UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

COURT NEWS

Chief Judge Barry Russell | 2006 | Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk

ROBERT KWAN TO REPLACE RETIRING JUDGE RYAN

Robert Kwan has been approved for appointment by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as a bankruptcy judge for the Central District of California . He will succeed Judge John E. Ryan, who is retiring on January 2, 2007. Mr. Kwan, 53, has been the deputy chief of the Tax Division in the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California since 1994.

Mr. Kwan is a native Californian who received his undergraduate degree in 1975 from Yale University, and his J.D. in 1979 from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. He also attended Georgetown University where he completed a Master of Laws in Taxation (LL.M.) in 1985.

As an expert in tax law, Mr. Kwan was invited to be a panelist on the Bankruptcy Tax Program for the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum in 2001. In October 2005, he co-authored a chapter on bankruptcy tax issues in a Continuing Education of the Bar treatise on consumer and small business bankruptcy law practice in California.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEDIATION AWARDS LUNCHEON HELD

On October 20, 2006, the Bankruptcy and District Courts for the Central District of California hosted a joint luncheon at the New Otani Hotel Golden Ballroom in Los Angeles to honor Bankruptcy Court mediators and District Court settlement officers for their service during 2005-2006. The annual luncheon recognizes the mediators' and settlement officers' continued dedication and service to the Courts in the ever-growing field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

This year approximately 100 guests attended the event, including the Honorable Margaret M. Morrow, Judge, United States District Court, Central District of California, and Chair, Civil Justice Report Act and Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; and the District's Mediation Program Administrator, the Honorable Barry Russell, Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California. Also in attendance were Bankruptcy Judges Alan M. Ahart, Sheri Bluebond, and Maureen A. Tighe, as well as a number of District Court and Magistrate judges.

Judge Morrow praised the efforts of the mediators and settlement officers, thanking them for their service in the past year in assisting the judges manage their caseloads and consistently achieving a high satisfaction rate among the program's litigants. She also commented on the growth the District Court's program has experienced from its inception in 1998 with just 40 members to its current 125 participating settlement officers. Among other things, she announced the District Court's intention to expand its panel to include many of the Bankruptcy Court's mediators and advised the audience that the District Court would be issuing written invitations to our mediators in the near future.

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Chief Judge Barry Russell
United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

Judge Margaret M. Morrow
United States District Court
Central District of California

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEDIATION AWARDS LUNCHEON HELD

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Judge Alan Ahart,
David W. Meadows

Catherine Bauer, Sharon Weiss,
Judge Sheri Bluebond, N. Jane DuBovy

Benjamine S. Seigel,
Judge Maureen Tighe

Judge Russell congratulated the Bankruptcy Court mediators for another year of wonderful public service. Since the Program began in 1995, over 3,556 cases have been assigned with an outstanding 63% settlement rate. He mentioned that there are currently 190 mediators on the panel and recognized some of the particularly noteworthy accomplishments during the past year, such as the shortest mediation conference which concluded in 30 minutes and the longest mediation conference which concluded in 12.5 hours.

Judge Russell reported that the *Pro Se* Program planning continues and that it will provide mediation panel members the opportunity to represent *pro se* litigants at the mediation conferences at no cost to the litigants. Judge Russell described this year's training program, "*Pro Se* Dynamics In Mediation," presented by the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law, and announced plans to include additional "basic refresher" courses for spring 2007, which will also be taught by Straus Institute faculty.

Many thanks to all of our Judges, mediators and Mediation Program staff for their efforts to ensure the Program's ongoing success and congratulations to all our Court staff for an outstanding year!

