Annual Report 2013

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

Honorable Peter H. Carroll
Chief Judge

Kathleen J. Campbell
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

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INTRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2013, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California found innovative ways to maximize efficiency, conserve resources, and prepare for the future, while continuing to manage the largest caseload in the nation. Highlights of the year include:

- In September, the Court approved and issued its Strategic Plan. Developed over 18 months in collaboration with judges, executive management, staff, attorneys, and members of the public, the plan sets out the Court's vision for the next five years.

- The Central District's noticing practices were ranked the most efficient in the nation when costs were measured per new case filed. The district's low costs result from the Court's efforts to streamline paperwork by revising notices and orders and promoting electronic noticing.

- Despite the ongoing decline in bankruptcy filings, the Central District of California continued to lead the nation in the number of cases initiated. A total of 75,581 bankruptcy petitions were filed in the Central District.

- Judge Barry Russell received the William L. Norton Jr. Judicial Excellence Award at the 2013 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in Atlanta, Georgia. The award recognizes Judge Russell's contributions to bankruptcy law as a leader and scholar during his four-decade judicial career.

- The Clerk's Office rolled out Case Management Assist (CMA), a software program that automatically distributes and reassigns work to Operations staff members. CMA increases the efficiency of case processing at the Court, benefiting both staff and stakeholders.

- Through the new online chat feature on the Court's website, members of the public can ask procedural questions about bankruptcy in real time. Trained agents of the Court's Call Center respond with direct links to Local Bankruptcy Rules, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and frequently requested forms.

- The Court revised its Local Bankruptcy Rules to save paper and postage, eliminating the requirement to file a Notice of Entered Order and Service List. The revised LBRs also clarify practice in several areas.

- In partnership with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the Court is piloting Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN), a software program that provides electronic notices to consenting debtors. DeBN is expected to reduce noticing costs, provide faster service of notices and orders, and improve attorney-client communications.

- The Court was selected from a competitive applicant pool to host UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow Julie Pollock during the 2013-2014 academic year. In June, Ms. Pollock, a graduate student at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, began researching the increasing percentage of elderly bankruptcy filers.

- In January, the Court's Rules Committee established the Bar Rules Advisory Group (BRAG). The BRAG is comprised of attorneys from throughout the Central District who advise the Rules Committee on changes to the Local Bankruptcy Rules.

- The Clerk's Office implemented the Auto Closing program, which checks chapter 7 cases that have been automatically discharged and closes those that qualify. The labor-saving program permits the Clerk's Office to devote time to other tasks.

- Improvements to the transcript ordering process provide customers with a choice of transcription agencies, speed delivery of transcripts, and significantly reduce labor for the Clerk's Office.

- On October 24, the Court held a celebration in honor of *pro bono* volunteers at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. At the event, the Court recognized the service volunteers provide self-represented filers at each of the five divisions in the Central District.

- Quick Response (QR) codes that link to judges' calendars have been posted outside Central District courtrooms. QR codes provide a quick and convenient way to view calendars on mobile devices, reducing the number of calendars the Court is required to print.

- In February, the Court created the Shared Administrative Services (SAS) team to implement a Judiciary cost-containment policy. Services in Human Capital, Information Technology, and Space and Facilities were offered to court units on a cost reimbursable basis established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

OUR MISSION

To serve the most populous and diverse judicial district in the country by providing bankruptcy relief, fair and impartial justice, and a prompt and efficient resolution of disputes.

OUR VISION

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California will provide the highest quality of justice and service to the public by:

- Maintaining a safe, professional environment
- Adhering to high standards of conduct and professional development
- Treating the public with dignity and respect
- Being accessible, convenient, understandable, and responsive to the needs of the district's diverse community
- Allocating and managing resources efficiently and effectively
- Using advanced technology to support the Court, enhance access to justice, and serve those who access the Court
- Educating the public about the role and function of the Court and the services provided

THE BANKRUPTCY JUDGES OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

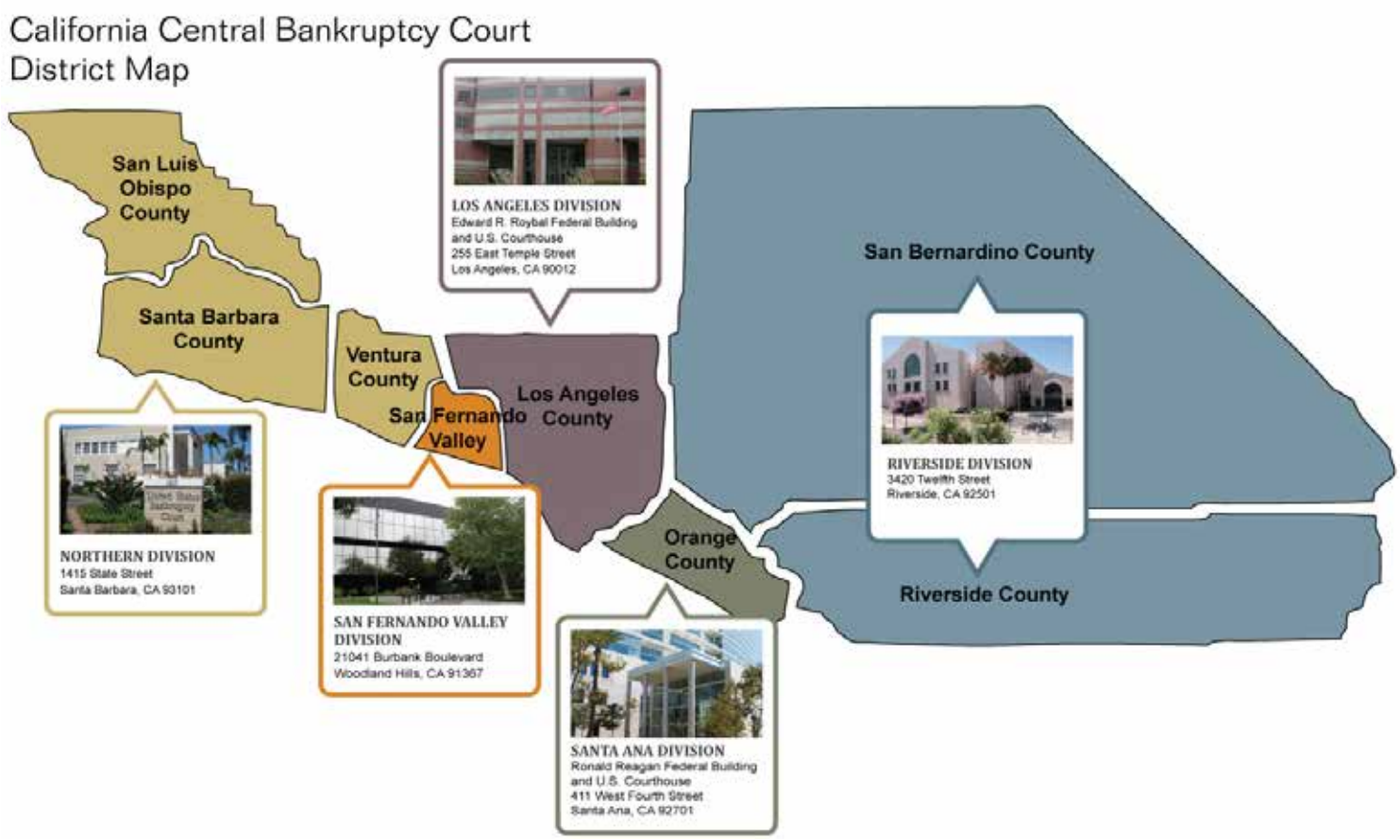
Photo Not Available

From left to right:
Top Row: Theodor C. Albert, Deborah J. Saltzman, Scott C. Clarkson, Neil W. Bason, Ernest M. Robles, Mark D. Houle, Wayne Johnson, Mark S. Wallace

Second Row: Robin L. Riblet, Thomas B. Donovan, Catherine E. Bauer, Meredith A. Jury, Julia W. Brand, Sandra R. Klein, Richard M. Neiter, Erithe A. Smith, Robert N. Kwan, Victoria S. Kaufman

Front Row: Alan M. Ahart, Sheri Bluebond, Vincent P. Zurzolo, Peter H. Carroll (Chief Judge), Geraldine Mund (recalled), Barry Russell, Maureen A. Tighe

IN PROFILE



DISTRICT PROFILE

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

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California is the largest bankruptcy court in the United States. With jurisdiction over seven counties, the Central District covers approximately 40,000 square miles. The Central District is comprised of five divisions: Los Angeles, Northern, Riverside, San Fernando Valley, and Santa Ana. The Court serves the residents of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties, with courthouses in Los Angeles, Riverside, Santa Ana, Santa Barbara, and Woodland Hills.

POPULATION SERVED

With a population of more than 18.5 million people, the Central District of California represents nearly 50 percent of the state's population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Central District of California is home to four of the five most populous counties in the state, and four of the 12 most populous counties in the United States (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties).

MILESTONES AND AFFILIATIONS

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Attorney Christie L. Cronenweth and Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Judge Thomas B. Donovan with Attorneys Evan A. Jenness and Nancy B. Clark

CHIEF JUDGE PETER H. CARROLL PROFILED

Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll was the subject of a judicial profile, authored by solo practitioner Christie L. Cronenweth with the assistance of attorney J. Scott Bovitz, which appeared in the January/February issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. The profile chronicles Chief Judge Carroll's career, beginning with his education at the University of California at Berkley and St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas and his rise from law clerk to partner at a Texas law firm. After he was certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in business and consumer bankruptcy law, Chief Judge Carroll served as a member of the Bankruptcy Law Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. He then relocated to San Francisco, where he took a position serving as Assistant U.S. Trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice in Fresno, California from 1994 to 2002. In 2002, he was appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a bankruptcy judge in the Central District of California. He has served as the Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the Central District since 2011.

On behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Ms. Cronenweth presented Chief Judge Carroll with a framed copy of the judicial profile on March 14, 2013 at the conclusion of the "State of the Circuit/District" luncheon.

JUDGE THOMAS B. DONOVAN PROFILED

Judge Thomas B. Donovan was the subject of a judicial profile in the January/February issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. The article, by attorney Nancy B. Clark, begins with Judge Donovan's adolescence in San Jose, California and follows him through his distinguished career as a trial and bankruptcy lawyer. While still in his early 30s, Judge Donovan argued before the U.S. Supreme Court and subsequently became a founding partner of a San Francisco law firm, where he practiced for 24 years before his appointment to the bankruptcy court. Ms. Clark's article concludes with a review of two notable cases over which Judge Donovan has presided since his appointment as a bankruptcy judge in 1994. On May 22, 2013, Judge Donovan was presented with a framed copy of the profile, and Ms. Clark and Evan A. Jenness, President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, spoke in honor of Judge Donovan.

JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL RECEIVES 2013 WILLIAM L. NORTON JR. JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

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On November 1, 2013, Judge Barry Russell received the William L. Norton Jr. Judicial Excellence Award at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) in Atlanta, Georgia. The award, established by Thomson/West Publishing and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) to recognize lifetime achievement, is given to a bankruptcy judge who has distinguished himself or herself as an educator, writer, or scholar. The Norton Award was presented at the NCBJ's ABI luncheon. Thomson Reuters presented a check for $10,000 in Judge Russell's name to the ABI Endowment for Education. In their announcement of this year's award, the Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law,

Inc. cited Judge Russell's "[exemplary] leadership and scholarship contributions to bankruptcy law for the past 40 years."

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Left to Right: Courtroom Deputy Tina Johnson, Law Clerk Jeffrey Cozad, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, and Law Clerk Judy Villa

JUDGES RIBLET, AHART, AND ZURZOLO SERVE 25 YEARS ON THE BENCH

Judges Robin L. Riblet, Alan M. Ahart, and Vincent P. Zurzolo were appointed in 1988 and reappointed in 2002 by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In 2013, the judges celebrated 25 years of service to the Court.

On Thursday, April 18, 2013, a celebration at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse honored the 25th anniversary of Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo's appointment to the bench. The judge was joined by a packed courtroom of guests from the Court, including a number of firsts: his first law clerk, his first extern, his first extern who is taller and older than him, and his first extern who became a judge (Judge Sandra R. Klein). Speeches were made by Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Judge Alan M. Ahart, and Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell.

RECALLED JUDGES SERVE CENTRAL DISTRICT

Five recalled judges served the Central District in 2013. Recalled Judges William V. Altenberger from Peoria, Illinois, Gregg W. Zive from Reno, Nevada, and Philip H. Brandt from Seattle, Washington heard referred contested matters, ranging from motions to dismiss adversary proceedings and motions for summary judgment to evidentiary hearings and trials. Judge Brandt presided over matters in January, March, and August. Recalled Judges Geraldine Mund and Kathleen Thompson, who retired in the first months of 2011 and were subsequently appointed to recalled judge status, continue to serve the district by covering calendars as needed for active judges. Judges Mund and Thompson also presided over chapter 13 confirmation and reaffirmation hearings, and Judge Mund presided over numerous chapter 7 and chapter 11 cases.

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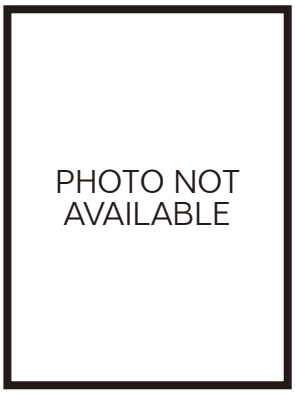
Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and Judge William V. Altenberger

RECOGNIZING RECALLED JUDGE WILLIAM V. ALTENBERGER'S SERVICE

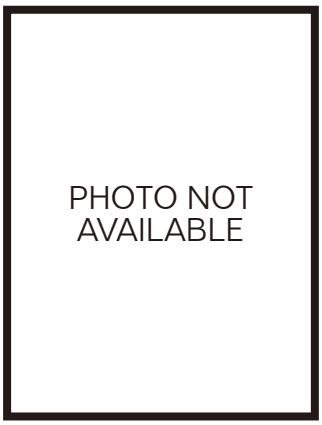
The Honorable William V. Altenberger, a recalled judge from Peoria, Illinois, has presided over adversary proceedings and other contested matters referred by the judges in the Central District of California since April of 2011. Matters that he presided over while holding court in Los Angeles included, but were not limited to: trials, evidentiary hearings, valuations, objections to claims, and cash collateral motions. During the week of Judge Altenberger's last visit in 2013, the Los Angeles Division hosted an event, attended by judges and court staff, to recognize the judge for his assistance. Judge Altenberger received a Certificate of Appreciation from Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and a "thank you" card signed by the judges. The experience, knowledge, and professionalism that Judge Altenberger shared with the Court over the last several years rendered an invaluable service to the District.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

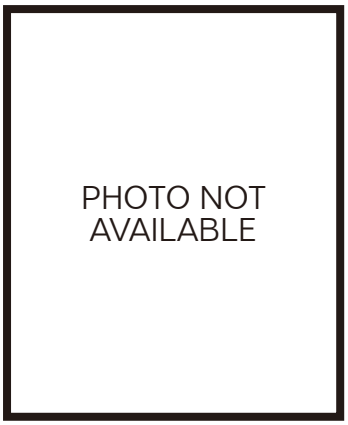
JUDGE ERITHE A. SMITH SERVES ON THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BANKRUPTCY SYSTEM



Since 2012, Judge Erithe A. Smith has served as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Administration of the Bankruptcy System (Bankruptcy Committee). Charged with oversight of the bankruptcy system, the committee monitors and analyzes bankruptcy operations throughout the nation. It also makes recommendations to the Judicial Conference on the numbers and locations of bankruptcy judgeships, issues that affect the office of bankruptcy judge, the allocation of judicial resources to bankruptcy courts, and other matters. Judge Smith serves on the Subcommittee on Budget Matters and the Subcommittee on Estate Administration. She also serves as the Bankruptcy Committee's liaison to the Judicial Conference's Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. Judge Smith's term will end October 1, 2015.



Judge Maureen A. Tighe

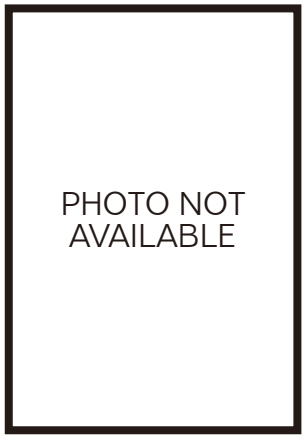


Judge Catherine E. Bauer

JUDGES TIGHE AND BAUER SERVE ON THE NINTH CIRCUIT *PRO SE* LITIGATION COMMITTEE

Judges Maureen A. Tighe and Catherine E. Bauer served on the Ninth Circuit *Pro Se* Litigation Committee. Pursuant to its mission, the Ninth Circuit *Pro Se* Litigation Committee considers the impact on self-represented litigants and makes recommendations with respect to improving the administration of such cases. Judges Tighe's and Bauer's terms will end on September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2015, respectively.

JUDGE RICHARD M. NEITER SERVES ON THE NINTH CIRCUIT ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE



Judge Richard M. Neiter serves on the Ninth Circuit Standing Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The committee produces educational materials on ADR for the benefit of the Ninth Circuit's district and bankruptcy judges and aids in developing and expanding ADR programs within the circuit. Judge Neiter's term will end on September 30, 2015.

