



Section II: Court Statistics

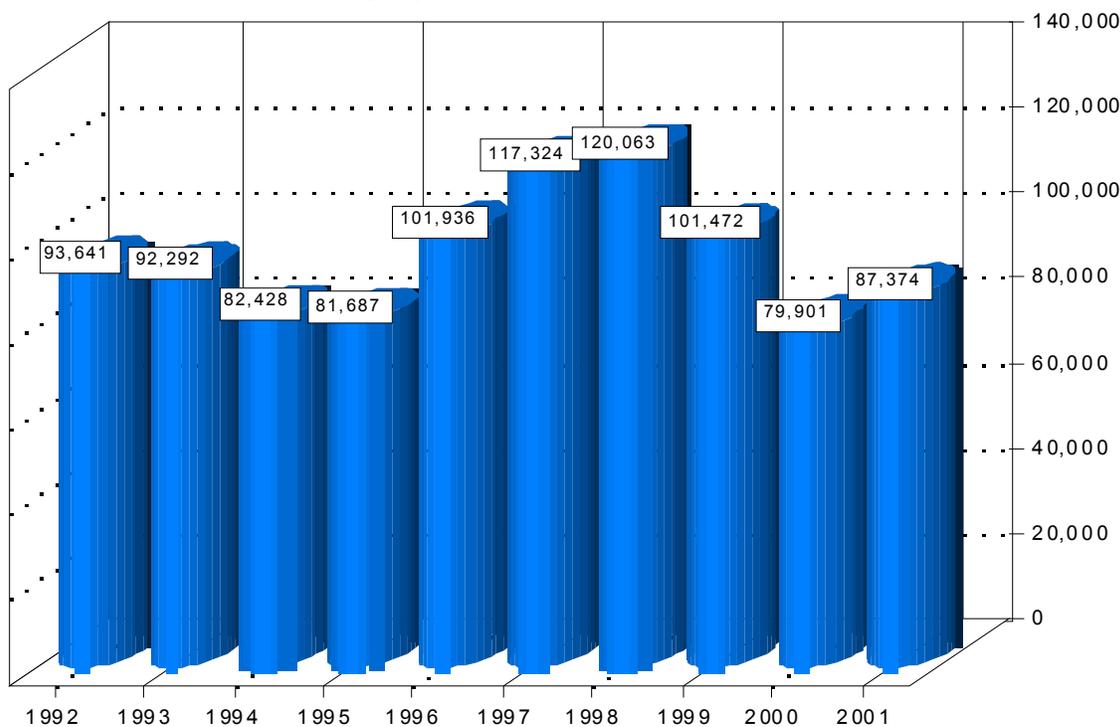


Bankruptcy Case Filings Increase in 2001

Bankruptcy filings during 2001 increased for the first time in three years. A total of 87,374 new bankruptcy cases were filed in 2001, a 9.4% increase over the 79,901 filings in 2000. The increase in the number of total filings primarily resulted from the increase in chapter 7 filings. Chapter 7 filings increased by more than 14% in 2001, compared to the number filed during 2000. Chapter 11 filings also slightly increased by 1.6%, while chapter 13 filings decreased by 9.6% compared to last year. Adversary filings decreased by 13% during 2001, compared to the previous year. There were 3,996 adversary proceedings filed during 2001, compared to the 4,601 filings during 2000.

The following graph illustrates bankruptcy case filing statistics from 1992 through 2001.

Figure 9
Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Bankruptcy Cases Filed: 1992-2001