CM 3.1 UPGRADE

After months of preparation, the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court adopted release 3.1 of CM/ECF on October 10, 2006. The new version contains some fixes and many of the statistical requirements mandated by BAPCPA. You will also notice that the login screen has changed, there are more cross-checks, and the process of Noticing has changed somewhat. Release notes are available at the PACER Service Center website: http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov./documents/cmecf/relnotes/bankruptcy_3.1.pdf

AMENDMENTS TO OFFICIAL BANKRUPTCY FORMS

Effective October 7, 2006, you must use the amended Official Bankruptcy Forms 1, 5, 6, 9, 22A, 22C, and 23. These forms were amended to include the statistical reporting requirements of BAPCPA. CM/ECF filers should have upgraded their petition preparation software and/or templates in order to file petitions, schedules, or other amended documents. These documents are available at www.uscourts.gov/bankform/index.html

COURT CLOSED

Veterans Day - November 10, 2006
Thanksgiving - November 23-24, 2006
Christmas Day - December 25, 2006
New Years Day - January 1, 2007

Emergency Matters Only

Friday, December 22, 2006
Friday, December 29, 2006

ECF UPDATE

The newly phased-in Electronic Case Filing (ECF) is already making the jobs of more than 300 registered users easier! One attorney using ECF, praised the new system: "ECF is very convenient, fast, and easy." Another attorney, expanded on this statement: "The thing we really like is the ability to file amendments and subsequent pleadings. I used to bring them in myself, so it's going to save me a lot of time. And we save a lot of money in copying." This attorney also praised the ECF help desk: "We're not 100% sure we're doing everything correctly, but the ECF Help Desk always answers our questions, which enables us to make corrections quickly."

ECF allows petitions and other documents to be filed over the internet 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. There is no additional charge for filing over the internet, but you must be a registered user. Classes for new users began in August, and are scheduled throughout November and December, in all five Court locations. About the classes, one attorney added: "The instruction at the court was great, excellent in fact. The materials were very good and the content was right on point. I don't think we could file the petitions without the ECF training we received." Classes are filling up quickly, so reserve your seat today at the following website: http://efile.cacb.uscourts.gov/CMECF/Home.nsf/Homepage?OpenForm.

If you have already begun using ECF, please remember that a paper copy of all documents filed electronically must be immediately delivered (in person or by mail) to the Intake area of the divisional office to which the relevant case or proceeding has been assigned. The copy should be accompanied by a copy of the CM/ECF receipt Notice of Electronic Filing ("NEF") and marked "Chambers Copy." Keep in mind that the Chambers Copy is *in addition* to the Courtesy Copy required of certain types of documents, according to the Local Bankruptcy Rules. If you submit a document through ECF, be sure to deliver a copy to Intake, and check the Local Rules to determine if you should also deliver a copy to the Judge's Chambers. If so, the Judge's copy should be marked "Courtesy Copy" and also accompanied by the NEF.

FILING STATISTICS

Central District of California	2006 YTD as of September 06	2005 YTD as of September 05	% Change 06 vs 05
Chapter 7	9,892	51,491	-80.8%
Chapter 11	186	178	-4.3%
Chapter 13	2,176	3,016	-27.9%
Total *	12,254	54,685	-77.6%

	12-Month Period Ending 6/30/06	12-Month Period Ending 6/30/05	% Change 06 vs 05
Nationally			
Chapter 7	1,164,815	1,196,212	-2.6%
Chapter 11	6,224	6,703	-7.1%
Chapter 13	313,085	433,945	-27.9%
Total *	1,484,570	1,637,254	-9.3%
Central District of California			
Chapter 7	55,067	55,967	-1.6%
Chapter 11	275	281	-2.1%
Chapter 13	3,228	4,230	-23.7%
Total *	58,570	60,478	-3.2%

