



## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Central District of California

# JULY - AUGUST

# COURT NEWS

Chief Judge Barry Russell

## 2006

Jon D. Ceretto, Executive Officer/Clerk

### INDUCTION CEREMONY HELD FOR JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN



CIRCUIT JUDGE RICHARD A. PAEZ SWEARS IN JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN

On May 31, 2006, a formal induction ceremony was held for Judge Victoria S. Kaufman at the Edward R. Federal Building and Courthouse in Los Angeles. Chief

District Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Barry Russell welcomed Judge Kaufman's family, friends, and colleagues to this joint-session and introduced the Bankruptcy Court and District Court judges in attendance as well as those from other Court-related agencies. Circuit Judge Richard A. Paez administered the *Oath of a Bankruptcy Judge* to Judge Kaufman. She was then enrobed by her husband, David Egdes and son, Noah. Chief Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder extended greetings from the Ninth Circuit and provided remarks on the qualifications Judge Kaufman brings to the bankruptcy bench. Other remarks were provided by Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum (N. District of Ohio), Joseph A. Eisenberg, Esq., and John F. Hilson, Esq.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### ECF ACCESS/TRAINING COMING IN AUGUST 2006

The Court continues phasing-in electronic filing access through ECF. ECF is the nationally supported electronic filing system that is currently being used in 87 bankruptcy courts. At this time, the Court provides ECF access for trustee documents and the high volume documents filed by a law firm that represents major creditors. With the implementation of ECF, registered attorneys will be able to file many documents electronically.

Attorneys trained and registered in other ECF bankruptcy courts will be granted the opportunity to register to use California Central's system sometime in August 2006. Attorneys who are not registered in another bankruptcy court district will be offered the opportunity to attend the required four hour training session before being granted

access to ECF. Training classes are scheduled to begin the week of August 21, 2006 and will be held in several divisions.

Additional information regarding ECF training classes will be available on the Court's web site by August 1, 2006.

### EFILE NOW ACCEPTS CHAPTER 13 PETITIONS

On June 6, 2006, *eFile* opened the electronic filing module for accepting chapter 13 petitions under the new bankruptcy law. *eFile* now enables registered users to electronically file Motions for Relief From Stay (real property, personal property, and unlawful detainers), adversary proceedings, and chapter 7 and chapter 13 petitions.



**COURT CLOSED: INDEPENDENCE DAY  
TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2006**

## INDUCTION CEREMONY HELD FOR JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



JUDGE RICHARD M. NEITER, JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN  
AND CHIEF JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL



JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN AND JUDGE MARILYN SHEA-STONUM  
(NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO)



JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN, ANDREW S. KONG, LAW CLERK  
AND JOAN AMOS, JUDICIAL ASSISTANT



CHIEF JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL, JUDGE RICHARD NEITER AND  
CIRCUIT JUDGE RICHARD A. PAEZ

### SUMMARY OF SCHEDULES FORM AMENDED

The *Summary of Schedules*, National Form 6, has been revised with the addition of a second page for providing statistical information for individuals filing a bankruptcy petition. The second page, titled *Statistical Summary of Certain Liabilities (28 U.S.C. § 159)*, was added as an essential component to enable the Court to comply with the statistical requirements of the *Bankruptcy Abuse and Consumer Protection Act of 2005*. This new *Summary of Schedules* form is now available on the Court's web site at [www.cacb.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov) under Petition Forms.

### COURT ADOPTS INTERIM PROCEDURE FOR ENTRY OF CHAPTER 13 DISCHARGES

The Central District has adopted an interim procedure for the entry of a chapter 13 discharge in cases filed under the *Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005*. Under the new law, chapter 13 debtors are no longer automatically eligible for a discharge once the trustee has filed a final report and account. The Court must now make findings of certain facts for these chapter 13 cases to determine if the debtor is eligible for discharge.

Once the chapter 13 trustee has filed a final report and account, the Court will issue a notice requesting the debtor file a *Debtor's Certification of Compliance Under 11 U.S.C. § 1328(a)* and *Application for Entry of Discharge*. This new form, available on the Court's web site ([www.cacb.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov)) under *Court Forms*, provides information the Court must consider in determining the chapter 13 debtor's eligibility for a discharge under the new law.

## LOS ANGELES/RIVERSIDE DIVISION CHAPTER 13 CASE ASSIGNMENTS

To streamline and improve the efficiency of the confirmation hearing process in the Los Angeles and Riverside divisions for chapter 13 trustees and attorneys, particularly in light of fewer BAPCPA filings, chapter 13 cases filed in those two divisions are being assigned to a limited number of judges in those divisions. This limited assignment of chapter 13 cases began at the Riverside Division on June 10, 2006, and at the Los Angeles Division on July 1, 2006. Chapter 13 cases filed at the Los Angeles Division are assigned to Judges Ahart, E. Carroll, Kaufman, and Zurzolo. Chapter 13 cases filed in the Riverside Division are assigned to Judges Jury and P. Carroll. Many pending chapter 13 cases in these divisions will be reassigned to judges handling chapter 13 cases in the coming months. Information about these transfers will be provided in a Public Notice which will be posted on the Court's web site at [www.cacb.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov).

## BANKRUPTCY *PRO BONO* OPPORTUNITY

The Central District is proud to work with and support *pro bono* services in the district. To learn more about volunteering to assist *pro se* debtors with legal advice in various areas of bankruptcy, please visit the Court's web site at [www.cacb.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov), click on the DAP (Debtor Assistance Project) logo, and select *Pro Bono Opportunities*.