JUDGE DEBORAH J. SALTZMAN SERVES ON THE CM/ECF NEXTGEN WORKING GROUP AND NINTH CIRCUIT COURTS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Judge Deborah J. Saltzman serves as a member of the national Case Management/ Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) NextGen Working Group. The group includes five bankruptcy judges. The purpose of the NextGen Working Group is to review functional requirements and design documents for a new application related to how work is done in CM/ECF, and to review policy questions and make recommendations concerning whether policy issues should be referred to the Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, Next Generation Subcommittee. Judge Saltzman provides regular updates to the Court's IT Committee and to the CM/ECF Committee. Additionally, Judge Saltzman serves on the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee. Charged with educating the public about federal courts, the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee promotes community outreach programs and cultivates the relationships between the courts and media.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Judge Deborah J. Saltzman

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Judge Scott C. Clarkson

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Judge Sandra R. Klein

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Judge Julia W. Brand

JUDGES SALTZMAN, CLARKSON, KLEIN, AND BRAND SERVE ON THE NINTH CIRCUIT BANKRUPTCY JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Judges Deborah J. Saltzman, Scott C. Clarkson, Sandra R. Klein, and Julia W. Brand serve on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee. Judge Clarkson was appointed as the chair of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee in November 2013. The Ninth Circuit Judges Education Committee was formed more than 20 years ago as a vehicle to provide a program exclusively related to bankruptcy topics. Members are either elected by their peers or volunteer to serve three-year terms. The committee consists of six to seven bankruptcy judges from throughout the Ninth Circuit who work together to create a pre-conference program that is presented at the Annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. Members of the committee also participate in an annual review of Ninth Circuit bankruptcy decisions and in the annual New Judges Orientation. Judges Saltzman's, Clarkson's, and Klein's terms will end July 31, 2014, and Judge Brand's term will end on September 30, 2015.

JUDGE GERALDINE MUND SERVES ON THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Judge Geraldine Mund continues to serve on the Advisory Council for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society (NJCHS) Committee. The NJCHS was founded in 1985 to collect, preserve, and present to the public the history of law in the western United States and the Pacific Islands and educates children and the general public about the judicial system, the rule of law, and other civic values. As a long-time member on the NJCHS, Judge Mund has been instrumental in overseeing the national implementation of oral histories for bankruptcy judges and attorneys, constructing NJCHS's Strategic Plan, and much more.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK OF COURT KATHLEEN J. CAMPBELL SERVES ON THE BANKRUPTCY CLERKS ADVISORY GROUP (BCAG), HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY COUNCIL (HRAC), AND NINTH CIRCUIT COURTS & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

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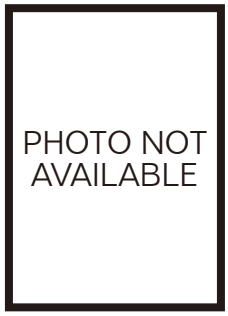
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell serves on the Bankruptcy Clerks Advisory Group (BCAG), the Human Resources Advisory Council (HRAC), and the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee. BCAG and HRAC advise the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. BCAG provides advice about Clerk's Office-related issues that affect the administration of the bankruptcy system, and HRAC provides advice on the needs and views of court constituents with respect to judiciary-wide human resources matters. Ms. Campbell's terms on the BCAG and HRAC will end on December 31, 2014. Ms. Campbell also serves on the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee. The mission of the Ninth Circuit Courts & Community Committee is to educate the public about the work of the federal courts by promoting community outreach programs, and to facilitate relations between the courts and the news media. Ms. Campbell's term on the Ninth Circuit Court's & Community will end on September 30, 2015.

BERYL DIXON APPOINTED TO HUMAN RESOURCES ADVISORY GROUP

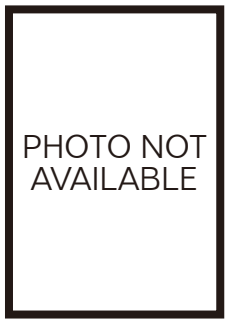
In November 2013, Officer of Planning and Personnel Management Beryl Dixon was appointed to serve on the national Human Resources Specialists Advisory Group (HRSAG) by the Director of the Administrative Office, Judge John D. Bates. The HRSAG's mission is to provide the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts with advice, assistance, and recommendations regarding human resources, payroll, and benefits administration on an ongoing basis, in order to enhance the quality and timeliness of service to the courts. Ms. Dixon will represent the Ninth Circuit through December 2015.

FRANCIS HA APPOINTED TO COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP



Network Manager Francis Ha was appointed to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' (AO) Courtroom Technology Working Group. The national Courtroom Technology Working Group evaluates and recommends changes to the current courtroom technology program including funding mechanisms, procurement strategies, best practices, guidelines, and future direction of the program. The working group also assists the AO and the Information Technology Advisory Council in making recommendations to the Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology for adjustments to the courtroom technology program. Mr. Ha's appointment ends September 2014.

SAM ABRAM REAPPOINTED TO NINTH CIRCUIT IT COMMITTEE



Systems Integration Manager Sam Abram was reappointed to the Ninth Circuit IT Committee in 2013. The Ninth Circuit IT Committee holds two face-to-face meetings each year. These meetings are used to discuss IT trends and directions within the Judiciary and IT in general; establish guidelines and recommendations for implementation of new initiatives within the Ninth Circuit; and demonstrate new technologies which can be beneficial to Ninth Circuit courts. Additionally, the Ninth Circuit IT Committee discusses training Court staff on new software, hardware, processes, and mandated procedures. The committee also discusses the best method to make recommendations to the Judiciary IT Committee and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Mr. Abram's appointment will end September 2014.

John Kohler

Jan Zari

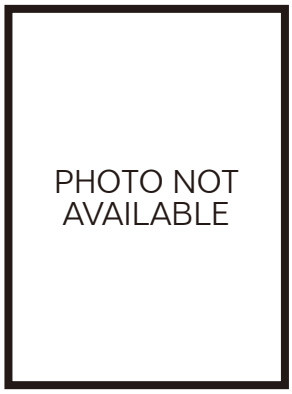
JOHN KOHLER AND JAN ZARI APPOINTED TO NCBC AWARDS COMMITTEE

In April 2013, Administrative Manager John Kohler and Operations Support Clerk Jan Zari were appointed to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC) Awards Committee for a one-year term. The committee selects NCBC members whose service to the organization and the judiciary merits special recognition at the annual conference's awards ceremony. The committee will also award scholarships for continuing education to qualified applicants.

JENNIFER PARO APPOINTED AS NCBC HISTORIAN

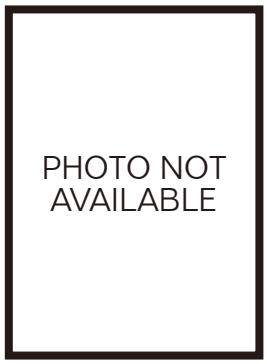
In November 2013, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC) Board of Governors appointed Courtroom Technology Specialist Jennifer Paro as NCBC Historian. Ms. Paro will maintain NCBC's existing historical records and document its activities in photographs, videos, and audio recordings. Serving jointly with long-time NCBC Historian Mary Lynn Wilson, Ms. Paro will focus on digitizing the association's existing historical documents and recording oral histories, among other duties. Ms. Paro's three-year term will end in 2016.

SABRINA PALACIO-GARCIA APPOINTED AS NINTH CIRCUIT LIAISON OF THE NCBC



After serving as the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks' (NCBC) Local Representative for the Central District from 2010 to 2012, Operations Specialist Sabrina Palacio-Garcia was appointed to serve as the Ninth Circuit Liaison by the President of NCBC, with the consent of the Board of Governors. As the Ninth Circuit Liaison, her duties consist of representing the circuit constituency, coordinating NCBC activities within the circuit, chairing meetings and teleconferences with the NCBC Board, and disseminating membership and other information as necessary. Mrs. Palacio-Garcia's appointment ends December 2014.

HERBERT SEALES ANNOUNCED AS CO-CHAIR OF THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (GLAFEB)



In July 2013, Administrative Specialist and COOP Planner Herbert Seales was named co-chair for the Greater Los Angeles Area Federal Executive Board (GLAFEB) COOP Working Group. The GLAFEB COOP Working Group was established in 2006 to promote the development of continuity plans and enhance emergency preparedness for a wide range of potential emergencies. Working with the GLAFEB will provide additional resources for the Court's COOP planning and support regional efforts to prepare for emergency situations.

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL DISTRICT JUDICIAL COMMITTEES

In accordance with the Court Governance Plan, judicial committees appointed by the Chief Judge address Court-related issues and provide feedback to the entire Board of Judges regarding Court operations and administrative issues. The Chief Judge and the Executive Officer/Clerk of Court are ex officio members of each committee. Clerk's Office staff members attend meetings and support the judicial committees.

The members of the 2013 judicial committees were:

EXECUTIVE

Peter H. Carroll, Chair
Alan M. Ahart
Theodor C. Albert
Sheri Bluebond
Meredith A. Jury
Robin L. Riblet
Maureen A. Tighe
Vincent P. Zurzolo

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Barry Russell, Chair
Richard M. Neiter
Law Clerk: Lovee Sarenas

CASE MANAGEMENT

Sheri Bluebond, Chair
Mark D. Houle
Robert N. Kwan
Robin L. Riblet
Maureen A. Tighe
Law Clerk: Keith Banner

CHAPTER 13

Julia W. Brand, Chair
Meredith A. Jury
Wayne Johnson
Vincent P. Zurzolo

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sandra R. Klein, Chair
Deborah J. Saltzman
Erithe A. Smith
Maureen A. Tighe
Law Clerk: Stephanie Rettier

EDUCATION AND TRAINING/RETREAT

Deborah J. Saltzman, Chair
Neil W. Bason
Julia W. Brand
Erithe A. Smith
Mark S. Wallace
Law Clerk: Erica Lee

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Deborah J. Saltzman, Chair
Scott C. Clarkson

PRO SE

Maureen A. Tighe, Chair
Catherine E. Bauer
Sandra R. Klein
Robin L. Riblet
Deborah J. Saltzman

RULES

Vincent P. Zurzolo, Chair
Theodor C. Albert
Neil W. Bason
Mark D. Houle
Wayne Johnson
Sandra R. Klein
Law Clerks: Deborah Chang
Jeffrey Cozad

SPACE AND SECURITY

Robert N. Kwan, Chair
Alan M. Ahart
Wayne Johnson
Robin L. Riblet
Mark S. Wallace

JUDICIAL CASELOAD

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS

The Central District of California led the nation in overall bankruptcy filings for the sixth consecutive year. A total of 75,581 individual and business bankruptcy cases were filed during the 12-month period ending December 31, 2013, a 28.4 percent decrease from the 105,515 filings received in 2012.

Chapter 7 filings decreased by 24.7 percent to 61,127 filings in 2013 and accounted for 80.9 percent of all petitions filed district-wide. Chapter 7 filings also accounted for 76.4 percent of all business filings and 81 percent of all nonbusiness filings in 2013.

Chapter 11 filings decreased 19.8 percent to 725. Chapter 11 cases, which typically require more judicial resources than cases that are filed under other chapters, accounted for approximately 1 percent of all petitions filed in 2013, consistent with the percentage of chapter 11 filings from 2012. Over 69 percent of chapter 11 petitions were business cases.

Chapter 13 filings decreased the most, declining by 41.5 percent. A total of 13,726 chapter 13 petitions were filed in 2013. Chapter 13 petitions accounted for 18.2 percent of all filings in 2013, down from 22.2 percent in 2012. Chapter 13 petitions also accounted for 18.7 percent of all nonbusiness filings and 4.8 percent of all business filings in 2013.

The number of bankruptcy petitions terminated by the Central District in 2013 decreased by 17.8 percent to 90,429. Because terminations exceeded filings in 2013, there were 51,136 cases pending in December, 2013, which was 22.5 percent less than the number of cases pending in December 2012.

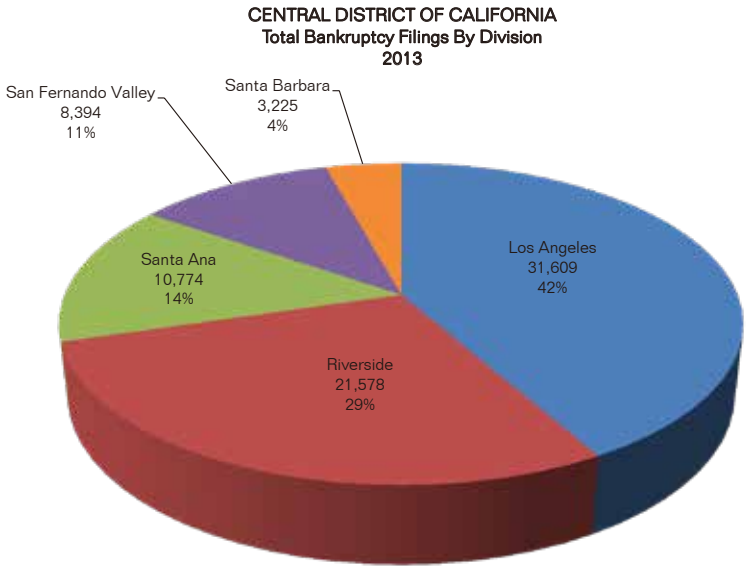
Although bankruptcy filings continued to decline for the third consecutive year, the Central District still averaged over 113,000 filings per year during the past five years, the highest five-year average in the Court's history.

According to the national filing data released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2013, the Central District of California received 37.2 percent more bankruptcy filings than the second-largest district, the Northern District of Illinois. Bankruptcy filings in the Central District of California accounted for over 7 percent of the nation's filings.

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BANKRUPTCY CASES FILED BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE
CALENDAR YEARS 2008 - 2013

		Chapter				
Year	Total	7	11	12	13	Other[1]
2008	65,856	49,451	789	2	15,611	3
2009	108,647	83,656	1,126	9	23,853	3
2010	142,726	109,415	1,123	13	32,174	1
2011	134,501	99,170	1,165	9	34,154	3
2012	105,515	81,128	904	7	23,473	3
2013	75,581	61,127	725	2	13,726	1
Percent Change 2012 - 2013	-28.4%	-24.7%	-19.8%	-71.4%	-41.5%	-66.7%

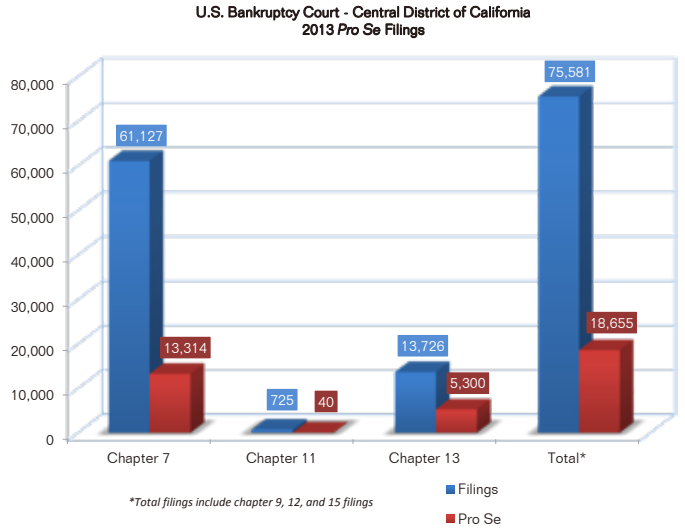
[1] Includes cases filed under chapters 9 and 15 of the Bankruptcy Code

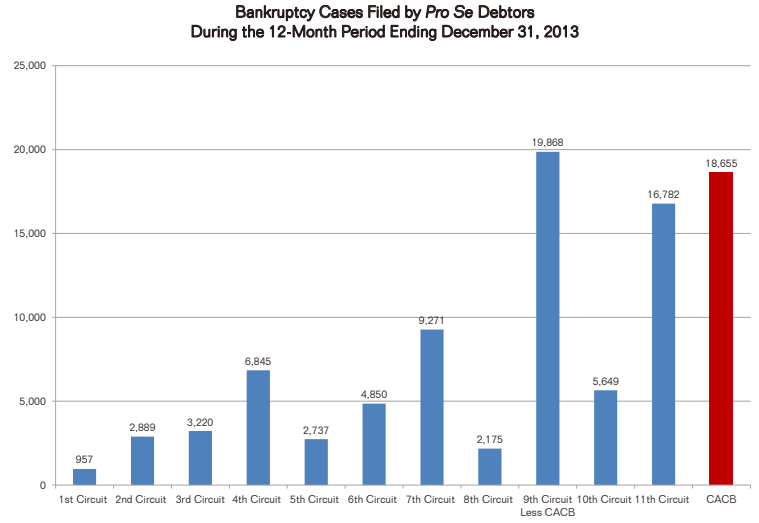


*Los Angeles total does not include one chapter 15

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
BANKRUPTCY CASES FILED, CLOSED, AND PENDING
CALENDAR YEARS 2008 - 2013

	Filed				
Year	Total	Nonbusiness	Business	Closed	Pending
2008	65,856	62,345	3,511	40,414	51,461
2009	108,647	103,539	5,108	85,719	74,443
2010	142,726	137,363	5,363	135,153	82,059
2011	134,501	130,188	4,313	146,224	70,383
2012	105,515	102,006	3,509	110,014	65,962
2013	75,581	72,896	2,685	90,429	51,136
Percent Change 2012 - 2013	-28.4%	-28.5%	-23.5%	-17.8%	-22.5%





PRO SE FILINGS

The Central District of California led the nation in both the number and percentage of *pro se* filings for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2013. The Central District's rate of *pro se* filings for the year was 24.7 percent, nearly three times the national average of 8.8 percent and 3.1 percentage points higher than the next-highest district, Arizona, with 21.5 percent. The Central District handled nearly 20 percent of the entire nation's *pro se* bankruptcy filings. Excluding the Ninth Circuit, the Central District alone handled more *pro se* filings than all other individual circuits. It had more *pro se* filings than the combined total of the First, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Circuits. If the Central District were treated as a circuit, it would be second only to the remainder of the Ninth Circuit in total *pro se* filings.

Of the 75,581 bankruptcy cases filed in the district, 18,655 were filed by *pro se* filers. Chapter 13 petitions had the highest *pro se* percentage with 38.6 percent, followed by chapter 7 petitions with 21.8 percent filed by *pro se* filers. Chapter 11 had the smallest percentage of *pro se* filings with 5.5 percent.

ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS

During the 12-month period ending December 31, 2013, adversary proceedings decreased nearly 22.8 percent from 3,670 in 2012 to 2,834.

The number of adversary proceedings terminated in 2013 declined to 3,434, a 22.8 percent decrease from the 4,450 terminated in 2012. Pending adversary proceedings decreased by 16.2 percent, from 3,632 in 2012 to 3,042 in 2013.