*Excludes Chapter 9, Chapter 12, Chapter 15 and Section 304 filings

20 Largest and Other Cases of Interest Filed in the Last 24 Months*

Debtor Name	Case Number	Date Filed	Chapter	Asset Level in Millions	Liability Level in Millions	Last Milestone
American Restaurant Group, Inc. dba Stuart Anderson's Restaurants	LA-04-30732-TD	09/28/04	11	$33	$223	Final decree signed 8/30/06.
Queen's Seaport Development, Inc.	LA-05-15175-VZ	03/16/05	11	$47	$29	Order granting stipulation regarding further use of cash collateral entered 9/28/06.
Tradex LTD	LA-05-20537-RN	05/10/05	Sect 304	Over $100	Over $100	Status conference scheduled for 11/21/06 at 10:00 a.m.
WattsHealth Foundation, Inc., dba UHP Healthcare	LA-05-22627-TD	05/31/05	11	$55	$45	Fourth Interim Fee Application scheduled for 12/7/06 at 11:00 a.m.
APX Holdings, LLC	LA-06-10875-EC	03/16/06	11	Over $100	Over $100	Hearing regarding request for payment o administrative claim by Abol Software scheduled for 11/29/06 at 1:30 p.m.
Marion Knight, aka Suge Knight	LA-06-11187-EC	04/04/06	11	$4	$137	Hearing regarding assignment of debtor's righ to pursue avoidance actions scheduled for 11/15/06 at 1:30 p.m.
Death Row Records, Inc	LA-06-11205-EC	04/04/06	11	ndetermined	$111	Motion for release of debtor information scheduled for 11/21/06 at 2:00 p.m.
Los Osos Community Services District	ND-06-10548-RR	08/25/06	9	$1-10	Less than $1	Order confirming relief and approving notic entered 9/14/06. Declaration of notice of chapter 9 case in The Bond Buyer filed 10/18/06.
Rancho Las Flores Development	RS-05-12224-MG	03/11/05	11	$11	$8	Chapter 11 Plan filed 10/16/06. Hearings on multiple objections to claims set for 11/20/06.
GSM Wireless	SA-05-13514-JR	05/19/05	11	$10-50	$10-50	Case converted to Chapter 7 at hearing held on 10/4/2006. Order pending.
Trigem America Corp.	SA-05-13972-TA	06/03/05	11	Over $100	Over $100	Confirmation hearing continued to 11/22/2006 at 10:00 AM
Trigem Texas Inc.	SA-05-14047-TA	06/08/05	11	Over $100	Over $100	Chapter 11 Plan confirmed on 10/25/2006. Order pending.
Window Rock Entertainment, dba Cortislim	SA-05-50048-JR	11/23/05	11	$18	$162	Order confirming Third Amended Plan entered on 8/29/2006.
Brett Livingston Strong	SV-05-10137-KT	01/11/05	7	$184	$21	Status Conference continued to 9/19/06 a 10:00 AM. Motion for Relief from Stay hearing set for 10/12/06 at 9:30 AM.
Jill Kelly Productions, Inc.	SV-05-15389-KT	08/08/05	11	$1-10	$1-10	341(a) Meeting scheduled for 11/14/06 at 8:00 AM. David Hahn appointed as Trustee.
Persistence Capital, LLC	SV-05-16450-KT	09/13/05	11	$85	$29	Order Approving Disclosure Statement & setting hearing for confirmation of plan - hearing set for 11/20/06 at 9:00 AM.
10000 Millenium Plaza LLC	SV-05-50021-GM	10/26/05	11	$50-100	$30	Order granting Application to Employ M Gerald Schwartzbach as appellate counsel to debtor entered on 8/4/06.
Robert Blake, aka Michael Gubitosi	SV-06-10125-GM	02/03/06	11	$0.5	$50-100	Hearing on Applications for Compensation se for 10/17/06 at 10:00 AM.
PureBeauty, Inc.	SV-06-10545-KT	04/18/06	11	$10-50	$50	Order granting emergency motion to retroactively seal filed documents on 10/11/06. Hearing re: Motion for Relief of Stay on 10/24/06 at 10:00 AM.
Bodies in Motion, Inc.	SV-06-10931-GM	06/20/06	11	$10-50	$50	Amended 341(a) Meeting set for 10/03/06 a 9:00 AM. Proof of Claim/Interest bar date 11/1/06.

*based on a combination of Asset and Li

Court News
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as an informational service for the practitioners and public of our Court.

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Suggestions and comments are always welcome.
Please call (213) 894-3778 or e-mail us at <*Sidra_Golwala@cacb.uscourts.gov*>.