

# SECTION II

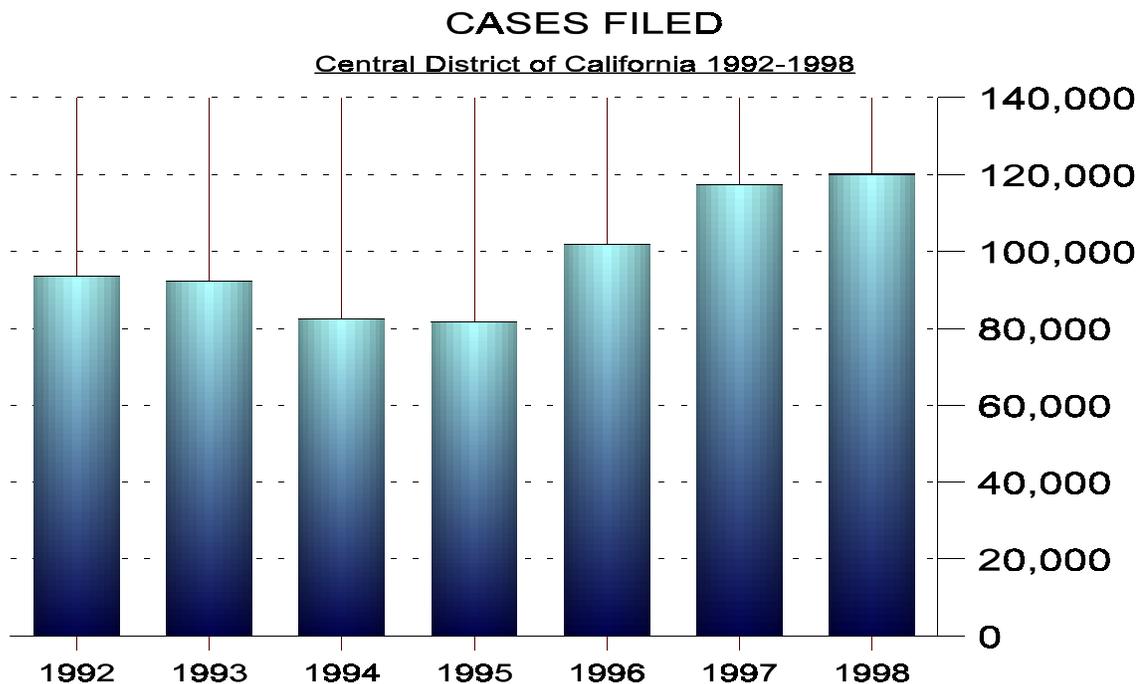
## COURT STATISTICS



## SECTION II - COURT STATISTICS

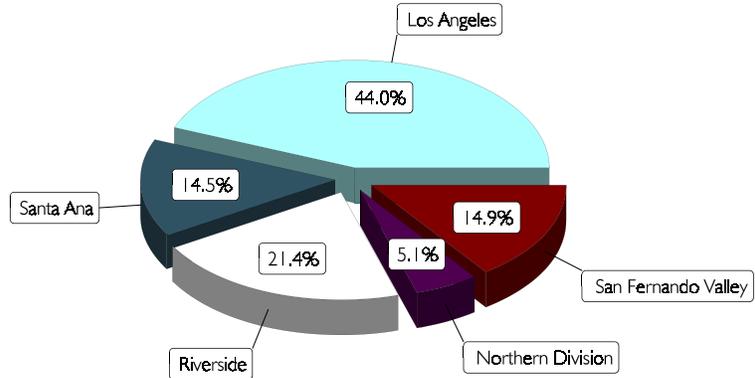
### Bankruptcy and Adversary Filings

A record 120,063 cases were filed in the Central District in 1998. Filings for 1998 increased by 2.3% over the 117,318 cases filed in 1997. Chapter 7 case filings increased 3.2% over the previous year, while Chapter 11 and 13 filings decreased 31.7% and 0.4%, respectively. A total of 5,920 adversaries were filed in the Court, a decrease of 16% from the 7,022 adversaries filed in 1997. The graph below shows case filings from 1992 through 1998.