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
***PRO SE* CASES FILED BY CHAPTER OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE**
CALENDAR YEARS 2008 - 2013

		Chapter				
Year	Total	7	11	12	13	Other[1]
2008	15,095	8,198	74	2	6,821	0
2009	25,904	15,526	112	0	10,266	0
2010	36,731	22,093	98	1	14,538	1
2011	38,098	21,594	78	0	16,426	0
2012	28,731	18,230	60	1	10,440	0
2013	18,655	13,314	40	1	5,300	0
Percent Change 2012 - 2013	-35.1%	-27.0%	-33.3%	0.0%	-49.2%	0%

[1] Includes cases filed under chapters 9 and 15 of the Bankruptcy Code

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS FILED, CLOSED, AND PENDING
CALENDAR YEARS 2008 - 2013

Year	Filed	Closed	Pending
2008	2,976	2,286	3,211
2009	5,057	2,254	6,014
2010	4,853	5,350	5,521
2011	4,927	6,133	4,394
2012	3,670	4,450	3,632
2013	2,834	3,434	3,042
Percent Change 2012 - 2013	-22.8%	-22.8%	-16.2%

CASES OF INTEREST

The cases of interest in 2013 reflect the unique population served in the Central District, as well the region's economic climate. The following summaries include developments in select ongoing cases and highlights from new cases initiated in 2013.

CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO

The City of San Bernardino filed chapter 9 in August 2012 and the case was assigned to Judge Meredith A. Jury. After the debtor provided financial information to objecting party CalPERS, the Court determined in May 2013 that the issues open for determination for eligibility to be in chapter 9 did not involve disputed issues of fact. Therefore, the Court asked the parties to address the eligibility of the City to be in chapter 9 with cross summary judgment motions. Those motions were heard in August and, after a lengthy hearing, the Court found the city was eligible to remain in chapter 9. That ruling by the Court is presently on appeal. District Court granted leave to appeal and certified the decision for direct appeal to the Ninth Circuit. The Bankruptcy Code provides that no stay pending appeal may be granted and the case will move forward toward plan confirmation. An effort to achieve a consensual plan has been initiated; all major parties proceeded to mediation with Judge Gregg W. Zive.

AMERICAN SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

On November 5, 2012, American Suzuki Motor Corporation filed for bankruptcy protection, indicating plans to end its American auto sales and continue selling sports vehicles. The multimillion-dollar case was assigned to the Honorable Scott C. Clarkson, who was successful in keeping the case moving on a tight schedule. Claims listed on the case reached over $467 million, with creditors ranging from auto dealerships to tax entities, law firms, Suzuki entities such as Suzuki Canada, and many others. As outlined in its initial proceedings, Suzuki's bankruptcy plan was approved in March 2013. General financial and auto media outlets attributed the decline in auto sales to the 2008 economic downturn and lack of American demand for small automobiles. By the end of the year, the chapter 11 case was closed, while the Court retained jurisdiction over a few outstanding matters.

KSL MEDIA, INC.

On September 11, 2013, KSL Media, Inc. filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. However, the case was converted to a chapter 7 at the end of the year. The case is jointly administered with TV 10's LLC and Fulcrum 5, Inc. KSL is the largest among these entities with assets and liabilities listed in the tens of millions. According to a motion filed by KSL, the company was "one of the largest independent media buying companies in the country, buying around $250-$350 million of media services annually in recent years." Creditors such as Turner Broadcasting System, Inc., Hearst Communications, Inc., Home & Garden Television, the Travel Channel and the Television Food Network are just a few of the substantial claims listed on the case from many network and broadcasting companies.

GIRLS GONE WILD, LLC

GGW Brands, LLC, GGW Direct, LLC, GGW Events, LLC, and GGW Magazine, LLC (Original GGW Entities) each filed chapter 11 cases on February 27, 2013. After Wynn Las Vegas, LLC filed a motion seeking to appoint a trustee, the Court found "cause" and the best interests of creditors warranted appointment of a chapter 11 trustee over the estates of the Original GGW Entities. The Court later granted the trustee's motion to revoke the cancellation of GGW Marketing, LLC, a related entity; file a bankruptcy petition on behalf of GGW Marketing, LLC; and initiate an adversary proceeding to recover trademarks and URLs vital to the Girls Gone Wild business, which the trustee alleged had been fraudulently transferred by various entities controlled by Joseph R. Francis, the creator of the Girls Gone Wild brand. The Court partially granted the trustee's motion for summary judgment and entered a final judgment, finding that the transfers of the trademarks and URLs from GGW Marketing, LLC and GGW Brands, LLC to off-shore entities were fraudulent transfers. The final judgment was on appeal at year's end. The bankruptcy cases of the Original GGW Entities and GGW Marketing, LLC are being jointly administered.

RHYTHM AND HUES, INC.

Oscar-winning computer graphics company Rhythm And Hues, Inc. ("Life of Pi") filed its chapter 11 petition in early 2013. It had almost no assets and no employees. Its only hope was to keep its team of former employees together long enough for someone to buy the business for its going concern/team value. A "stalking horse" bidder would only enter into a non-binding letter of intent with a "breakup fee" even if it chose to withdraw. All key parties supported this as the only option, and after much questioning Judge Neil W. Bason approved a reduced breakup fee. That bidder soon backed out and demanded its fee, but by then other bidders had come forward and Judge Bason approved a settlement and a sale to another bidder. Later, Judge Sheri Bluebond and Judge Bason reviewed and approved settlements of class action suits by former employees and confirmed the debtor's liquidating plan.

COURT EVENTS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SPECIAL EVENTS

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Extern Pateel Tavidian, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Law Clerk Lily Tran, Law Clerk Stephanie Rettier, Law Clerk Razmig Izakelian, Judge Sandra R. Klein, Attorney Evelina Shpolyansky, Esq., and Extern Wendy Chan

COURT HONORS VOLUNTEERS DURING NATIONAL *PRO BONO* CELEBRATION WEEK

On October 24, 2013, the Court honored *pro bono* volunteers in the district with a celebration and reception at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles as part of National *Pro Bono* Celebration Week. National *Pro Bono* Celebration Week, held on the third week of October, is promoted by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on *Pro Bono* and Public Service. Every October since 2011, the Court has participated by publishing an Honor Roll which names volunteers at the *pro bono* organizations that serve each of the Court's five divisions. In 2013, the Court's *Pro Se* Committee added to the tradition by hosting its first celebration. In addition to being published on the Court's website, the 2013 Honor Roll and 2012 *Pro Se* Annual Report were shared at the event, and certificates of appreciation for each of the *pro bono* volunteers were awarded. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll spoke at the gathering and emphasized the positive impact *pro bono* volunteers have on the Court's self-represented filers, who continue to account for approximately one quarter of total filings, even as the number of total filings decreases. *Pro Se* Committee Chair Judge Maureen A. Tighe and Judges Catherine E. Bauer, Julia W. Brand, Thomas B. Donovan, Sandra R. Klein, and Vincent P. Zurzolo expressed their thanks to the volunteers.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Attorneys Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux, Christian Cooper, and Jim King with Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll

CALVIN ASHLAND AWARDS DINNER

On November 14, 2013, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association (*cdcbaa*) hosted the largest-ever Calvin Ashland Awards Dinner at the L.A. Hotel Downtown. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Judges Ernest M. Robles, Maureen A. Tighe, Theodor C. Albert, Robert N. Kwan, Scott C. Clarkson, Sandra R. Klein, and Neil W. Bason, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, and U.S. Trustee Peter Anderson were among the crowd of 170 in attendance.

In his speech, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll recognized *cdcbaa's* extraordinary efforts in supporting the Debtor Assistance Project (DAP) and *pro bono* organizations. Public Counsel attorneys Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux and Christian Cooper joined him to accept a check for the proceeds from *cdcbaa's* Fifth Annual Earle Hagen Memorial Golf Tournament. The 2013 event raised $29,231.35 for the DAP, bringing the total amount the event has raised over the past five years to more than $130,000.

Additionally, Jeffrey Golden was named Trustee of the Year for 2013. Mr. Golden is the first chapter 7 Trustee to win the award. Bankruptcy attorney Jim King received the Founder's Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts in support of the consumer bar, the Court, Public Counsel Law Center's Debtor Assistance Project (DAP), and *pro bono* organizations.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux, Shirley Donovan, Judge Thomas B. Donovan, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, Retired Judge William J. Lasarow, Marilyn Lasarow, Judge Maureen A. Tighe, Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán D. Vera, Judge Sandra R. Klein, and Judge Richard M. Neiter

2013 WILLIAM J. LASAROW AWARDS

On November 21, 2013, Public Counsel, one of the nation's largest *pro bono* law firms, hosted the annual William J. Lasarow Awards ceremony in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. Public Counsel hosted the annual awards ceremony and reception to recognize volunteers serving the *pro se* bankruptcy population throughout the Central District of California.

For the 12-month period ending September 30, 2013, the Central District led the nation in *pro se* filings with 21,097, representing over 21 percent of all *pro se* filings nationally. The Central District's *pro se* filing rate of 25.5 percent is nearly three times the national average of 8.8 percent. Without the services of the *pro bono* volunteers who staff the Self-Help Desks in each of the five divisions, self-represented parties would not receive essential guidance on bankruptcy law and advice on how best to obtain an effective resolution to their cases.

Retired Bankruptcy Judge William J. Lasarow, District Judge George H. Wu, and Bankruptcy Judges Vincent P. Zurzolo, Thomas B. Donovan, Maureen A. Tighe, Richard M. Neiter, Robert N. Kwan, Catherine E. Bauer, Sandra R. Klein, Julia W. Brand, and Neil W. Bason were joined by over 100 guests at the gala. Senior Staff Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux and Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán Vera opened the ceremony, followed by Judge Zurzolo, who congratulated all the volunteers and noted the significance of receiving a distinguished award in Judge Lasarow's name. Judge Zurzolo also noted that despite a decline in the number of filings in the Central District, the percentage of *pro se* filings remains steady at over a quarter of total filings, underscoring the continued need for volunteers to assist self-represented parties.

Each of the five organizations operating Self-Help Desks in the Central District honored an outstanding volunteer during 2013. The honorees were: Jim King, Carissa Horowitz, Scott Talkov, Leslie Keith Kaufman, and Anil Bhartia. The combined efforts of these volunteers were instrumental in helping the Court improve access to justice and service to the public during 2013.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Olga Novak, Kelsey Halverson, Ashley Kaplan, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, Judge Barry Russell, and Katherine Cheng

JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The 31st Annual Judge Barry Russell Scholarship Awards were presented at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles on October 3, 2013. Every year, each ABA-accredited law school in the Los Angeles area selects a student who has done outstanding work in the area of federal courts and practice to receive the award. The five recipients for 2013 were: Katherine Cheng, UCLA Law School; Nicholas Mitchell, Southwestern Law School; Ashley Kaplan, USC Law School; Olga Novak, Loyola Law School; and Kelsey Halverson, Pepperdine Law School. Winners of the award received a plaque, signed copy of Judge Russell's Bankruptcy Evidence Manual, and $500 check.

JUDGE SCOTT C. CLARKSON HONORS JOHN F. KENNEDY ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASSASSINATION

On November 22, 2013, the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, Judge Scott C. Clarkson screened President Kennedy's 1961 inaugural address in a special court session. The session was designed as an opportunity to reflect upon the policies and accomplishments of Kennedy's brief 34-month term as president of the United States. Approximately 60 people attended the program, including federal judges, attorneys, and members of the Court staff and public.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Marlene Lopez. Jessica Garibay, Judge Scott C. Clarkson, and Angel Lopez

BANKRUPTCY JUDGES PRESIDE OVER NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Nine bankruptcy judges from the Central District presided over naturalization ceremonies in 2013. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and Judges Barry Russell, Maureen A. Tighe, Robert N. Kwan, Catherine E. Bauer, Scott C. Clarkson, Sandra R. Klein, Neil W. Bason, and Mark D. Houle each led the swearing in of new citizens in ceremonies throughout the year at the Los Angeles Convention Center, Pomona Fairplex, Quiet Cannon, and National Orange Show Events Center.

OCBF AND THE COMMERCIAL LAW AND BANKRUPTCY LAW SECTION RECOGNIZE *PRO BONO* VOLUNTEERS

On December 3, 2013, the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum (OCBF) and the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) hosted their annual holiday party recognizing the efforts of the volunteers in the *pro bono* clinic. Speakers included Santa Ana Judges Theodor C. Albert and Catherine E. Bauer; Chair of OCBA's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, Richard Marshack; Immediate Past Chair of OCBA's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, Anerio Altman; Vice Chair of OCBA's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Leigh Ferrin; and OCBF President Beth Gaschen. The Santa Ana Clerk's Office was also recognized by the attorneys and judges present at the event for their contributions to the *pro bono* clinic.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND PROGRAMS

JUDGE SHERI BLUEBOND PARTICIPATES IN FINANCIAL LAWYERS CONFERENCE

On January 10, 2013, Judge Sheri Bluebond took part in a panel discussion sponsored by the Financial Lawyers Conference. The discussion, "Don't Be Cruel: Cramdown Issues Affecting Classes of Unsecured Creditors," examined the scarcity of case law addressing the issues that arise when a dissenting class of unsecured creditors opposes a plan. Judge Bluebond and panelists Scott F. Gautier, Esq., and Justin E. Rawlins, Esq., discussed the recent decisions regarding cramdown-related issues.

"AN EVENING WITH OUR JUDGES" IN RIVERSIDE

Judges Meredith A. Jury, Deborah J. Saltzman, Mark S. Wallace, Scott C. Clarkson, Wayne Johnson, and Mark D. Houle served as panelists at the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum's annual dinner and meeting on January 15, 2013 at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Riverside. The judges shared their thoughts on a variety of matters that have come to their attention while on the bench such as the initial client meeting, ethical matters, abusive filings, chapter 13 matters, and other matters arising in chapter 11 cases.

JUDGE CATHERINE E. BAUER PARTICIPATES IN PANEL DISCUSSION AT OCBF PROGRAM

On January 17, 2013, Judge Catherine E. Bauer attended the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum's (OCBF) Brown Bag Program at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Santa Ana. Judge Bauer was a panelist in the program's "What Do You Mean 'No Proof of Service'?" discussion regarding the implementation of new local rules.

JUDGES TIGHE AND ZIVE PARTICIPATE IN ABI INAUGURAL WESTERN CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE

The American Bankruptcy Institute's Inaugural Western Consumer Conference was a day-long program held on January 21, 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Designed for consumer bankruptcy practitioners, the program addressed topics that consumer practitioners needed most: individual chapter 11's, the latest on mortgages, and ethics. Judge Maureen A. Tighe served on the Planning Committee for the event and participated as a moderator on the "Ethics: Representation Issues: Don't Gamble with your Reputation or Getting Paid" panel. Additionally, Judge Gregg W. Zive moderated the "Evidence: What It Is, Why You Need It, and How to Get It Admitted" panel.

JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL SPEAKS ON MOTIONS TO DISMISS

On January 22, 2013, Judge Barry Russell and attorneys Howard M. Ehrenberg and Stella A. Havkin hosted a lunch at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in Tarzana. Judge Russell and the attorneys discussed motions to dismiss.

CLERK'S OFFICE STAFF SPEAKS AT NALS MEETING

On February 13, 2013, Clerk's Office staff members Cynthia Beezer and Tina Duarte attended the Orange County Chapter's National Association of Legal Secretaries (NALS) meeting to discuss updates to the Local Rules and changes in the requirements of the Notice of Lodgment and proof of service documents. They also discussed how the judges' courtesy copies should be packaged and delivered.

JUDGE JULIA W. BRAND JOINS PANEL DISCUSSION ON SECTION 363

On February 19, 2013, Judge Julia W. Brand participated in a panel discussion on "Recent Developments Affecting Section 363 Bankruptcy Sales and Sale Orders," sponsored by the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Judge Brand, joined attorneys Jeff N. Pomerantz, a partner at Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young & Jones, LLP, and John N. Tedford IV, a partner at Danning, Gill, Diamond & Kollitz, LLP. Rebecca J. Winthrop, of counsel at Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, moderated the discussion. The one-hour program presented issues that arise in sales under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code and recent case law developments.

JUDGE WAYNE JOHNSON SPONSORS BROWN BAG LUNCHES

On February 20 and November 27, 2013, Judge Wayne Johnson sponsored brown bag lunches in his courtroom for the Inland Empire Bar to provide participants with the opportunity to ask questions about policies and procedures.

JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE SPEAKS AT VALCON 2013

On February 21, 2013, Judge Mark S. Wallace spoke at the American Bankruptcy Institute's "Valcon 2013: Contested Valuation Issues in Bankruptcy," held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Judge Wallace took part in the panel discussion "Valuation, Restructuring and Taxes: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" with Steven J. Joffe, Senior Managing Director of FTI Consulting. The discussion, moderated by Robert Liquerman, Esq., examined topics related to the effect of restructuring on tax attributes.

JUDGES ALBERT AND CLARKSON PARTICIPATE IN *STERN V. MARSHALL* DISCUSSION

On February 26, 2013, Judge Theodor C. Albert and Judge Scott C. Clarkson served as panelists in an Orange County Bankruptcy Forum discussion regarding the theoretical and practical implications of *In re Bellingham Insurance Agency, Inc.* and other authorities following *Stern v. Marshall*, 131 S. Ct. 2594 (2011). The event was held at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE SPEAKS AT USC SCHOOL OF LAW FORUM

On March 7, 2013, Judge Mark S. Wallace took part in a panel discussion at the USC Gould School of Law's 2013 Real Estate Law and Business Forum held at the Jonathan Club in Los Angeles. Attorney John Schafer moderated the "Real Estate Lessons from the Bankruptcy Courts: What Developers and Attorneys Should Know before Closing the Next Big Deal" discussion.