## COURT UPGRADES TO CM 3.0/TO CONVERT TO CM 3.1 IN OCTOBER

From June 16 through 18, 2006, the Court converted CM, its nationally supported case management system, to a new version (3.0). To comply with *the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act*, the Court will be required to upgrade to yet a newer version of CM (3.1) in early October 2006. Additional information regarding any temporary interruption in service that this may cause will be made available prior to this conversion.

## FILING STATISTICS

	2006	2005	% CHANGE
	ANNUAL ESTIMATE	TOTAL	06 vs 05
<b>Central District of CA</b>			
Chapter 7	15,074	79,948	-81%
Chapter 11	276	268	3%
Chapter 13	2,444	4,028	-39%
<b>*TOTAL</b>	<b>17,794</b>	<b>84,244</b>	<b>-79%</b>
<b>National Filing Trends</b>	<b>12-Month period ending 3/31/06</b>	<b>12-Month period ending 3/31/05</b>	<b>% Change 06 vs 05</b>
Chapter 7	1,432,074	1,141,715	16.7%
Chapter 11	6,497	7,115	-8.7%
Chapter 13	355,756	441,838	-19.5%
<b>*TOTAL</b>	<b>1,794,327</b>	<b>1,590,668</b>	<b>12.8%</b>

\*Excludes Chapter 9, Chapter 12, and Chapter 15/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	Stipulation regarding assumption of lease between ARG Enterprises and Hassen Real Estate Partnership, signed on 4/6/06.
Queen's Seaport Development, Inc.	LA-05-15175-VZ	03/16/05	11	\$47	\$29	Trustee's Status Report filed on 6/20/06.
Tradex LTD	LA-05-20537-RN	05/10/05	Sect 304	Over \$100	Over \$100	Status Report due on 8/17/06.
WattsHealth Foundation, Inc., dba UHP Healthcare	LA-05-22627-TD	05/31/05	11	\$55	\$45	Motion for Approval of sale of line of business is set for 8/2/06 @ 2:00 p.m.
Sierra Nevada Public Financing - City of San Joaquin	LA-05-27696-BR	08/03/05	9	\$1-10	\$10-50	Order dismissing case was entered on 3/30/06.
APX Holdings, LLC	LA-06-10875-EC	03/16/06	11	Over \$100	Over \$100	Motion for Rule 2004 Examination set for 07/19/06 @ 1:30 p.m. Chapter 11 Status Conference hearing set for 07/26/06 @ 11:00 a.m.
Marion Knight, aka Suge Knight	LA-06-11187-EC	04/04/06	11	\$4	\$137	Status conference hearing set for 6/28/06.
Death Row Records, Inc	LA-06-11205-EC	04/04/06	11	undetermined	\$111	Status conference hearing set for 6/28/06.
Rancho Las Flores Development	RS-05-12224-MG	03/11/05	11	\$11	\$8	Hearing on Disclosure Statement continued to 8/29/06. Ch 11 plan due 9/11/06.
GSM Wireless	SA-05-13514-JR	05/19/05	11	\$10-50	\$10-50	Hearing on motion to convert from Ch 11 to Ch 7 continued to 9/7/06.
Trigem America Corp.	SA-05-13972-TA	06/03/05	11	Over \$100	Over \$100	Disclosure Statement hearing continued to 6/22/06.
Trigem Texas Inc.	SA-05-14047-TA	06/08/05	11	Over \$100	Over \$100	Order granting several applications for compensation in excess of \$300,000 was entered 6/2/2006.
Window Rock Entertainment, dba Cortislim	SA-05-50048-JR	11/23/05	11	\$18	\$162	Disclosure Statement hearing continued to 6/26/2006.
Brett Livingston Strong	SV-05-10137-KT	01/11/05	7	\$184	\$21	Notification of asset filed on 6/21/06.
Franchise Pictures, LLC	SV-05-13855-MT	08/18/04	11	\$0-50	Over \$100	Extension of Exclusivity period for filing Ch. 11 Plan (8/28/06) and Disclosure Statement (10/24/06).
Jill Kelly Productions, Inc.	SV-05-15389-KT	08/08/05	11	\$1-10	\$1-10	Order Approving 2nd Interim Fee Appl of Profs Employed by Estate on 6/14/06.
Persistence Capital, LLC	SV-05-16450-KT	09/13/05	11	\$85	\$29	Hearing on motion to convert from Ch 11 to Ch 7 on 8/1/06.
10000 Millenium Plaza LLC	SV-05-50021-GM	10/26/05	11	\$50-100	\$30	Order Granted to extend exclusivity period for Ch. 11 Plan & Disclosure Statement to 8/1/06.
Robert Blake, aka Michael J Gubitosi	SV-06-10125-GM	02/03/06	11	\$0.5	\$50-100	341(a) meeting rescheduled to 7/6/06.
PureBeauty, Inc.	SV-06-10545-KT	04/18/06	11	\$10-50	\$50	Notice of Hrg. on 6/29/06 @ 11:00 a.m. to establish bar dates for prepetition & certain admin. claims & approve form of notice & related procedures.

\*based on a combination of Asset and Liability Levels, Number of creditors, high activity, and/or name recognition

### Court News

is published by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California  
as an informational service for the practitioners and public of our Court.

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Suggestions and comments are always welcome.  
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