The breakdown of 1998 filings for each division may be seen in the following pie chart:

PERCENTAGE OF CASES FILED BY DIVISION: 1998

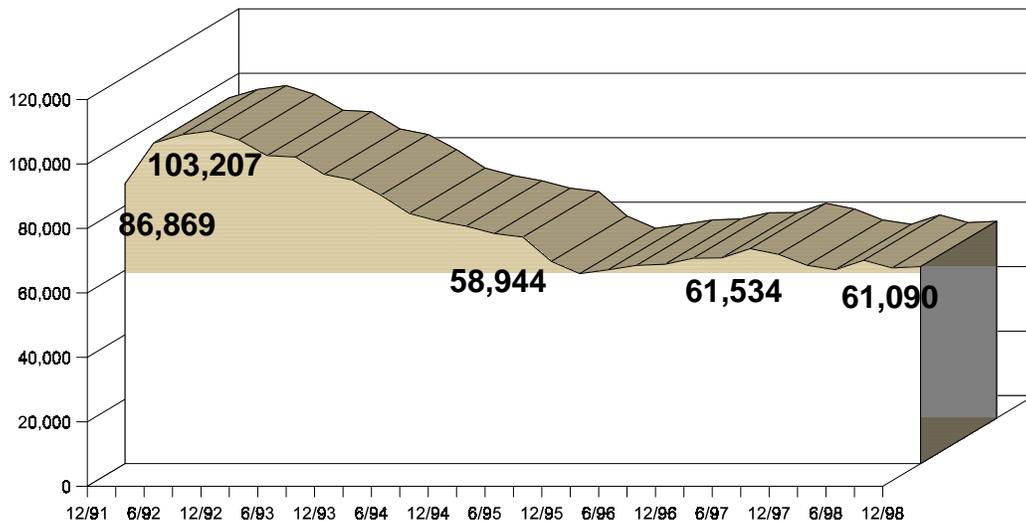


## Pending Caseload Remains Stable

The pending caseload for the Central District has been decreasing in recent years and continued to do so in 1998, despite the increase in filings. At the end of the year, the Court's pending caseload had decreased to 61,090, approximately 1% less than the 1997 pending caseload. The Court's historical peak in pending cases was in August 1992, when more than 103,000 cases were pending.