LAW CLERKS PARTICIPATE IN RIVERSIDE PANEL DISCUSSION

On March 12, 2013, approximately 60 members of the legal community participated in "An Evening with the Judges' Law Clerks: What They Want You to Know about Getting it Right the First Time." Topics included notice/service issues, orders, notice of lodgment, emergency motion procedures, and local rules. The event was sponsored by the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum and held at the Hyatt Place in Riverside. Law Clerks Andrew Minear (Judge Meredith A. Jury), James Behrens (Judge Deborah J. Saltzman), and Jorge Gaitan (Judge Mark D. Houle) led the discussion with the assistance of Elizabeth A. Larocque, Esq., from Goe & Forsythe, LLP, who organized and moderated the event. The program was well-received, and attendees stated that the panel was informative and entertaining.

CHIEF JUDGE PETER H. CARROLL SPEAKS AT "STATE OF THE CIRCUIT/DISTRICT" LUNCHEON

On March 14, 2013, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted its annual "State of the Circuit/District" luncheon at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The event featured Senior Circuit Judge A. Wallace Tashima, Chief District Judge George H. King, Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal, and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll. Over 200 judges, attorneys, and law clerks were in attendance.

During the luncheon, each of the four judges discussed the current state of his or her court, commenting on issues such as budget concerns, newly appointed judges, new and ongoing programs, and strategic plans for the future. The impact of

sequestration was discussed by all, and Chief Judge King made an impassioned appeal to attendees to take action to preserve and protect the federal courts.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll reported on the state of the Bankruptcy Court. He noted that the Central District continued to lead the nation in bankruptcy filings, despite a 30 percent drop from last year. He stated that no new bankruptcy judges have been added since February 2012, despite the fact that each judge continues to handle about 1700 weighted cases—200 more than the national average. Chief Judge Carroll added that with the drop in filings and sequestration, the Bankruptcy Court's funding had been reduced by about $2.6 million since October 1, 2012. Additionally, he noted the Court dealt with the cuts by streamlining procedures, offering early retirements, and implementing staff reductions. Chief Judge Carroll specified that given these changes, he is focusing, developing, and implementing the Court's strategic plan to respond to the changes expected over the next decade. He also commented that the task is especially important given the challenges posed by the present economy. Since this luncheon, the Court has published its Strategic Plan, which defines the Court's direction for the next five years.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, Chief Judge Carroll was presented with a framed copy of his judicial profile written by attorney Christie L. Cronenweth, and published in the January-February edition of *The Federal Lawyer*.

JUDGES CLARKSON AND ZIVE SPEAK AT ABI'S "BANKRUPTCY BATTLEGROUND WEST"

On March 22, 2013, seasoned insolvency professionals discussed, debated, and learned about leading issues of bankruptcy law at the American Bankruptcy Institute's "Bankruptcy Battleground West." The program offered concurrent sessions on commercial bankruptcy topics.

Judge Scott C. Clarkson, Judicial Chair, participated in the concurrent session "Current Topics in Bankruptcy Litigation (Trying Cases in Trying Times without Trying Your Judge's Patience)." This session explored litigation trends, strategies, and alternative theories of recovery reflective of the need to focus on litigation in the absence of traditional reorganization. Participants picked up some helpful trial tips and practice pointers, including identifying causes of action, choosing your jurisdiction, engaging professionals, preparing experts, and organizing for trial.

Judge Gregg W. Zive participated in the New Ninth Circuit Chapter 11 Plan Confirmation Developments. This panel explored recent developments in several Ninth Circuit chapter 11 plan cases, from contested new-value plans and interest rate valuations in the cramdown context to section 1111(b) elections, designating votes, plan mootness and dealing with the reversal of plan confirmation orders, classification, and ways to maximize the value of the estate post-confirmation.

JUDGE VINCENT P. ZURZOLO PARTICIPATES IN "STAY AWAY FROM THE DARK SIDE: ETHICAL PITFALLS IN BANKRUPTCY" DISCUSSION

On April 1, 2013, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, joined by Hatty Yip from the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Martin R. Barash from Klee Tuchin Bogdanoff & Stern LLP, and Uzzi O. Raanan from Danning Gill Diamond & Kollitz LLP served as panelists in the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum's "Stay Away from the Dark Side: Avoiding Ethical Pitfalls in Bankruptcy" program. A lively discussion ensued on issues such as conflicts of interest, breach of ethical requirements, disqualification from representation, and sanctions. The program was held at the L.A. Hotel Downtown in Los Angeles.

JUDGES JURY AND ZIVE ADDRESS ABI 31ST ANNUAL SPRING MEETING ATTENDEES

Judges Meredith A. Jury and Gregg W. Zive attended the American Bankruptcy Institute's (ABI) 31st Annual Spring Meeting held from April 18 to April 21, 2013. Judge Jury was a panelist in the concurrent session "Chapter 11 Track: Chapter 9s, Nonprofits and Other Nontraditional Restructuring Processes." The panelists discussed the financial crisis and its toll on municipalities as evidenced by the increasing number of chapter 9 petitions over the last two years. This panel also explored cutting-edge issues involved in these and other nontraditional restructuring processes. Judge Zive participated as a panelist for the concurrent session entitled "Chapter 11 Track: The Section 1111(b) Election, Plan Feasibility and Cramdown Issues." This session utilized a case study to explore issues surrounding a lender's decision on whether or not to make an election under Section 1111(b), feasibility issues, voting issues, and solid mathematical analysis.

JUDGE SANDRA R. KLEIN PARTICIPATES IN "THINKING LIKE A NEW FEDERAL JUDGE" DISCUSSION

On April 18, 2013, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association held its newest program, "Thinking Like a New Federal Judge." The program was hosted by O'Melveny & Myers, moderated by Loyola Law Professor Laurie L. Levenson, and featured four newly appointed federal judges, all of whom shared their experiences and gave tips about successful advocacy in their respective courts.

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Left to Right: Loyola Law Professor Laurie L. Levenson, District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald, Ninth Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein, and Magistrate Judge Michael R. Wilner

Judge Sandra R. Klein described the process of being selected as a bankruptcy judge. She also discussed the merit screening committee process and her interview by four circuit judges and one chief bankruptcy judge from a different district. Judge Klein highlighted some of the particular challenges bankruptcy courts face such as the lack of court-provided interpreters.

JUDGE SCOTT C. CLARKSON SPEAKS AT NACBA 21ST ANNUAL CONVENTION

On April 27, 2013, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) held its 21st Annual Convention at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego. Judge Scott C. Clarkson served as a panelist for the "Exploring Individual Chapter 11" group session.

JUDGE JULIA W. BRAND PARTICIPATES IN "A REVIEW OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT BANKRUPTCY DECISIONS 2012" DISCUSSION

Judge Julia W. Brand served on the "A Review of Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Decisions 2012" video presentation panel on May 1, 2013. The discussion, hosted by the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee, Ninth Circuit Executive's Office, and the Federal Judicial Center, included Bankruptcy Judges Brian D. Lynch from the Western District of Washington and Patricia C. Williams from the Eastern District of Washington.

JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE PARTICIPATES IN "JUDGES' PERSPECTIVE: WHAT TAX PRACTITIONERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHAPTER 11" DISCUSSION

On May 10, 2013, Judge Mark S. Wallace attended the American Bar Association's Section of Taxation meeting in Washington, D.C. The meeting was held to analyze the latest federal tax policy, initiatives, regulations, legislative forecasts, and planning ideas developed by the country's leading tax attorneys and government officials. Judge Wallace participated in the panel "Judges' Perspective: What Tax Practitioners Need to Know about Chapter 11."

CENTRAL DISTRICT JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN 25TH ANNUAL INSOLVENCY CONFERENCE

From May 17 to May 19, 2013, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and Judges Alan M. Ahart, Vincent P. Zurzolo, Erithe A. Smith, Sheri Bluebond, Maureen A. Tighe, Theodor C. Albert, Victoria S. Kaufman, Robert N. Kwan, Catherine E. Bauer, Scott C. Clarkson, Sandra R. Klein, Julia W. Brand, and Neil W. Bason attended the California Bankruptcy Forum's 25th Annual Insolvency Conference in San Diego.

On May 17, Judge Klein served on the "Beverly Hills Cop – Issues in Parallel Criminal, Bankruptcy, and Forfeiture Proceedings" panel. The discussion explained the impact of sentencing, forfeiture proceedings and restitution on civil discovery and the competing interests of the bankruptcy estate and government as to asset ownership. In addition, Judge Clarkson participated in the "Wall Street – Effective Use of Financial Consultants and Experts in Chapter 11" panel. The discussion addressed the use of financial consultants in providing critical financial analyses to fulfill reporting requirements and support the essential motions and proceedings required in successful chapter 11 cases, as well as the role of the expert in bankruptcy litigation generally.

On May 18, a number of judges participated in panel discussions. Judges Ahart, Albert, Kaufman, Kwan, Clarkson, and Brand joined the "Forum Feud" panel, hosted by Judge Bluebond. Also, keynote speaker Judge Bason and participating Judges Zurzolo, Smith, Bauer, and Brand addressed professional development and career advancement during the Young Insolvency Program (YIP) roundtable luncheon. In his keynote address, Judge Bason shared personal stories about his professional achievements and discussed tips and techniques for career growth and development. In addition, Judge Tighe served on "The Evil Dead – Identifying and Dealing Effectively with Violations of the Automatic Stay and Discharge Orders" panel. The discussion addressed protecting creditor clients from sanctions and getting paid to protect debtors from creditors who will not relent after debtors are presumed dead. Later, Judge Clarkson participated in the "Raiders of the Lost Ark – Identifying Estate Interests in Atypical Property" discussion. The panel aided the participants in determining which interests are a "trustee's treasure" and which interests are not the property of the estate. Judge Ahart concluded with a discussion on the California homestead and other exemptions, including missed and misapplied exemptions and recent case law on exemption application and defense strategies, as a member of the "Nightmare on Elm Street—Will Debtors Be Able to Keep Homestead Exemption Proceeds?" panel.

Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll served as the Judicial Liaison for the conference. Chief Judge Carroll and Judge Tighe also served as members of the California Bankruptcy Forum's task force assigned to develop and implement a *Pro Bono* Project for the forum.

JUDGE SCOTT C. CLARKSON PARTICIPATES IN "CHAPTER 11 TACTICS OF SECURED AND UNSECURED LENDERS: CREDITOR PROPOSED PLANS OF REORGANIZATION" DISCUSSION

On May 21, 2013, Judge Scott C. Clarkson attended the Orange County Bar Association's Banking and Lending Section's May meeting. Judge Clarkson, joined by attorneys Nanette D. Sanders and Christopher L. Blank, discussed "Chapter 11 Tactics of Secured and Unsecured Lenders: Creditor Proposed Plans of Reorganization."

JUDGE SHERI BLUEBOND SPEAKS AT 2013 JOURNALIST LAW SCHOOL

On May 30, 2013, Judge Sheri Bluebond moderated a judges' panel discussion at the 2013 Journalist Law School, an annual four-day intensive seminar at Loyola Law School for journalists who report on the legal system. In the discussion, "The Courts' Perspective: A Panel Discussion with the California State Federal Judicial Council," District Judge Dale S. Fischer, Justice Nora M. Manella of the California Court of Appeal, and Superior Court Judge Brian C. Walsh addressed topics including judicial ethics, cameras in the court, access to juror questionnaires and other court documents, and common misconceptions.

JUDGE MAUREEN A. TIGHE ADDRESSES THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION

On May 30, 2013, Judge Maureen A. Tighe discussed section 523(a) adversary cases at the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in Reseda.

JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE SPEAKS AT 29TH ANNUAL BANKRUPTCY AND RESTRUCTURING CONFERENCE

On June 5, 2013, Judge Mark S. Wallace addressed the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors' 29th Annual Bankruptcy and Restructuring Conference in Chicago, Illinois. Judge Wallace discussed the use of liquidating trusts in bankruptcy cases and the taxation of liquidating trusts.

STRATEGIC PLAN PRESENTED TO *cdcbaa*

On June 22, 2013, the Strategic Planning Committee presented a draft of the Strategic Plan at a Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association (*cdcbaa*) meeting held at Southwestern Law School. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Judges Maureen A. Tighe, Deborah J. Saltzman, Scott C. Clarkson, and Sandra R. Klein, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, and members of the Clerk's Office staff described different aspects of the Strategic Plan. The presentation focused on the five issues in the draft of the Court's Strategic Plan: Administration of Justice; Access to Justice and Service to the Public; Judiciary Workforce of the Future; A Solid Infrastructure; and Public Understanding, Trust, and Confidence. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

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Back Row: Attorneys Roksana D. Moradi of Simon Resnick Hayes and Christian Cooper from Public Counsel. Front Row: Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux from Public Counsel, Judge Sandra R. Klein, and Attorney Roye Zur of Landau Gottfried & Berger

JUDGE SANDRA R. KLEIN DISCUSSES "AN INTRODUCTION TO ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS"

On July 11, 2013, Public Counsel hosted "An Introduction to Adversary Proceedings" at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles.

The program focused on providing attorneys who have never handled an adversary proceeding with an introductory overview of bringing and defending an adversary proceeding. The panel included Judge Sandra R. Klein, Attorney Roksana D. Moradi of Simon Resnick Hayes, and Attorney Roye Zur of Landau Gottfried & Berger.

JUDGE SCOTT C. CLARKSON SPEAKS AT BENCH AND BAR LUNCH MEETING

On July 24, 2013, Judge Scott C. Clarkson addressed the Orange County Federal Bar Association on the power of tolerating ambiguity in legal practice. During his presentation, Judge Clarkson reminded the crowd that comfort with the unknown and an appetite for knowledge are undervalued signs of leadership. Drawing upon examples of creative problem solving, the judge emphasized the importance of understanding a problem before attempting to solve it.

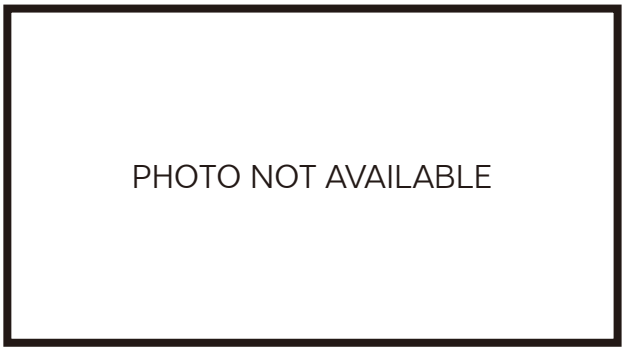
JUDGES RUSSELL, SMITH, AND ZIVE PARTICIPATE IN ABI ANNUAL SOUTHWEST BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE

From August 22 through August 24, 2013, American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) hosted the 21st Annual Southwest Bankruptcy Conference in Incline Village, Nevada. Judge Barry Russell participated in the "Judicial Debate" session. He argued that claims benefiting from third-party guaranties may be separately classified, while Judge Eileen W. Hollowell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Arizona argued the contrary.

Judge Erithe A. Smith participated in the "Current Developments in Chapter 11" session. The panel discussed a wide range of issues ranging from bankruptcy courts' jurisdiction, venue, and constitutional authority, to other practical issues affecting estate professionals, plan confirmation and enforcement, avoidance actions, and other bankruptcy-related litigation. Judge Gregg W. Zive participated in the "Ethics: Disagreeing without Being Disagreeable: The Case for Civility" session. This panel explored the struggles of being both civil and persuasive, and how actions affect the reputation of the legal profession in society. The panel provided an update on the status of the ABI Civility Task Force.

JUDGE THOMAS B. DONOVAN PARTICIPATES IN BHBA PROGRAM

On September 12, 2013, Judge Thomas B. Donovan was a panelist in the Beverly Hills Bar Association (BHBA) program, "Nuts & Bolts of Bankruptcy." Judge Donovan, joined by attorneys Elizabeth Z. Jiang and Zev Shechtman, addressed the fundamental concepts about bankruptcy that every lawyer should know. In addition, the panel discussed claims, property of the estate, bankruptcy discharge, and common pitfalls and practice tips.



Left to Right: Attorneys Zev Shechtman and Elizabeth Z. Jiang with Judge Thomas B. Donovan at BHBA Program

JUDGE CATHERINE E. BAUER SPEAKS AT CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES MEETING

On September 13, 2013, Judge Catherine E. Bauer, a member of the Ninth Circuit's *Pro Se* Committee, spoke at the Chief Bankruptcy Judges meeting in San Diego regarding the new bankruptcy-related *pro se* section of the Ninth Circuit's website. The website provides available resources related to the various programs, such as legal clinics and reaffirmation counseling that are available for self-represented parties throughout the Circuit, and points of contact at each court.

JUDGE ERNEST M. ROBLES SPEAKS AT *cdcbaa*

On September 21, 2013, Judge Ernest M. Robles presented at the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association *(cdcbaa)* meeting on the topic of "Litigation in Bankruptcy Court." The event was attended by top practitioners from the creditor and debtor bar, judges, members of the court staff, bankruptcy trustees, and other bankruptcy professionals.

JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE DISCUSSES "ASSISTING CLIENTS WITH STUDENT LOAN ISSUES"

On September 28, 2013, Judge Mark S. Wallace was a speaker at the "Assisting Clients With Student Loan Debt Issues" seminar, hosted by the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Orange County Bar Association at the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach. The seminar covered an array of topics, including: "Dealing

with Student Loans and Lenders," "Remedies under the FDCPA," "Student Loans in Bankruptcy—Current Status of Dischargeability under the Bankruptcy Code," and "Tips and Strategies to Build Expertise in This Growing Practice Area."

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Back Row: Judge Mark S. Wallace, Judge Mark D. Houle, Judge Deborah J. Saltzman, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Judge Theodor C. Albert, Judge Scott C. Clarkson, and Judge Erithe A. Smith. Front Row: Judge Richard M. Neiter and Judge Catherine E. Bauer

"JUDGES' NIGHT: DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON LEGAL ISSUES"

On October 1, 2013, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and Judges Erithe A. Smith, Theodor C. Albert, Richard M. Neiter, Catherine E. Bauer, Deborah J. Saltzman, Mark S. Wallace, Scott C. Clarkson, and Mark D. Houle participated in the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum's "Judges' Night: Differing Perspectives on Legal Issues." The event, moderated by attorney Jess Bressi, was held at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL PARTICIPATES IN "OBJECTION YOUR HONOR!" WORKSHOP

On October 19, 2013, Judge Barry Russell was a speaker at the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum's "Objection Your Honor!" program, held at Chapman University School of Law. The workshop discussed evidentiary issues arising at all stages of bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. The interactive program focused on how to get evidence admitted and make effective objections. In addition to valuable practice tips from the distinguished panelists, participants reviewed the rules of evidence.

