionally, a Human Resources website was launched providing staff with access to information about health and wellness, financial education, insurance, and other benefits.</i></p> <p>B. <i>The Judicial On-Line University (JOU) was offered to all staff. JOU offers more than 2,000 courses focusing on business, professional development and technology.</i></p> <p>C. <i>Supervisor Development Program continued during 2007. Approximately 30 supervisors and managers have been participating in this two-year program designed to enhance supervisory skills. The class will "graduate" in Spring of 2008.</i></p> <p>D. <i>Fifty clerk's office staff members, at various levels, participated in Ninth House eLearning sessions. Ninth House curriculum offers leadership and soft skill sessions.</i></p> <p>E. <i>Space & Facilities employees received AutoCAD training.</i></p> <p>F. <i>The court provided standardized training/procedures for CM/ECF. Procedures are posted on-line.</i></p> <p>G. <i>Microsoft applications training sessions were held for chambers staff. Beginning and intermediate classes were provided on Adobe Acrobat, PowerPoint and Word.</i></p>
Develop a new employee recognition program consistent with national guidelines.	<i>The ePlause employee recognition program was created in 2006 to meet national guidelines. During 2007, 66 staff members were recognized during nine ceremonies across the district.</i>
Establish a mechanism for line staff to provide feedback to management staff.	<i>Workplace Liaison program initiated by the clerk's office.</i>
Explore alternative work schedules for staff.	<i>The Court offers telework opportunities for staff.</i>
Implement digital time card and leave tracking/management systems.	<i>Implementation of digital time card and leave tracking is on hold. The AO is preparing to rollout a time card system, and the court has offered to participate in testing this new system.</i>

Strategic Issues and Objectives

Accomplishments

Information Management

Expand CM/ECF to all constituents.

During 2007, nearly 1,400 attorneys were granted access to CM/ECF. Total external users with CM/ECF access is nearly 2,000.

Reduce paper/printer costs.

New networked copiers were made available throughout the court to enable duplex printing, and eliminate the need for separate fax machines. The use of PDF files that can be viewed, either from e-mails or from the court's website, continues to increase (e.g., judicial committee minutes, procedural manuals, reports, newsletters, etc.). The court is studying current printing practices and costs. This study will help the court to make business decisions on how to acquire supplies and services more effectively and efficiently to reduce costs.

Enable *pro se* e-filing safely and in accordance with applicable laws.

Board of Judges approved proposal to enable pro bono attorneys to use CM/ECF to file petitions with fee waiver applications or fee installment applications

Enable e-filing of proofs of claim by high volume claim filers such as the Internal Revenue Service.

The court registered the IRS and other high volume claim filers to electronically file claims through CM/ECF.

Implement digital time card and leave tracking/management systems.

Implementation of digital time card and leave tracking is on hold. The AO is preparing to rollout a time card system, and the court has offered to participate in testing this new system.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
1	Mediation Matters by Chapter, 1995-2007	7
2	Mediation Matters by Division, 1995-2007	7
3	Bankruptcy Cases Filed: 1997-2008 (projected)	8
4	Quarterly Bankruptcy Filings Post BAPCPA (November 2005 - December 2007)	9
5	Percent of Bankruptcy Filings by Division: 2007	9
6	<i>Pro Se</i> Filing by Chapter	10
7	2007 Districtwide Training	12
8	Bankruptcy Filings and Percentage Change: 1980-2007	17

For additional information regarding this report or the Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, you may contact the Clerk's Office at the locations below.



Los Angeles Division

Edward R. Roybal Federal Building
& Courthouse
255 East Temple Street, Room 940
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 894-3118



Santa Ana Division

411 West Fourth Street
Suite 2030
Santa Ana, CA 92701

(714) 338-5300



Riverside Division

3420 Twelfth Street
Riverside, CA 92501

(951) 774-1000



Northern Division

1415 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 884-4800



San Fernando Valley Division

21041 Burbank Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(818) 587-2900

Executive Office

Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk

Michael E. Rotberg, Chief Deputy

Edward R. Roybal Federal Building & Courthouse
255 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

www.cacb.uscourts.gov