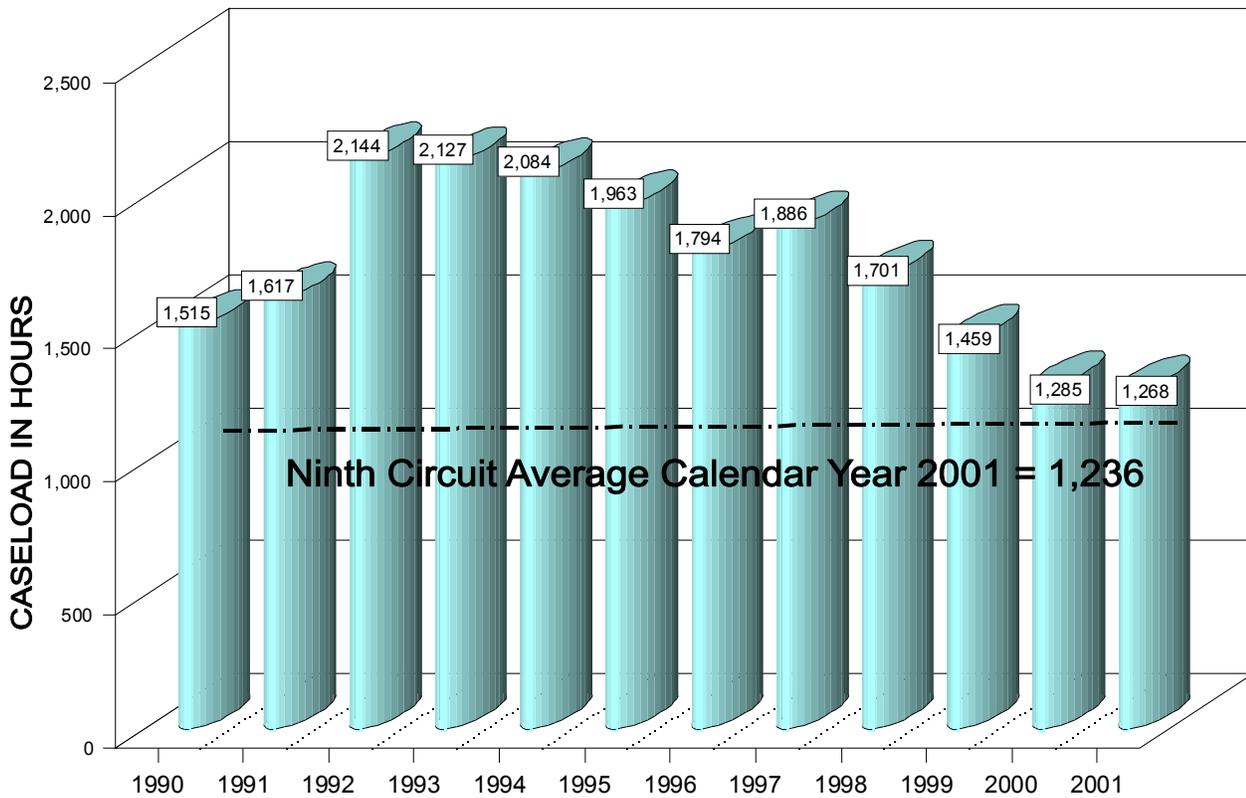




Judge Weighted Caseload Remains Above Ninth Circuit Average

In March 1991, the Judicial Conference approved the bankruptcy case weights developed in the *Bankruptcy Judge Time Study* by the Federal Judicial Center. Initially established primarily for evaluating requests for additional judgeships, the weights also provide useful information about judicial workloads and facilitate judicial workload comparisons with other bankruptcy courts. For the 12 months ending December 2001, the average weighted caseload per Central District bankruptcy judge was 1,268 caseload hours, or 3% more than the 1,236 hour Ninth Circuit average. (See Figure 10, below.)

Figure 10
 Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Annualized Weighted Caseload per Judgeship: 1990-2001



Bankruptcy Case and Adversary Proceeding Closings

During the year 2001, the Clerk’s Office closed a total of 85,126 bankruptcy cases. This slight decrease in closings, when compared to the number of cases closed in 2000, resulted from the increased number of filings in 2001 coupled with the four-month “life” of the average case. During the year 2001, there were 4,484 adversary proceedings closed, which is about 12% higher than the 3,996 adversary proceedings filed during the year.

Figure 11
 Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Bankruptcy Cases Closed vs. Filings: 1991-2001

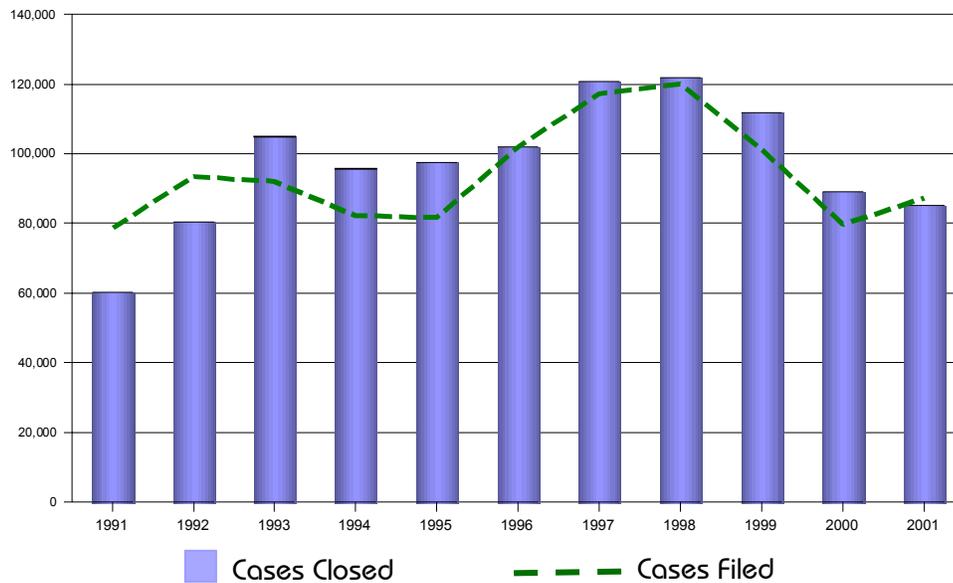
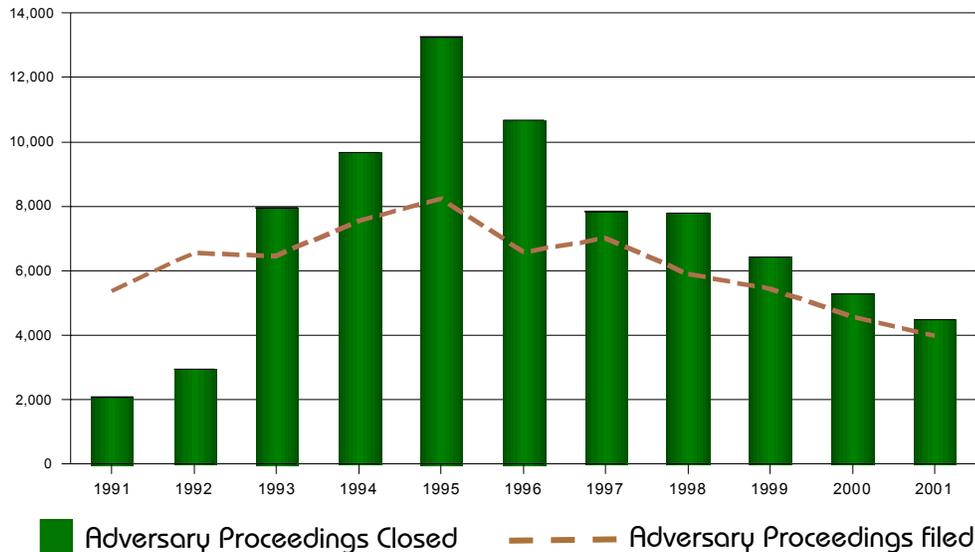