JUDGES SPEAK TO LAW STUDENTS ABOUT EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FEDERAL COURTS

On October 21, 2013, more than 100 eager law students attended a federal judicial externship panel hosted by Loyola Law School. The event was designed to inform students about

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Loyola Law School

the nature of externship programs in the federal courts and the hiring process. The panel featured three federal judges from the Central District of California: Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein, District Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, and Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal. The judges were joined by Angella D. Yates, Law Clerk to Bankruptcy Judge Neil W. Bason and mentor for Loyal Law School students seeking judicial externships and clerkships.

JUDGES PARTICIPATE IN THE IEBF TWENTIETH ANNUAL SURVEY OF CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY LAW

On October 26, 2013, Judges Meredith A. Jury, Deborah J. Saltzman, Mark S. Wallace, and Mark D. Houle were panelists at the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum's (IEBF) Twentieth Annual Survey of Consumer Bankruptcy Law. Moderated by attorney Arnold H. Wuhrman, the panelists presented a survey of recent cases affecting consumer bankruptcy practice, with an emphasis on decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit, and California district and bankruptcy courts.

JUDGES BLUEBOND AND KLEIN PROVIDE TRAINING FOR LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES

On November 5, 2013, Judges Sheri Bluebond and Sandra R. Klein provided training for Los Angeles Superior Court judges. Judge Bluebond presented "When Worlds Collide: Bankruptcy and its Impact on Domestic Relations and Family Law" to family law judges. Judge Klein presented "Bankruptcy: Everything You Wanted to Know But Did Not Know Who to Ask" to civil judges.

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Judge Sandra R. Klein

JUDGES BLUEBOND, KLEIN, AND ZIVE ATTEND 25TH ANNUAL ABI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

From December 5 through December 7, 2013, Judges Sheri Bluebond, Sandra R. Klein, and Gregg W. Zive attended the American Bankruptcy Institute's 25th Annual Winter Leadership Conference in Rancho Palos Verdes. Judge Bluebond participated in a panel on "Plan Support Agreements/Pre-Arranged Cases" that included practitioners from across the country. Judge Bluebond's panel discussed the use of plan support agreements, their impact on non-signatories, disclosure and solicitation issues, lessons learned from recent cases, and the applicability of plan support agreements in middle-market cases. Judge Klein, joined by Chief Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, Judge Eugene R. Wedoff of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and Judge Gregg W. Zive of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, discussed the "Do's and Don'ts of Written Advocacy" and provided guidance for effective and persuasive written advocacy.

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Judge Sheri Bluebond

TENTH ANNUAL BANKRUPTCY ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

On December 13, 2013, the Los Angeles chapter of the Federal Bar Association held the 10th Annual Bankruptcy Ethics Symposium at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. Featured speakers included Judges Ernest M. Robles and Deborah J. Saltzman, along with attorneys Gillian N. Brown, J. Scott Bovitz, M. Erik Clark, Christie L. Cronenweth, Evan A. Jenness, Stella A. Havkin, David W. Meadows, and David A. Tilem.

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Judge Deborah J. Saltzman

Judge Robles and attorneys Cronenweth, Tilem, Clark, and Brown presented "Pre-Bankruptcy Planning: 20 Shades of Gray," a review of the rules in federal and California state law that govern bankruptcy attorneys' conduct. Judge Deborah J. Saltzman and attorneys Bovitz and Meadows presented "Technology Tips and Trapdoors." After a brief review of sections of the Court's new Strategic Plan that addressed technology, the panel discussed a number of IT-related issues. The morning session also included a conversation about ethics with attorney Jenness. In the afternoon, two optional presentations followed: "Substance Abuse" with Dr. Alex Yufik of the State Bar of California and "Elimination of Bias" with attorneys Kenneth D. Sulzer and Julia Brodsky.

CLERK'S OFFICE STAFF FACILITATES BANKRUPTCY BASICS

On December 10, 2013, Clerk's Office staff members Sharon Sampson and Sabrina Palacio-Garcia participated as facilitators in the Bankruptcy Basics program presented by Public Counsel, co-sponsored by the Court and Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association. The topics presented included "How to Register for CM/ECF" and "The Top 10 Filing Errors." The Bankruptcy Basics Program was well-received by its attendees.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2013, the Court continued to reach out to the community through educational initiatives aimed at increasing public understanding, trust, and confidence in the federal court system.

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Central District Judges, Attorneys, and New Designs Charter School

CENTRAL DISTRICT HOSTS FEDERAL COURT POWER LUNCHES FOR STUDENTS

The Court hosted Federal Court Power Lunches at the Los Angeles Division for New Designs Charter School and Whitney High School on March 15 and December 13, 2013, respectively. The Federal Court Power Lunch program is designed for high school students to visit the courthouse to meet judges and lawyers and learn about the law and the legal profession.

On March 15, WilmerHale and the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles sponsored the Federal Court Power Lunch for New Designs Charter School. Participants included approximately 30 students; Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll; Bankruptcy Judges Ernest M. Robles, Sandra R. Klein, Neil W. Bason, and Mark D. Houle; District Judges Dale S. Fischer and Philip S.

Gutierrez; Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal; Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian; Los Angeles Court Commissioner Nicole Bershon; Keith Higginbotham, Esq.; Assistant U.S. Attorneys; Deputy Federal Public Defenders; Law Clerks Stephanie Rettier and Jared Ahern; Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell; and members of the Clerk's Office staff.

The theme of the lunch was overcoming adversity and fear, and "dreaming big." Judge Klein began the program by introducing the guest speakers, U.S. Attorney André Birotte, Jr. and Bankruptcy Judge Houle. U.S. Attorney Birotte and Judge Houle spoke about their backgrounds and achievements despite challenges and adversity. District Judge Gutierrez and Chief Magistrate Judge Segal provided the students with information about their backgrounds and noted challenges that they faced in their personal and professional lives.

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Ninth Circuit and Central District Judges, Attorneys, Court Staff, and Whitney High School

On December 13, the South Asian Bar Association of Southern California (SABA) sponsored the Federal Court Power Lunch for Whitney High School. In addition to approximately 50 students, participants included Ninth Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen; Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein; Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal; Magistrate Judges Alka Sagar and Michael R. Wilner; Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Holly J. Fujie; U.S. Attorney André Birotte, Jr.; Assistant Ninth Circuit Executive David Madden; UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow Julie Pollock; attorneys from the Offices of the U.S. Attorneys, Office of the Federal Public Defender, and Federal Bureau of Prisons; Law Clerks Stephanie Rettier and Razmig Izakelian; Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell; and Clerk's Office staff. Judge Nguyen kicked off the event and discussed her background, "dreaming big," and never letting obstacles get in her way. Judge Segal explained what magistrate judges do and what led her to a career in law. Judge Sagar provided information about her family, background, and career.

Both Federal Court Power Lunches discussed general legal topics to prepare the students for a game of "Legal Jeopardy." Legal Jeopardy, which is played like a traditional game of *Jeopardy*, has categories including "Judges and Lawyers," "Trials," "Bills of Rights," "Think Like a Lawyer," and "Who's Who in the Courtroom." The students had a great time answering the questions and learning about the law and the legal profession.

SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL VISITS SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DIVISION

On March 20, 2013, approximately 20 students from Summit View School visited the San Fernando Valley Division in Woodland Hills. Summit View School offers comprehensive elementary, middle, and secondary school programs for students with learning differences. Judges Alan M. Ahart and Maureen A. Tighe provided an educational session on Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE). The interactive session helped the students find out how much they knew about finances. Also, the U.S. Probation Office explained the duties of a probation officer and how the officers' services help the community. The speakers provided hands-on experience, letting the students try on bulletproof vests and ankle bracelets, and even performing mock testing for drugs.

PEOPLE V. GOLDILOCKS MOCK TRIAL

In January and June 2013, the San Fernando Valley Division hosted students from Faith Baptist Elementary School and Chime Elementary School. The students participated in the Court's *People v. Goldilocks* mock trial, hosted by Judge Maureen A. Tighe. With the assistance of the Clerk's Office staff, the same mock trial was held simultaneously in three courtrooms. After the trial, all of the students were given a chance to sit on the bench, hold the judge's gavel, and take a picture with Judge Tighe. The students enjoyed the experience of being in a real courtroom and being able to play the roles of defendant, plaintiff, juror, and, of course, judge.

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Kellan Watts and Judge Maureen A. Tighe

COURT SELECTS UCLA ANN C. ROSENFIELD FELLOW TO ADDRESS ELDERLY ISSUES IN BANKRUPTCY

At the 2012 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, Judges Sandra R. Klein, Maureen A. Tighe, Erithe A. Smith, and Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell spoke to UCLA Field Education Liaison Doreen Klee about the unique challenges facing older Americans in bankruptcy. Judges Klein and Tighe and Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Campbell followed up with UCLA faculty and developed a grant application for the UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow to support the Court's effort to address an increasing percentage of elderly bankruptcy filers. From a competitive applicant pool, the Court was one of four organizations selected to host a fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year, along with the L.A. Department of Mental Health, United Way, and the Council for Watershed Health.

UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs describes the Ann C. Rosenfield Fellowship as a "high-level apprenticeship program for exceptional public policy, social welfare, and urban planning graduate students." After interviewing the highly qualified final applicants, Judge Klein and Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Campbell selected Julie Pollock as the Court's UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow.

Ms. Pollock, who is earning her Master's Degree in Social Welfare, joined the Court in June. She is currently working with *pro bono* organizations serving the Court district-wide to research and design material highlighting the increasingly insecure financial landscape in which older Americans find themselves. Other projects in the works include developing educational materials about financial elder abuse for judges, creating asset inventories of resources for older adults, developing financial education seminars to address foreclosure and reverse mortgage fraud, and providing limited case management assistance to older debtors.

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UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow Julie Pollock

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Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll and Attorney John Melissinos, Partner, Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP

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Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo and Attorney Jim King

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Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán D. Vera, Attorney M. Jonathan Hayes, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, and Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux

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Attorney Keith A. Higginbotham; Attorney Peter Gurfein, Landau Gottfried & LLP and President, Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum; and Judge Robert N. Kwan

EARLE HAGEN MEMORIAL GOLF/TENNIS TOURNAMENT

On September 30, 2013, Public Counsel and the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association hosted the Earle Hagen Memorial Golf and Tennis Tournament at the Porter Valley Country Club in Northridge. A check in the amount of $29,231.15 was presented at the Calvin Ashland Awards Dinner on November 14, 2013. All proceeds from the fundraiser are used to support the Public Counsel Law Center and its Debtor Assistance Project.

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Back Row: Law Clerk Keith Banner, Project Specialist Robin Beacham, Courtroom Deputy Emma Gonzalez, and Operations Support Clerk Jan Zari. Front Row: Administrative Specialist Jennifer Wright, and Judge Maureen A. Tighe

TENTH ANNUAL RUN FOR JUSTICE

On March 16, 2013, Public Counsel held its 10th annual "Run for Justice" 5K run/walk in conjunction with the LA Marathon. Judge Maureen A. Tighe participated in the event, joined by five chambers and Clerk's Office staff members from the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley divisions. Funds raised from the "Run for Justice" enable Public Counsel to continue to assist the most vulnerable members of society, including abused and abandoned children, foster care youth, homeless families, the elderly, veterans, victims of domestic violence, refugees fleeing torture, and nonprofit organizations.

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Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán D. Vera and Judge Maureen A. Tighe

SECOND ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK FOR DAP

On April 27, 2013, the Second Annual Leslie Cohen Law 5K Run/Walk was held in Santa Monica to benefit Public Counsel's Debtor Assistance Project (DAP). The event raised $7,500 for the *pro bono* legal assistance program. Bankruptcy Judges Maureen A. Tighe and Sandra R. Klein and Chapter 13 Trustee Kathy Dockery were among the 300 participants.

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Operations Support Clerk Justin Olmos, Courtroom Deputy Yvonne Gooch-Carter, and Courtroom Services Specialist Mark Francisco

RIVERSIDE WINS CFC AWARD

On February 12, 2013, members of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) hosted a luncheon at the Brea Community Center for keyworkers, the federal employees who volunteer to represent CFC's fundraising efforts in their workplaces. At the luncheon, awards were presented to the agencies that had raised the most money and agencies that had improved donations from the previous year. The Riverside Division received a Bronze Award for increasing contributions by over 21 percent from 2012.

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CFC Coordinator Cynthia Vargas, Courtroom Specialist Litaun Lewis, Lead Courtroom Services Deputy Wendy Wesley, Tawny Valencia of Shriner's Hospital, Lee Kane of Shoes That Fit, Operations Support Clerk Gabriela Huerta, and Vice President and Chief Development Officer of Midnight Mission Tami Phillips

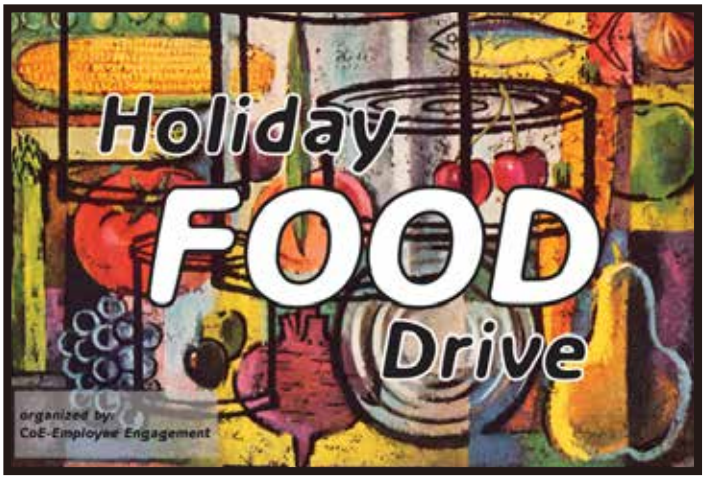
COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

In 2013, the Court continued to raise money through employee participation in and contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which promotes and supports philanthropy through its employee-focused, cost-efficient, and effective programs. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign.

Pledges support eligible nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. With a grand total of $29,535, CFC contributions by divisions were as follows: Los Angeles, $18,605; San Fernando Valley, $5,019; Riverside, $3,118; Santa Barbara, $400; and Santa Ana, $2,393.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT MAKES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2013, the Court's Center of Excellence for Employee Engagement sponsored two charitable events. From May 20 to May 31, the Center of Excellence sponsored a clothing drive to benefit the Union Rescue Mission, a Los Angeles-based organization that serves homeless men, women, and children in the community. The clothing drive was a rousing success with over 50 bags donated by court employees.



In addition, the Center of Excellence sponsored a holiday food drive. Participants in all five divisions joined together to donate nonperishable food items to organizations approved by the Combined Federal Campaign.

SNOWMAN BANNER TOY DRIVE

For the ninth year in a row, the Riverside Division participated in the Riverside County Department of Mental Health Snowflake Banner Toy Drive program. Each year, a snowman banner is delivered to the division with white snowflakes. Each snowflake represents a child ranging in age from two to 17 years old and includes a request for a gift the child would like to receive. Staff members in Riverside purchased many gifts based on children's wishes.

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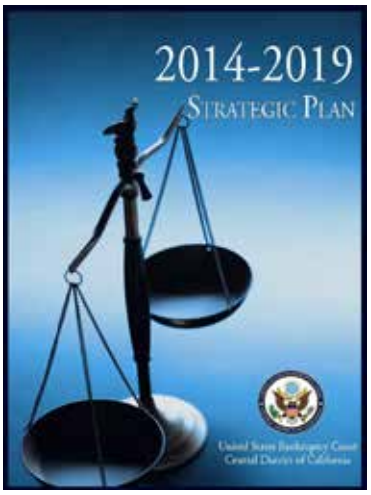
Case Initiation Clerk Amy Dominguez and Courtroom Deputy Kathleen Ogier

ONEgeneration SENIOR HOLIDAY PROJECT

In December 2013, Clerk's Office staff members from the San Fernando Valley Division collected and donated gifts to ONEgeneration's annual Holiday SHARE (Sending Help and Real Essentials) project. ONEgeneration is a charitable organization located in the San Fernando Valley that serves low-income seniors and families, providing meals, scholarships, social services, and other programs. President and CEO Judy Hamilton-Cantu personally expressed her gratitude for the Court's continued generosity and participation.

KEY STUDIES, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COURT ADOPTS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2014-2019



On September 6, 2013, the Board of Judges adopted a Strategic Plan for 2014-2019. The Strategic Plan was the product of an inclusive planning process in which judges, executive management, staff, attorneys, and the public came together during an 18-month period to craft a vision for the future of the Court. The Strategic Plan is composed of mission and vision statements, five strategic issues, 18 goals and 69 strategies. The five strategic issues are: 1) Administration of Justice; 2) Access to Justice and Service to the Public; 3) Judiciary Workforce of the Future; 4) A Solid Infrastructure; and 5) Public Understanding, Trust, and Confidence. The Strategic Plan was designed to assist the Court in meeting the significant challenges it faces over the next five years and to produce a more efficient, effective Court, providing the highest quality of justice to the people served in the Central District of California.

IMPACT OF JUDICIARY BUDGET CHALLENGES FOR THE COURT

As FY 2013 approached, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown and the Judiciary continued to operate with a constrained budget. Additionally, a more stringent staffing formula and nationally mandated financial plan reduction of 8 percent forced the Court to enter FY 2013 with a salary reduction of $1.7 million. As a result of sequestration, the Court's salary allotment was further reduced by 4 percent, representing an additional loss of $858,478 and a total loss in salary funding of nearly $2.6 million. Nationally, the FY 2013 appropriations were approximately 10.4 percent less than the amount Congress provided courts in FY 2012 and 5.6 percent below the FY 2013 interim financial plan. Locally, the FY 2013 appropriation resulted in a 12 percent reduction to the Court's budget allotments.