### Pending Caseload by Quarter

Central District of California 1992 - 1998

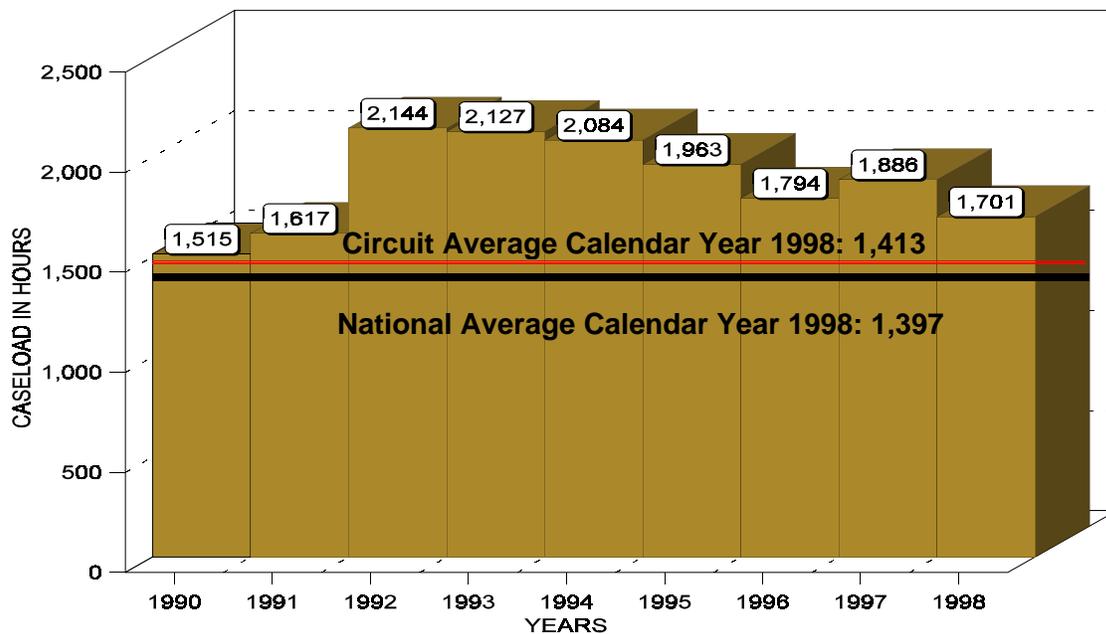


## Judge Weighted Caseload

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the Bankruptcy Judge Time Study by the Federal Judicial Center. The weights were established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, but they also provided useful information about the workloads of the judges in the Court and facilitated comparing judicial workloads with other bankruptcy courts in the nation and the Ninth Circuit. In calendar year 1998, the estimated per-judge weighted caseload in the Court was 1,701 hours per judge or 201 hours (13%) greater than the 1,500-hour standard established for additional judgeships. The weighted caseload for 1998 was 22% higher than the 1998 national average of 1,397 case-related hours per judge.

### ANNUALIZED WEIGHTED CASELOAD PER JUDGESHIP

Central District of California: 1990 - 98



## 1998 Unlawful Detainer and Mill Case Incidence Study

Sample data collected from the case files for petitions filed in April of 1998 indicated a slight decline in petitions filed to stop eviction. Further analysis demonstrates that, over time, there has been a decrease in the use of Chapter 7 for unlawful detainer petitions and an increase in the use of Chapter 13. The 1998 data shows a dramatic move toward Chapter 13. In 1998, an unlawful detainer was involved in 15.6% of the Chapter 13 cases in the sample but in only 5.3% of the Chapter 7 cases. The use of such petitions declined among renters and were used most often by persons wishing to avoid eviction after foreclosure. The Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Divisions continue to have the greatest incidence of such petitions.

Although the number of unlawful detainer petitions appears to be decreasing, their preparation by so-called bankruptcy mills appears significantly greater than in 1996 and 1997. In 1998, more than 20% of the sampled unlawful detainer petitions displayed evidence of preparation by the bankruptcy mills. To some extent, this apparent increase may be due to an improved approach used for identifying mill cases. The mills continue to prepare petitions for persons whose motive for filing is not to simply stop eviction, but the incidence of such activity appears to be very low.

PERCENTAGE OF CASES THAT ARE UNLAWFUL DETAINER PETITION FILINGS							
	Los Angeles (includes ND/SFV)	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley	Northern	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	22.4%				10.9%	2.6%	16.9%
1992	12.9%				9.4%	6.4%	11.0%
1993	11.9%	12.8%		1.3%	3.2%	1.2%	8.3%
1994	13.3%	14.5%	12.4%	7.0%	4.0%	2.3%	9.5%
1995	3.2%	3.5%	4.2%	0.2%	1.4%	3.6%	3.0%
1996	10.9%	11.2%	12.7%	1.3%	2.2%	7.3%	8.8%
1997	10.4%	10.2%	12.8%	5.4%	6.9%	1.2%	8.0%
1998	9.0%	10.2%	7.4%	3.3%	3.8%	3.7%	7.1%
PROJECTED ANNUAL UNLAWFUL DETAINER PETITION FILINGS							
1991	11,152				1,298	382	12,832
1992	7,602				1,307	1,170	10,079
1993	6,860	6,804 inc SFV		56	436	225	7,521
1994	6,604	4,931	1,292	381	512	390	7,506
1995	1,607	1,167	429	11	182	656	2,446
1996	6,907	4,792	1,926	189	337	1,621	8,865
1997	7,639	5,022	2,265	352	1,408	271	9,318
1998	6,877	5,355	1,321	201	659	949	8,485

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## *Pro Se Filings*

From 1994 through 1998, the number of Chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* (filed by an individual not represented by an attorney) averaged about 37%, one of the highest rates in the country. The following table shows the estimated number of *pro se* filings from 1994 through 1998. The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts both the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads in the Court.

<b>Percentage of <i>Pro Se</i> Filings District-Wide: 1994-1998</b>			
	Chapter 7	Chapter 13	Total
1994	40%	44%	42%
1995	36%	35%	36%
1996	35%	38%	36%
1997	37%	37%	37%
1998	32%	32%	32%
Average	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>37%</b>