Figure 12
 Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
Adversary Proceedings Closed vs. Filings: 1991-2001





Number of Relief From Automatic Stay Motions Continued to Decrease

The number of motions for relief from the automatic stay filed in the Central District continued to decrease as has been the trend in recent years. During 2001, a total of 16,962 motions were filed in the district, representing a decrease of 5.5% from the 17,940 motions filed in 2000. The decline over the past four years continues to be primarily attributable to the prompt dismissal of incomplete petitions before creditors file a motion for relief from stay.

2001 Unlawful Detainer/Mill Incidence Case Study Completed

The results of the 2001 Unlawful Detainer/Mill Study indicated a further decrease in the number of bankruptcy cases filed to delay evictions during the year. The sample, taken from cases filed in April 2001, indicated that only 2.2% of petitions involved an unlawful detainer (UD) issue. The most common type of UD motions filed was against month-to-month tenants. This is the lowest rate since 1991, when the Court began studying this variable.

Petitions prepared by mills also decreased during 2001. A bankruptcy mill is a non-attorney who files a petition on behalf of the debtor, who is often misled about the petition and the consequences of filing for bankruptcy. Only two cases in the sample were filed by mills, which represented just .02% of the total sample of 1,150 cases, which is also the lowest rate since this study began in 1991.

Table 10
PERCENT OF BANKRUPTCY CASES THAT ARE UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS: 1991-2001

Year	Los Angeles (inc. ND/SFV)	Los Angeles (LA)	San Fernando Valley (SFV)	Northern (ND)	Santa Ana (SA)	Riverside (RS)	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%	121.7%	3.6%	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%
1999	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%	3.5%	4.6%	2.4%	5.4%
2000	4.8%	3.4%	7.6%	9.8%	8.3%	11.9%	8.5%
2001	2.9%	3.2%	4.0%	.7%	.8%	1.6%	2.2%

* Included in the Los Angeles Division numbers.

Table 11
ESTIMATED ANNUAL UNLAWFUL DETAINER FILINGS: 1991-2001

Year	Los Angeles (inc. ND/SFV)	Los Angeles	San Fernando Valley (SFV)	Northern (ND)	Santa Ana	Riverside	District Total
1991	11,152	*	*	*	1,298	382	12,832
1992	7,602	*	*	*	1,307	1,170	10,079
1993	6,860	6,804	*	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
1999	4,383	3,204	1,014	165	584	518	5,485
2000	2,439	1,223	881	362	813	2,244	5,523
2001	1,775	1,247	487	41	852	344	2,971

* Included in the Los Angeles Division numbers.

Pro Se Filings

The number of debtors filing cases *pro se* increased for the first time since 1997. The number of debtors filing *pro se* (i.e., filed by an individual not represented by an attorney) increased by 4% in 2001 from the previous year. From 1994 through 2001, the number of chapter 7 and 13 cases filed *pro se* averaged about 33%, one of the highest rates in the country. The following table shows the estimated number of *pro se* filings from 1994 through 2000. The number of *pro se* filings is significant because it adversely impacts the judicial and Clerk's Office workloads.

Table 12
 Central District of California - Bankruptcy Court
ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF PRO SE FILINGS DISTRICT-WIDE: 1994-2001

Year	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%
1999	33%	29%	31%
2000	27%	19%	24%
2001	29%	24%	28%
Average	34%	32%	33%