Due to these budget conditions as well as anticipated FY 2014 shortfalls, the Court was forced to implement involuntary staff reductions for the second consecutive year. In an effort to offset the impact of the judiciary shortfall, several staff members also accepted early retirement and buyout incentives offered by the Court. Throughout 2013, the Court continued to exercise caution with its expenditures and aggressively pursued cost-containment measures as budget challenges were anticipated for the next several years to come.

FY 2014 brought continued budget challenges. Despite receiving partial year allotments on September 30, 2013, the Court entered FY 2014 without an enacted continuing resolution or appropriations. Federal agencies were required to adopt plans for operating without annual appropriations. In order to avoid a complete shutdown of Judiciary operations, available fees and no-year appropriations were utilized to fund operations through October 15, 2013.

On October 16, 2013, the President signed the Continuing Appropriations Act 2014, or Continuing Resolution (CR), which funded the federal government, including the Judiciary, through January 15, 2014. The CR provided discretionary appropriations at the FY 2013 post-sequestration level, with the exception of two funding increases and a 1 percent Employment Cost Index (ECI) cost-of-living adjustment for federal workers which took effect in January 2014. Overall, the FY 2014 interim plan resulted in funding to the Judiciary that was approximately 2.7 percent below FY 2013 allotments on a national basis.

CAREER TRANSITION CENTER

The Judiciary's budget shortfall, coupled with the Court's decline in case filings and additional reductions resulting from the new staffing formula, created significant budget challenges for the Court. On September 10, 2013, in response to the dire situation, the Court notified 19 employees that they would be involuntarily separated from service.

To assist the employees in moving forward, the Court established a Career Transition Center. The center, which remained open for the duration of the displaced employees' four-week notification period, provided training on topics such as résumé writing, using Microsoft Word and Excel, networking through social media, and improving interviewing skills. The center made computers, faxes, phones, and other job search resources available to outgoing employees and put them in direct contact with the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), California's Employment Development Department (EDD), and

WorkSource job placement centers. The Bar was extremely supportive and actively partnered with the Court to publicize job opportunities in local law firms for displaced staff.

CENTRAL DISTRICT CUTS COSTS THROUGH EFFICIENT NOTICING

For the past several years, the Central District of California's noticing practices have resulted in the lowest cost per new case filed of any bankruptcy court. In 2011 and 2012, the Central District's low Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) costs saved the Judiciary approximately $3.65 million. In 2013, the Central District was ranked the most efficient in the nation when BNC costs are measured per new case filed. The Central District had the fifth-lowest average cost per notice. These savings and increase in efficiency were the direct result of the Court's policies and practices related to Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF). NEF allows registered users to receive notices and orders electronically from CM/ECF, and they are accessible around-the-clock. For these attorneys, trustees, and others, the BNC no longer sends any notices or orders. Therefore, the BNC sends each notice to fewer recipients. In addition, the Court's efforts in streamlining noticing practices, particularly entered orders, have resulted in notices that consist of the fewest possible pages, yet retain all essential information. As a result, the BNC does not need to print and mail pages containing superfluous information. For example, the Court condensed the Order Confirming Chapter 13 Plan from eight pages to two pages. The Court combined the Order of Dismissal and the Notice of Dismissal into one notice titled "Order and Notice of Dismissal." And, in 2012, the Court eliminated the requirement that a Proof of Service be included in lodged orders, as proof of service is noted when a Notice of Lodgment is filed. All of these actions contributed to reduced noticing costs in the Federal Judiciary.

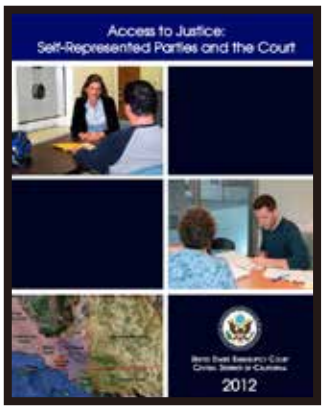
CLERK'S OFFICE OFFERS COMPREHENSIVE SHARED ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

In 2013, the Court created a Shared Administrative Services (SAS) team to implement a Judiciary cost-containment policy. The Court's SAS team collaborated to design service offerings and create a process by which the Court would be able to offer services as an economical way to maximize sharing resources among courts and sister agencies. The Court set up a web page on its internal website listing service offerings ranging from training services, to space planning, to web design. SAS service offerings were grouped into three strategic lines of business: Human Capital, Information Technology, and Space and Facilities. Services were offered to court units on a cost reimbursable basis established through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Individual service offerings were posted to "JShare," the judiciary's SAS website, with a link to the Court's SAS web page and catalog.

Specific services provided for a fee to other court units beginning in FY 2013 included the following:

- Drupal customization and training services provided to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California;
- Contracting Officer Representative training provided to the following Central District court units: U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, and U.S. Pretrial Services;
- Automation classes provided to the U.S. District Court, Central District of California;
- NextGen CM/ECF programming services provided to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts;
- WordPerfect to Word conversion and macros creation provided to the U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska; and
- Time management training provided to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Oklahoma.

COURT PUBLISHES SECOND ANNUAL *PRO SE* REPORT



In 2013, the Court published its second annual *pro se* report, *Access to Justice: Self-Represented Parties and the Court*. The report provided an in-depth look at the Court's joint effort with public service partners to assist self-represented individuals. *Access to Justice* compared the outcomes for debtors who filed bankruptcy *pro se*, with counsel, or with bankruptcy petition preparers (BPP); described the Court's progress in providing services to *pro se* litigants; and detailed *pro bono* work throughout the district. According to the report, approximately 300 volunteers assisted the Court in 2012, making access to justice a reality for over 9,000 individuals.

The impact of the Court's consistently high number of *pro se* filers is noteworthy in both the increased labor it creates for the Court and the diminished successful case completion rate it produces for *pro se* filers, as compared to filers with attorney representation. The overall incomplete rate of the Court's *pro se* cases in 2012 was a sizeable 30 percent. Incomplete filings were described in the report as a common characteristic of fraudulent and abusive bankruptcy cases used solely for the benefit of

an automatic stay. Also, the report's analysis, resulting from the Court's recent BPP tracking efforts, revealed that both *pro se* and BPP assisted filers in chapter 13 had a miniscule success rate, even in reaching the threshold confirmation of a bankruptcy plan. This is especially noteworthy given that chapter 13 had the highest *pro se* percentage of all filings in 2012. The report's findings emphasized that attorney representation remains the best option for individuals served by the Court, underscoring the importance of *pro bono* assistance in the absence of such representation.

MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Court established its Bankruptcy Mediation Program in 1995 to provide the public with effective and reliable assistance in resolving disputes without the time and expense associated with litigation. The mediation panel consists of attorneys and non-attorney professionals such as accountants, real estate brokers, physicians, and professional mediators, and in 2013, had 177 members. The Court continues to add new members on an ongoing basis as mediators who joined the panel at its inception in 1995 retire. The Mediation Program entered in its 18th year in 2013 and remains the largest and most robust bankruptcy mediation program in the nation.

From the program's inception in 1995 through the end of 2013, the judges assigned 5,110 matters to mediation. Of those matters, 4,473 were concluded and 2,805 of the concluded matters were settled. The settlement rate has held steady over the years at a very impressive rate of 63 percent.

FedInvest

On February 26, 2013, the Court began investing its registry funds through FedInvest, a Federal Investment Program application. FedInvest, formerly Court Registry Investment System (CRIS), replaced the Court On-Line Banking (COLB) system, through which the Court previously invested its registry funds in a money market account with Bank of America. Under FedInvest, monitored by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and the FedInvest Fund Manager, the Court's funds are pooled together with those of all courts registered with the system. The combined funds are invested in Treasury securities through the Bureau of the Public Debt, improving liquidity. With FedInvest, the Court does not have to keep collateral for deposits and can pay distributions through FAS4T, the Judiciary's accounting system.

INTERNAL CONTROLS AND AUDITS

Annually, the Court must ensure that a self-assessment of internal controls is conducted to ensure compliance with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and local policies. The intended purpose of the reviews is to provide an objective analysis of each department's operations in an effort to help management improve its operations. The reviews are essential in providing accountability for public resources.

In 2013, the Clerk's Office conducted evaluations of internal controls for the following areas:

- Financial Management;
- Procurement;
- Property Management;
- Human Resources;
- Information Technology/Security; and
- Operations (All Divisions).

INCREASE IN UNCLAIMED FUNDS PAYMENTS

Unclaimed funds are funds held by the Court for an owner that has either failed to claim the funds, failed to negotiate a payment of the funds, or cannot be located. Unlike most claims against the government, a claim for unclaimed deposit or registry funds is never extinguished. The claim exists in perpetuity and the funds may be claimed at any time by the owner, a successor, or any other petitioner that proves a right to the funds.

Compared to the three previous years, the Financial Services Department paid a record amount in unclaimed funds in 2013. A record $1.94 million was paid out from January to December of 2013. The second-highest year in the three-year period was $1.24 million, achieved in 2012.

LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES REVISED

The Court revised its Local Bankruptcy Rules (LBRs) in 2013 to eliminate the Notice of Entered Order and Service List (NOE) requirement. Previously, the NOE determined who would be served with an entered order by U.S. Mail. However, advances in automation have eliminated the need for the NOE. All LBR form orders were revised to remove the NOE.

Additionally, the LBRs were revised to clarify responses to motions and dismissal of motions, add a procedure for a creditor or debtor to follow when a filed document mistakenly contains a personal identifier, clarify practice for motions and contested matters and motions and matters determined without additional notice and without a hearing, and clarify the standard for hearings on less than 48 hours' notice. The Court Manual was also updated to reflect revisions to the LBRs. The revised LBRs and LBR forms became effective on January 2, 2014.

BAR ADVISORY BOARD CONTINUES

Initially formed in 2009, the Court's Bar Advisory Board (BAB) meets quarterly with the Chief Bankruptcy Judge, other interested judges, and the Executive Officer/Clerk of Court. The 2013 members of the Bar Advisory Board included: Peter Anderson, U.S. Trustee; Jeff Krieger, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section; Andrew Goodman, San Fernando Valley Bar Association, Business Law and Bankruptcy Section; M. Jonathan Hayes, Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Association; Marjorie Johnson, Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum; David W. Meadows, Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum; Hamid R. Rafatjoo, Orange County Bankruptcy Forum; and Kelly Zinser, Orange County Bar Association, Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. The BAB provides a conduit for the Court to disseminate information to the bar and obtain feedback on various issues of mutual concern. In 2013, the BAB assisted the Court in the development of the Court's Strategic Plan, and helped form the Bar Rules Advisory Group to draft updates to the Court's relief from stay forms, address bankruptcy foreclosure abuse in the real estate industry, and develop electronic filing capabilities for *pro bono* attorneys.

COURT FORMS BAR RULES ADVISORY GROUP

In January 2013, the Court's Rules Committee established the Bar Rules Advisory Group (BRAG) comprised of attorneys from throughout the district who collectively represent debtors, creditors, individuals, businesses, and in matters involving real property and personal property. The first BRAG meeting, held in March 2013, was attended by 40 attorneys. The BRAG provided input regarding the Court's Extraordinary Relief Attachment and the concept of a judicial variance statement.

The BRAG's first task was to draft revisions to the Court's 10 Local Bankruptcy Rules (LBR) forms for Relief From the Automatic Stay (RFS). A BRAG RFS working group, chaired by attorney Keith Higginbotham and consisting of 11 attorneys, held a series of extensive meetings from March through June with five goals: improve consistency among RFS forms; revise content to reflect current law; maintain relief requests according to preferences of judges; use vocabulary the bar finds useful; and improve clarity of format and organization. By August 2013, the RFS working group provided drafts of the RFS forms for the Court's consideration. The final versions of the RFS forms are anticipated to be released in June 2014. In 2014, the BRAG will be providing the Rules Committee with input on the Court's LBR forms for individual chapter 11 cases, among other matters.

CENTRAL DISTRICT PILOTS DeBN PROGRAM

In 2013, the Court partnered with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) to design and participate in the Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN) pilot program. DeBN is an electronic noticing program that works in conjunction with the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.

During the pilot, debtors will be able to receive entered orders and court-generated notices by email instead of U.S. mail (e.g., 341(a) Meeting of Creditors notice, Notice of Deficiency, Notice of Discharge, Notice of Dismissal, etc.) A debtor who requests DeBN consents only to service of court entered orders and court-generated notices by email. Service requirements for litigants do not change with DeBN.

The implementation of DeBN is expected to provide faster and more efficient service of entered orders and court-generated notices to debtors and significantly reduce noticing costs. Because debtors receive court orders and notices the same day as their attorneys, DeBN is also expected to improve attorney-client communications.

The Court completed the initial development of the program in 2013. Testing of DeBN using live cases filed by attorney volunteers will commence in 2014.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: Administrative Manager John Kohler, Courtroom Deputy Sandra Bryant, Operations Specialist Sabrina Palacio-Garcia, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, Executive Assistant Jessica Garibay, Case Initiation Clerk Rosalind Toomer, Operations Support Clerk Monica Yepes, and Operations Support Clerk Jan Zari

COURT STAFF ATTENDS 2013 NCBC CONFERENCE

From August 12 to August 15, 2013, Clerk's Office staff from bankruptcy courts across the country converged in Baltimore, Maryland to attend the 33rd Annual National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC). Hosted by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland, clerks from over 30 different bankruptcy courts took advantage

of NCBC's educational opportunities and networking events. Eight delegates, led by Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, represented the Central District of California.

Presentations and breakout sessions covered guidelines for using social media, how to learn from mistakes, motivation and engagement on the job, transitioning and surviving tough economic times, teamwork, project management, legal issues in human resources, the next generation of CM/ECF, and a budget update from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

Two courses from the Michigan State University (MSU) Judicial Administration certificate program were offered at the NCBC Conference. The courses were "Education, Training, and Development" and "Essential Components of Courts." Five members of the Clerk's Office staff participated in the 2013 MSU course offerings. Students in the program gained education and exposure to the various different aspects of court management and administration.

2013 NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

In August 2013, Administrative Specialist Herbert Seales represented the Court at the three-day National Emergency Preparedness Workshop hosted by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C. The focus of the workshop was to create a national program designed to assist emergency practitioners throughout the Judiciary. This workshop was the first phase in a long-term project to enhance the emergency management tools available to all judicial agencies.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The IT Committee, a joint advisory body chaired by Judge Deborah J. Saltzman, unanimously approved its Strategic Plan for Information Technology in February 2013. The plan focuses on the alignment of all future IT efforts of the Court with several key strategic priorities: enhancing services to internal and external stakeholders, including judges, chambers staff, Clerk's Office staff, attorneys, debtors, creditors, and the public; maintaining a robust technical infrastructure that enables system security, innovation, and consistency within the district; and investigating and implementing techniques and strategies to reduce costs, eliminate waste, and maximize efficiency. The IT Strategic Plan initiatives were incorporated in the Court's Strategic Plan for 2014-2019.

QR CODES ROLLED OUT

In 2013, the Central District began piloting the use of Quick Response (QR) codes as an alternative method for attorneys and others to download and view judges' calendars. Based on the positive feedback generated by the pilot, the Court rolled out QR codes for all judges in the district.

Attorneys can now download calendars directly to compatible mobile devices to review or determine when the matter is going to be called. Once the calendar is downloaded, attorneys can search for a matter and quickly review the tentative ruling. Using QR codes limits the number of printed calendars that are generated and substantially reduces the expense and staff time required to produce the calendars.

The Court's use of QR codes was featured in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' August issue of the *Monthly Update* newsletter for court unit executives and the October issue of the National Center for State Courts' *Court Technology Bulletin.*

Looking forward, the Court is exploring the use of QR codes to provide targeted information to debtors, such as directions to 341(a) meeting locations, information for self-represented parties, and other important information included on the Court's website.

TRANSCRIPT PROCESSING REVISED AND NEW FILE DOWNLOAD SITE CREATED

On July 1, 2013, the Clerk's Office launched a new process for requesting transcripts of court hearings. A list of Court-approved transcribers, a transcript request form, and information about transcripts were made available on the new "Transcripts" web page, accessible through the "Information" tab on the Court's website.

Under the new transcript ordering process, parties requesting a transcript select a transcriber from the new expanded list of Court-approved transcribers and submit the Transcript Order Form to the Court. Court staff members no longer provide transcription fee estimates or collect transcription fees on behalf of the transcribers. Instead, the selected transcriber contacts the requesting party to provide a cost estimate, makes arrangements to collect the deposit, and uploads the recorded hearing from a secure Court server. Payments are made directly to the transcriber by credit card or other payment method. The new transcript ordering process significantly reduces Clerk's Office labor, speeds delivery of transcripts, and provides customers with a choice of transcription agencies and payment methods.

NOVELL ZENworks DEPLOYED

In January 2013, the Clerk's Office completed its deployment of the Novell ZENworks Client application on all desktop computers district-wide. This application allows Help Desk technicians to remotely troubleshoot and diagnose computer issues anywhere in the Court, while end users' monitors display the steps the technicians are taking to remedy their computers' problems. This approach helps minimize downtime while waiting for a technician and allows Help Desk technicians to support staff in any location.

ZENworks was also used in the Court for the first time to send software updates to the Court's computers. In 2013, the Clerk's Office used ZENworks to remotely deploy Microsoft Office 2010, Adobe Acrobat XI Professional, SnagIt, and FeedDemon RSS to Court workstations and laptops throughout the district.

MEDIATION PROGRAM TECHNOLOGY REVAMPED

Throughout the 2012-2013 term, the Information Technology Department and Mediation Program staff worked diligently on revamping the Mediation Program's technology. The Clerk's Office added a new "Mediator Information/Search" feature to the mediation page of the Court's website, posted a panel membership application to the website, and replaced the software program used to track data from satisfaction surveys completed by participants at the conclusion of mediation conferences.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010 CONVERSION

In April 2013, the Court retired WordPerfect, Word 2003 and Word 2007, and switched to Microsoft Word 2010. This transition came at a time when many agencies had already moved to Microsoft Word, and the Judicial Conference Committee on Information Technology recommended discontinuing WordPerfect, as well as the older versions of Word, as a cost-containment measure. In 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice standardized on Microsoft Word and discontinued its use of WordPerfect. In addition, the vast majority of bankruptcy law firms in the Central District of California use Microsoft Word exclusively. These factors, combined with the incompatibility of older file formats with new and emerging technologies, helped the IT Committee determine it was in the Court's best interest to standardize on Microsoft Word 2010. Exceptions were granted for judges on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and their chambers staff, who require access to WordPerfect.

The Clerk's Office also successfully completed the upgrade to Microsoft Office 2010 for all chambers and Clerk's Office staff. The upgrade and replacement of the software standardized the entire district on one work productivity suite. The Clerk's Office saved valuable labor by deploying the software remotely using Novell ZENworks, a program that can simultaneously update all computers within the Court.

CM/ECF 5.1 UPGRADE

The Clerk's Office successfully completed a major upgrade to CM/ECF versions 5.0 and 5.1 during the weekend of April 19, 2013. The updated versions of CM/ECF provided additional features to increase productivity and efficiency. CM/ECF 5.1 incorporated a new $25 filing fee for transfers of claims that became effective on May 1, 2013. The upgrade enabled Court users to access CM/ECF Mobile Query from a mobile device, to search by case number or party name, and to perform a text search of the docket entries of a specific case.

NEW RELEASE OF CALENDARING SYSTEM - CIAO! 6.0

The Clerk's Office uses CIAO! (Calendaring Information and Orders) to view, update, and maintain judges' calendars. In April 2013, the Clerk's Office upgraded its calendaring system to CIAO! 6.0. The upgrade, which made CIAO! compatible with Microsoft Word 2010, coincided with the rollout of Word 2010 to all Court staff. The new version of CIAO! incorporated visual and functional changes to the calendar. The monthly default screen enabled users to have a "weekly view" of the calendar, and exception dates became highlighted in pink to make them easier to identify. Other changes appeared on the "View Docket" and "View Related Documents" pop-up screens, which provided the user with a cleaner collapsed view of the docket, and the option to expand the view to include attachments to the main docket entry. CIAO! 6.0 was built on a new framework that improves the Clerk's Office's ability to support development of outstanding enhancement requests. CIAO! users now use their Lotus Notes IDs and passwords instead of separate CIAO! IDs and passwords.

CASE MANAGEMENT ASSIST IMPLEMENTED

The Clerk's Office rolled out Case Management Assist (CMA), a CM/ECF companion software program that automatically distributes and reassigns work to Operations staff members. While the Operations Support team had been using CMA on a smaller scale since 2011, the program was made available throughout the district in 2013.

CMA was developed by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma to distribute and reassign quality control work, track errors made by internal and external users, and monitor work performance. CMA can be customized to assign work by terminal digit, judge, team, random pooling, or a combination of methods. With CMA, users of CM/ECF no longer have to run reports in order to find the work assigned to them. Instead, CMA imports work from CM/ECF and displays it in each user's "To Do" box. The improved efficiency in case processing that will result from the implementation of CMA should benefit the Court's staff and stakeholders.

REAL-TIME ONLINE CHAT PROGRAM INITIATED

In 2013, the Clerk's Office phased in its new online chat feature to enable the public to request information in real-time. On August 26, 2013, a "soft" launch of the online chat feature was made available to registered CM/ECF users. An online chat icon, added to the CM/ECF screen, enabled registered users to ask questions online. The "soft" launch allowed the Clerk's Office to measure the

volume and range of users' questions before the feature was officially announced. Questions are answered by Call Center agents at the Los Angeles Division, who often use prepared responses for commonly asked questions, providing direct links to the Court's Local Bankruptcy Rules, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the most frequently requested forms.

Approximately 80 percent of questions received dealt with the Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program, CM event codes, courtroom services, and general procedural issues, while the remaining 20 percent of the questions dealt with CM/ECF, fees, and correcting improperly filed documents. Although it was launched with minimal publication, the program has generated significant interest from the external user community and very positive feedback.

eSR SOFTWARE TESTED AT LOS ANGELES DIVISION

Since 2010, the Court has been one of three test courts involved in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' (AO) *Pro Se* Pathfinder Project. The Pathfinder Project was established to develop a web-based program, eSR (Electronic Self-Representation), through which self-represented debtors can file petitions electronically.

During 2013, eSR went through rigorous internal testing and, together with the bankruptcy courts in New Jersey and New Mexico, the Court provided feedback to the AO's programmers in order to improve the eSR program's functionality. In addition, the test courts collaborated on a startup guide for bankruptcy courts wishing to implement eSR when it becomes available nationally.

Completion of internal testing of eSR is expected in 2014. The Los Angeles Division's Self-Help Resource Center, with the assistance of Public Counsel, will begin to offer the new bankruptcy petition preparation and submission software at its public computer terminals. For the first time, debtors will be able to use the new eSR program to prepare chapter 7 petitions. The Self-Help Resource Center will recruit the first group of users from *pro se* debtors attending Public Counsel's chapter 7 clinics. Candidates will need to be comfortable using computers and interested in filing online. Court staff will assist with procedural or technical questions, while legal questions will be directed to volunteer attorneys. Debtors will still need to mail or hand-deliver payment, local forms, credit counseling certificates, copies of their IDs, and any applicable paystubs to the Court's Intake sections.

The Central District of California has the largest *pro se* population of any bankruptcy court in the nation. In 2013, nearly 20 percent of all self-represented bankruptcy filings in the United States were filed in the Central District. Self-Help Desks staffed by volunteers at each of the district's five divisions offered needed assistance to self-represented parties. In 2013, the Los Angeles Self-Help Resource Center assisted over 1,269 debtors during the year, with over 250 attending their chapter 7 bankruptcy *pro se* clinic.

AUTOMATED PROCESS FOR ISSUING SUMMONS IN ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS IMPLEMENTED

On September 23, 2013, the Clerk's Office implemented an automated process for issuing a completed Summons and Notice of Status Conference in an adversary proceeding. Before the change, plaintiffs had been required to lodge a proposed form of summons in order to have a Summons or Notice of Status Conference issued in an adversary proceeding. Under the new process, the "Summons Issued" event code in CM/ECF creates a virtual summons, and the Clerk's Office prepares the documents. Plaintiffs who are registered CM/ECF users now receive them electronically, by Notice of Electronic Filing, while those who are not registered CM/ECF users receive hard copies by mail. The new process also permits the scheduling of the initial status conference in CIAO! This change comes as the Clerk's Office strives to maintain its customary level of public service with a reduced budget. Operating with fewer employees under the current budget constraints, the Clerk's Office is looking for innovative ways to streamline processes with the help of automation. This update to CM/ECF cuts the time it takes to issue a summons and set it for hearing by 75 percent, reducing labor for Operations staff.

CHECK CAPTURE PILOT PROGRAM

On February 19, 2013, the Northern Division began piloting the Check Capture component of OTCnet, the financial management system used by the Court to prepare and transmit check deposits to the bank. OTCnet has streamlined and improved the division's check collection processes such as the data collection, reconciliation,

research, and reporting processes are now fully automated. In addition, the ability to electronically settle checks without the added hassle of manual submission has saved time and eliminated armored car service costs for the division.

ADDITIONAL WIRELESS ACCESS POINTS INSTALLED

In 2013, the Clerk's Office improved the coverage and reception for users of the Court's wireless network by installing additional wireless access points in all five divisions.

THE COURT TWEETS

In 2013, the Court sent approximately 300 tweets to over 500 followers from its Twitter handle, @cacbnews. The tweets consisted of public notices, notices of sale, system updates, and other topical information. The Court's tweets are accessible via Twitter or the Court's website. Since the inception of its Twitter account, the Court has sent over 1500 tweets in an effort to improve communication to stakeholders.

AUTO CLOSING PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Following extensive testing, the Court's new Auto Closing program was rolled out in October 2013. Auto Closing, a web application developed by the Clerk's Office, checks chapter 7 cases that have been automatically discharged against predetermined criteria and closes those that qualify. The program streamlines the closing function for chapter 7 cases and reduces labor for the Clerk's Office, allowing the staff to devote more time to other important tasks such as managing and monitoring cases.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIGITIZING PROJECT

On October 7, 2013, the Records Management Digitizing team initiated a major project to digitize copies of the Los Angeles Division's paper administrative and case records. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' Space and Facilities Division provided one-time funding for the project in FY 2014. The project involved digitizing, scanning, and processing all paper records located in the Los Angeles Division. Reducing the number of paper documents in storage, eliminating any excess or outdated files, and converting paper files to be stored electronically will allow the Court to minimize its space footprint while carrying out its mission. Electronic document storage will also provide enhanced search capabilities and remote access to records. Digitizing more than 4,400 boxes of administrative and case records, the Records Project is tentatively scheduled to be completed in December 2014.

VIDEO OVER IP TRANSITION

In early 2013, the Clerk's Office began to migrate the Court's videoconference systems from ISDN to the network internet protocol (IP). With ISDN, each endpoint connection incurred monthly charges and usage fees. Video over IP allows the Court to run video traffic over the existing DCN network, avoiding the charges and usage fees incurred by ISDN. All videoconferences now run on IP using the Court's network infrastructure. The Court plans to migrate all courtroom video hearing systems to the IP protocol, which will result in additional savings to the Court.

In addition, the connection between PBX phone systems at each office was also reconfigured to run on the DCN network using IP (four-digit interoffice dialing). Calls between divisional offices using four-digit dialing no longer incur long-distance charges.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT RELOCATED TO AT&T INTERNET DATA CENTER

In February, Clerk's Office staff relocated a second set of equipment to the AT&T Internet Data Center. The additional equipment supports the Court's external servers, including LOU and CIAO! servers. The first set of equipment was relocated to the Internet Data Center in August 2012 to support the Court's internal servers. The Storage Area Networks (SANs) at the Internet Data Center allow the Court to replicate critical data from all five divisions during a disaster. As a remote Disaster Recovery site, the AT&T Internet Data Center is preferable to a divisional office, since the Data Center provides faster network speeds, shared costs of staffing and technology resources, and managed security at the site.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT HOLDS 125 TRAINING COURSES AND PROGRAMS

In 2013, the Staff Development Department offered over 125 training courses and programs. Total in-house training offerings increased by 140 percent, from 462 classes in 2012 to 648 in 2013. A total of 4,356 student seats were filled across the five divisions. Classroom training on desktop applications, such as Microsoft PowerPoint, were offered at all divisions. The Court launched the T minus 15 training program, which consisted of 15-minute training sessions conducted remotely, through WebEx. Students logged in at their desks and were back to work quickly. Courses offered through WebEx ensured staff members in all divisions received the same training at a reduced cost. Finally, annual programs including Law Clerk/Extern Training, IT Security Training, and the Winter Education Seminar were offered.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Winter Education Seminar at LAPD Deaton Auditorium

WINTER EDUCATION SEMINAR: MOVING FORWARD STRATEGICALLY THROUGH SHARING KNOWLEDGE

The 2013 Winter Education Seminar, "Moving Forward Strategically through Sharing Knowledge," was held on December 6, 2013 at the Ronald F. Deaton Civic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Presentations educated the staff about the Court's Strategic Plan, new property management policies, new technologies, nutrition, and ergonomics. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, Chief Deputy of Administration Steve Sloniker, and Senior Deputy-in-Charge Paula Roe concluded the seminar by presenting awards for length of service and special service to the Court during 2013.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

The Office Services/Space Planning Department continued to offer emergency preparedness and judicial security support to the Court through training and distribution of relevant supporting materials. Floor warden training was expanded to include all staff members, supervisors, and managers. District-wide training sessions were mandatory for the Clerk's Office staff and strongly recommended for chambers staff. The Court also addressed various emergency communications issues and implemented an interim judicial evacuation protocol which supports current U.S. Marshals Service capabilities.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Summer Law Clerk/Extern Training Program

LAW CLERK/EXTERN TRAINING PROGRAM

In 2013, the Court held three Law Clerk/Extern training sessions at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. The sessions drew more than 100 participants, including participants from the U.S. District Court. Judges Barry Russell, Alan M. Ahart, Sheri Bluebond, Deborah J. Saltzman, and Neil W. Bason each spoke about a different aspect of bankruptcy. Following presentations by a panel of law clerks and bankruptcy attorneys, staff members from the Clerk's Office and the U.S. Courts Library conducted tours. The program also included a brief presentation by a U.S. Courts assistant librarian. Law Clerk/Extern training is designed to provide bankruptcy knowledge and other relevant information to chambers staff and future members of the bar.

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION TRAINING

In June 2013, the Court organized and hosted a two-day cross-agency training session for employees who perform the role of Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) at their agencies. In addition to Bankruptcy Court staff, the program was attended by members of the U.S. District Court, U.S. Probation Office, and U.S. Pretrial Services. The course was facilitated by an experienced instructor from the Northwest Procurement Institute. The program provided CORs with complete and comprehensive coverage of contract formation and contract administration policy and issues, including standards of conduct and ethics; development of requirements documents; contract documentation; inspection procedures; and changes, terminations, and disputes.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS ISSUES IN BANKRUPTCY LAW

In July 2013, the Court partnered with the Ninth Circuit Law Library and LexisNexis to bring the educational "Bankruptcy Showcase" program to the Court. The program was broadcast to judges and chambers staff at participating divisions. Presenters included Seth Goldman, Bankruptcy Partner at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP and contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy*; Sandy Li, Assistant Librarian at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse Law Library; and Betsy Post-Garza, Esq., Senior Government Consultant at LexisNexis. Mr. Goldman began by discussing *Stern v. Marshall*, 131 S. Ct. 2594 (2011) and its impact on fraudulent transfer claims, implied consent, and other recent decisions. The program continued with the implications of mortgage enforcement and emerging issues. Finally, current developments in the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Seventh Circuits were presented, including rulings relating to the artificial impairment of a class; taxes and property of the estate; intellectual property/trademark rights; and earmarking doctrine in the context of bankruptcy law. Following the presentation, the Law Library staff and LexisNexis representative briefly highlighted key research tools and resources of interest to judges and chambers staff.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

On February 22, 2013, the Riverside Division celebrated African-American Heritage Month with a luncheon. Cynthia Jeanmarie began the celebration with an activity that required all participants to name remarkable African-Americans.

On February 28, 2013, members of the Judiciary gathered at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles to attend the dynamic heritage program "Civil Rights: How Far We've Come and What Still Needs to Be Done." Featured speakers included District Judge Otis D. Wright II and UCLA Law Professor Cheryl Harris. Kevin Frazier, host of *The Insider*, acted as Master of Ceremonies, and U.S. Attorney André Birotte, Jr. and Supervising Deputy Federal Public Defender Callie Steele, Esq. contributed remarks. Judge Wright shared stories about several of the obstacles he overcame on his journey to the federal bench. Professor Harris gave an in-depth analysis of *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896) emphasizing important lessons from this landmark case and tying the case to larger societal attitudes and behaviors. The program linked the advances made by African-Americans with issues still awaiting resolution today.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Left to Right: U.S. Attorney André Birotte Jr., District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald, District Judge Audrey B. Collins, Bankruptcy Judge Maureen A. Tighe, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Dewitt

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING PRIDE MONTH

In a first for the Central District, the U.S. Attorney's Office coordinated a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Pride Month celebration event on June 20, 2013 in District Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell's courtroom. Bankruptcy Judge Maureen A. Tighe and District Judge Michael W. Fitzgerald, two of the first openly LGBTQ judges in the district, addressed an enthusiastic audience.

The program title, "It Gets Better," was taken from a recent effort to create a positive outlook for LGBTQ teens,

who suffer from a high incidence of suicide in the face of bullying, exclusion, and other difficulties. Judge Tighe and Judge Fitzgerald expanded the "It Gets Better" message to include the entire LGBTQ community as the judges took a look over the last four decades and highlighted some of the milestones that have been achieved.

HRMIS LEAVE TRACKING IMPLEMENTED

In January 2013, Court staff began submitting leave requests and timesheets via an automated system developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts called Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) Leave Tracking. Training classes were held during November and December of 2012. The automated system eliminates the use of paper timecards and leave slips, increases accuracy and visibility of leave schedules and usage, and has reduced the labor costs associated with manually processing timecards and leave requests.

ePERFORMANCE AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT

The Court introduced two new automated tools in 2013: PeopleSoft Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS) ePerformance and Individual Development Plans (IDP). The introduction of ePerformance enabled all Performance Evaluations (PE) to be completed online. Automating the PE process across the district helped the Court increase efficiency.

Also, the Court added an IDP to each Performance Plan. The use of IDPs supports the Court's mission, goals, and objectives as outlined in the Strategic Plan, which prioritizes aligning employee training and development in order to maintain a highly-skilled and well-trained workforce.

PATHS TO SUCCESS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The 2013-2014 Paths to Success Leadership Development Program welcomed a cohort of 19 participants on March 1, 2013. Paths to Success offers the Court's aspiring leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and project management skills through classroom courses, online training, coaching, and on-the-job learning. Participants attended eight classroom sessions over the course of the year. The courses included "Leadership with Maturity and Passion," "Acts with Integrity," "Communicates Effectively," "Respects Others," "Solves Problems," and "Manages Conflicts."

WORKFORCE AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

The Court facilitated Workforce Planning training and workshops for its managerial staff throughout 2013. While Workforce Planning is an ongoing process, this initiative enabled Court management to address staffing levels proactively, particularly around re-engineering department structures, competencies, human resources metrics, and succession planning. Succession planning initiatives such as the Paths to Success Leadership Program and Knowledge Management Program are designed to develop management skills in emerging leaders, capture and transition industry-specific knowledge from Court employees leaving through attrition, and enable the Court to further align its workforce skills with its strategic initiatives.

INTERNAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In January, the Clerk's Office announced 11 internal employment opportunities at the Los Angeles Division. New positions were created to address shifting trends within the Court in the following areas: Records Management, Call Center, and *Pro Se* Help Desk.

The Records Management team was created to focus on district-wide records management responsibilities and ensure the Court's records management program meets all statutory requirements, remaining abreast of changes in records regulations.

As part of an ongoing effort to improve public service, five customer service representatives were assigned to staff the Court's new district-wide Call Center and handle incoming calls and online chat. The centralization of customer service staff and the development of a new call script have increased efficiency, while also improving the consistency of information now provided to the public. The Call Center is also able to provide assistance to Spanish speaking customers.

The Los Angeles *Pro Se* Help Desk staff coordinates a variety of district-wide *pro se* activities, and assists in the testing and implementation of the electronic Self-Representation (eSR) software developed through the *Pro Se* Pathfinder Project.

VOLUNTARY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEE SEPARATIONS (BUYOUTS)

In 2013, the Court requested and received approval from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to offer 21 buyouts and early retirements. The request for buyouts

and early retirements was necessitated by the continuing serious funding challenges facing the Judiciary. These buyouts and early retirements helped to offset the Court's budgetary shortfall.

CLERK'S OFFICE STAFF CERTIFICATIONS AND CREDENTIALS

SABRINA PALACIO-GARCIA GRADUATES FROM MSU JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

During the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks business lunch on August 14, 2013, conference attendees celebrated the accomplishments of bankruptcy clerks from across the country who completed the Michigan State University (MSU) Judicial Administration certificate program within the past year. The Central District was especially proud of Operations Specialist Sabrina Palacio-Garcia, who received her MSU Judicial Administration certificate at the conference. The MSU certificate program requires the completion of 10 courses and a capstone project. It is comprised of 60 contact hours of instruction based on the National Association for Court Management core competencies. The 10 courses cover such topics as caseflow and human resources management, budget and finance, and strategic planning. Given the Court's budgetary challenges and the high rate of anticipated retirements, Ms. Palacio-Garcia chose to review the Court's succession and strategic plans as her capstone project and completed the certificate program within one year.

JOHN KOHLER AND HERBERT SEALES CERTIFIED BY FEMA

In 2013, Administrative Manager John Kohler and Administrative Specialist Herbert Seales were certified by the FEMA National Continuity Program. Mr. Kohler and Mr. Seales completed Level I in FEMA's Continuity Excellence Series training. The curriculum is designed to give students a thorough understanding of Continuity of Operations Planning at the national and local levels and to help prepare for disaster response in the workplace.

LEANNE O'BRIEN EARNS FACILITY MANAGEMENT CREDENTIAL

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

In July 2013, Facilities Project Coordinator Leanne O'Brien earned a Facility Management Professional (FMP) credential from the International Facility Management Association (IFMA). Ms. O'Brien completed courses in Operations and Maintenance, Project Management, Finance and Business, and Leadership and Strategy in order to qualify for the credential, which demonstrates her mastery of the foundations of facility management. Ms. O'Brien increased her depth-of-knowledge in Facility Management, enhanced her skills, and gained credibility among peers and professionals.

FACILITIES, SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

ROYBAL REALIGNMENT SPACE PLANNING EFFORT

The Court participated in an extensive yearlong space planning effort with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), AO contractors, Ninth Circuit Space and Facilities staff, GSA, and other Central District court units. The objective of this effort was to realign the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse to accommodate additional magistrate and senior judges, as well as District Court, U.S. Probation Office, and U.S. Pretrial Services staff currently housed in the Spring Street Courthouse.

The new Los Angeles Courthouse, scheduled for completion by 2016, provides insufficient space to house all the judges and staff that will be required to vacate the Spring Street Courthouse. Additional courtroom and office space in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse is needed to house displaced judges and staff. Tentative plans call for the Bankruptcy Court to release over 33,000 square feet of space in both the Los Angeles Federal Building and in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, as well as instituting a new requirement for all Roybal Bankruptcy Judges to share courtrooms in order to accommodate the other court units. The project is expected to continue over the next three to five years, as funding, design, construction, and relocation efforts must be finalized and implemented.

CLERK'S OFFICE RECONFIGURES AND RENOVATES LOS ANGELES DIVISION

In an ongoing effort to increase the efficiency and versatility of the Court's facilities, improve ergonomics and minimize recurring costs, the Court completed furniture and tenant alterations projects throughout the district. In the Los Angeles Division, the Clerk's Office remodeled the IT Help Desk Department, combining two rooms into one large area and outfitting the space with furniture appropriate for the Help Desk's work. The new configuration facilitates testing and repairing equipment. The Clerk's Office also reconfigured the Courtroom Services Department, installing 46 new workstations, adding a teaming area for collaboration, and improving circulation and traffic flow. In an effort to create a more comfortable environment and improve air quality, the Clerk's Office installed vinyl composition tile (VCT) flooring and modified the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system in the ninth floor break room.

Additionally, suite 1067 was remodeled to combine three functional groups (Analysis and Information, Budgeting, and Fiscal), whose functions interact regularly. These groups were cross-trained to allow employees to acquire knowledge and build skills in other administrative functions. Trainees assisted with procurement and contract administration, accounts payable, processing refund packages for attorneys, processing unclaimed funds packages, and monitoring sanctions and trustee payments. The cross-training effort was an essential component of the Court's succession plan and assists the Financial Services and Administrative Services Departments in managing the workload despite recent staff reductions.

NORTHERN DIVISION CONSUMER DEBT CLINIC RELOCATION PROJECT

In mid-April of 2013, the Northern Division's Consumer Debt Clinic was relocated from a second floor attorney conference room to a remodeled space in the Clerk's Office first floor lobby that also hosts *pro se* clinics for debtors. The move improves communications between clinic volunteers and Clerk's Office staff and increases the clinic's visibility. As part of the relocation, the clinic now includes the new Resource Center, a transaction window adjacent to the intake area that is staffed by a clerk during clinic hours. The center provides forms and filing information and maintains a set of bankruptcy resource materials that clinic attendees can check out. Two Electronic Self-Representation (eSR) workstations have also been installed in the area for future use.

CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS (COOP) PLAN

A Continuity of Operations (COOP) plan is a collection of resources, procedures, and information developed, tested, and held in readiness that will allow the Court to continue performing its essential functions during a major disruption or closure. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the Court can respond effectively to an array of operational disruptions such as an earthquake, terrorist attack, or power outage.

In 2013, the Court began revamping and reimagining its COOP program in earnest. This process is a long-term endeavor, designed to ensure the Court has a COOP manual and plan that will serve as a tool to enhance the Court's resilience.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Office Services and Space Planning Staff

OFFICE SERVICES FURNITURE RECONFIGURATION TRAINING

During the week of March 4, 2013, two Facilities Project Coordinators trained the Office Services Department in assembling, reconfiguring, and disassembling workstations. Given the current budget constraints, the Office Services Department plans to save money on future projects by managing small modifications and installations in-house, rather than outsourcing these functions.

NEW WORKSTATIONS INSTALLED IN SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DIVISION

In March 2013, the Clerk's Office replaced the law clerks' workstations in four chambers in the San Fernando Valley Division. The new frame-and-tile workstations are adjustable, can be easily repaired by Clerk's Office staff, and are less expensive to maintain and replace than the previous models. They also provide the law clerks with more space for work and storage.

APPENDICES

LONG RANGE PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CASE MANAGEMENT		
Obj.#	**Objective**	**Accomplishments/Status**
1.	Expand site-based *pro bono* assistance program.	With the opening of the *Pro Se* Clinic at the Riverside Division in 2011, all five divisions now have onsite self-help desks to provide *pro se* parties with free legal information, reference materials, and *pro bono* support. Goal accomplished.
2.	Encourage increased use of telephonic and video appearances where appropriate.	Judges Clarkson and Wallace hear Riverside Division cases assigned to them from their Santa Ana Division courtrooms by videoconference. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll hears Northern Division cases from his Los Angeles Division courtroom. In past years, Judges Bluebond, Bufford, E. Carroll, Donovan, and Neiter were assigned a portion of the Riverside Division case filings that they heard by videoconference from their Los Angeles Division courtrooms. In 2014, Judge Bluebond will pilot a new feature available in the CourtCall telephonic appearance system that will permit parties with sufficient bandwidth and a webcam to appear by video in select hearings. Parties currently use CourtCall to appear at hearings by telephone instead of coming to the court in person.
3.	Encourage judges to serve in a different division at least once a year.	No updates to report.
4.	Facilitate the judges' ability to prepare more orders.	The mobile version of Lodged Order Upload (LOU-e), which allows judges to remotely access and approve orders, was implemented in August 2011. The Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program was launched in September 2007. Multiple enhancements were implemented in CIAO! The Clerk's Office continues to explore ways to allow remote processing of orders through smartphones and mobile devices.
5.	Reduce Clerk's Office labor component for all case processing and case management functions.	In 2013, the Clerk's Office automated case closing of chapter 7 cases and issuance of a summons or alias summons in an adversary proceeding. The Clerk's Office also developed an online process for requesting transcripts and streamlined the process for providing recordings to the transcription agencies. The Clerk's Office previously automated the discharge of eligible chapter 7 cases. The LBRs were revised in 2013 to eliminate the need for a Notice of Entered Order and Service List (NOE) on all orders. In 2010, the Court commenced a program to acknowledge staff members who propose ideas for improving the Court's efficiency. In 2013, the Board of Judges streamlined and standardized the procedures for handling case commencement deficiencies throughout the district to significantly reduce labor for chambers and Clerk's Office staff. The Clerk's Office is currently modifying CM/ECF to incorporate the new procedures. The Clerk's Office continues to expand the use of automation for dismissal of chapter 7 and chapter 13 cases, and the closing of chapter 13 cases with completion expected in 2014.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
5.	Reduce Clerk's Office labor component for all case processing and case management functions. (cont.)	Lodged Order Upload (LOU) program launched in September 2007 and is widely used. ECF usage became mandatory on April 1, 2007. High-volume claim filers registered to use ECF. Quality control tracking program developed to identify common errors and users with high error rates to target training/remedial action. Online training modules were developed to replace CM/ECF classroom training. The Clerk's Office also performs automatic dismissal of deficient cases to reduce referrals to the judges. The Court adopted district-wide procedures for the electronic service of adequate protection orders and relief from stay orders. Headers no longer need to be inserted for the Proof of Service (POS), greatly reducing staff labor. Orders are now much easier for attorneys to prepare, reducing time spent by Court staff answering questions, such as how to add POS and NOE pages, and also time spent by staff fixing orders where the formatting was unacceptable due to the way in which the POS and NOE were imported into the order.
6.	Standardize docket entries.	Trained registered ECF attorneys to use correct docket codes. Discontinued routine docketing of unused orders. Quality control tracking program developed to identify common errors and users with high error rates to target training/remedial action. Online training modules developed to target common errors/inconsistencies.
7.	Explore the ability to process documents while working at an alternate location. (See also Human Resources Objective #1)	Telework program in place. Clerk's Office staff at divisions also use electronic systems to assist each other as needed. In 2013, the Case Management Assist (CMA) program was implemented in all five divisions, enabling the Clerk's Office to automatically distribute and reassign work to Operations staff anywhere in the district including telework.
8.	Facilitate, as appropriate, the administration of small cases.	Individual Chapter 11 Task Force developed proposed forms for individual chapter 11 cases. The Court is collaborating with the newly formed Bar Rules Advisory Group (BRAG) to revise and improve the forms.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
1.	Expand relations with minority bar associations.	The Court has regular interaction with local bar associations in the district that have diverse memberships. In December 2013, the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) sponsored and participated in the Federal Court Power Lunch which hosted over 50 students from Whitney High School.
2.	Obtain funding for foreign language interpretation and translation services.	The Court's FAQs were translated into Spanish and posted on the Court's website in a project coordinated by the Debtor Assistance Project and funded by the Attorney Admissions Fund.
3.	Encourage effective cross-cultural communication in the courtroom.	The Court's FAQs were translated into Spanish and posted on the Court's website in a project coordinated by the Debtor Assistance Project and funded by the Attorney Admissions Fund. In January 2010, the Court and Public Counsel initiated steps to partner with local colleges to have volunteer Spanish translation services available at reaffirmation hearings. The project, now spearheaded by Public Counsel, offers students from CSULA and the Northridge Institute the opportunity to volunteer their translation services in the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley Divisions.
4.	Create bankruptcy education programs.	In 2013, the Court applied and was selected to host a UCLA Ann C. Rosenfield Fellow to study issues related to aging, finances and bankruptcy and provide assistance to those facing these issues. The Fellowship, funded by the Ann C. Rosenfield Fund, is offered by the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and is a high-level apprenticeship program for graduate students. The Court selected Julie Pollock as the UCLA Ann C. Rosefield Fellow. During her term in 2013, Ms. Pollock developed a "Bankruptcy Timeline" which lists all of the major events and time requirements for a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, and began the blog "Bankruptcy After 55," which discusses the challenges older Americans face related to finances, credit, retirement, illness, and more. Both items have been added to the Court's website. Additionally, Ms. Pollock has presented her work during Board of Judges meetings, including articles that describe the leading research on the aging bankruptcy population, and began coordinating a panel of experts for a financial elder abuse event to be held in early 2014. The event will examine symptoms of the elderly that make these individuals the target of financial elder abuse, as well as describe the scams for which victims fall prey, and resources that may provide assistance to those facing these issues. The Court partnered with Public Counsel to create a video designed to assist self-represented debtors with completing a chapter 7 petition. The video is now hosted on Public Counsel's YouTube channel and is linked to the Court's website. In 2013, Judge Klein hosted an externship panel discussion for law students at Loyola Law School. During the program, students learned the value of an externship with the federal courts. During 2013, bankruptcy judges and state court judges provided training for each other on several core issues.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
4.	Create bankruptcy education programs. (cont.)	In 2011, the Clerk's Office initiated its "Raising the Bar" series of bankruptcy education programs conducted for Court staff by subject matter experts from the local bar. Raising the Bar programs were videoconferenced to all five divisions and the series was taped for future use. The Education Committee continues to arrange bankruptcy education programs for the off-site BOJ Seminar, other quarterly BOJ meetings, and extern/law clerk orientation. Sponsored by the chambers of Judge Saltzman, the Court continues to offer three district-wide training sessions annually to incoming law clerks and externs, in the spring, summer, and fall. The one-day session is conducted by bankruptcy judges and guest speakers.
5.	Create pamphlets in Spanish available for the public on the nature of chapters 7, 11, and 13.	A Spanish translation of the Court's FAQs was posted on the Court's website in 2009, and revisited to enter minor updates at the end of 2013. Additionally, the Court has pamphlets created by the California Bar and FTC, as well as its self-help desk information in Spanish. Finally, a Spanish translation of the Court's new Bankruptcy Timeline link on the Court website is under construction and expected in early 2014.
6.	Review all information available to the public and revise it to accord with changes in the law.	The Court's website was redesigned in 2012 with input from the bar and general public. The website now has a more relevant and user-friendly format as well as a powerful search feature.
7.	Provide public education on issues such as separation of powers, judicial independence, rule of law, and *stare decisis*.	The Court sponsored two educational programs designed for high school students in 2013. Students who participate in the programs meet with judges and attorneys to learn about the law and legal careers. More than 80 students and 60 volunteer judges and attorneys participated in the programs. Judges frequently participate in panel discussions and programs sponsored by universities, law schools, bar associations, etc.
8.	Update the Court's website periodically to keep it current and user-friendly.	In 2013, the Court continued to add new and relevant content to the website, including educational materials for self-represented parties. The Court launched its new website in October 2012. The website offers users a better experience because the information is well organized, includes better navigation, and is easily searched. For those with visual impairments and literacy difficulties, the new website offers a read-aloud service via BrowseAloud. The Court has also incorporated a translation service on the website that provides translations between English and dozens of different languages. During 2012, most Court forms were revised so they can now be filled in and saved without expensive applications. The remaining Court forms were updated in 2013. The Court's website is updated regularly to reflect current Court information and processes, public notices, judges' practices, etc.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
9.	Encourage legal assistance from *pro bono* attorneys for parties who cannot afford an attorney. (See also Facilities and Security Objective #7)	In 2013, the Court piloted a program to enable select *pro bono* attorneys to use ECF for filing of petitions with fee waiver applications. This was done to make it easier for *pro bono* attorneys to volunteer their services. In 2013, the Court participated in the National Celebrate *Pro Bono* week by hosting a reception in Los Angeles. In addition, the Court recognized each of the more than 300 volunteers by presenting them with certificates of appreciation. The Court collaborates with the local bar to provide free and low-cost legal assistance to unrepresented parties through the Debtor Assistance Project. The Court now has onsite self-help clinics at all five divisions that provide legal information, reference material, and *pro bono* support.
10.	Make electronic filing more accessible to the public.	The Court participated in the design and testing of a national pilot program known as eSR (Electronic Self-Representation), which will enable self-represented filers to electronically file petitions. In 2014, the Court will make it available at its self-help clinic in Los Angeles, where filers will have access to *pro bono* attorneys. Numerous ECF training sessions were provided for members of the local and national bar. Online training modules replaced CM/ECF classroom training for new attorneys. Filing Agent was made available in 2012 to enable select attorney staff members to use CM/ECF simultaneously with their own IDs/passwords.
11.	Publicize appropriate means to communicate suggestions for Court rules and procedures.	In 2013, the Court developed a Bar Rules Advisory Group (BRAG) to obtain input from a wide variety of attorneys regarding forms and processes. During the year, the BRAG completed a comprehensive review of the Court's relief from stay forms that will become available in 2014. In 2011, the Bar Advisory Board provided extensive feedback on the Court's new website. Two members of the board volunteered to be on the IT Committee and made valuable recommendations on operational and procedural matters. In 2009, the Court initiated the Bar Advisory Board. This board, comprised of representatives from local bar associations that provide feedback and suggestions to the Court, is a useful vehicle for communication between the Court and the bar. Judges and executive management attend local bar functions to maintain open communication. The Court continues to seek input from the public on local rules, requesting comments through public notices and the *Court News* publication.

FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
1.	Review divisional organization of the Court.	On April 1, 2011, the Ninth Circuit approved a five-year extension on the Court's lease on the Northern Division. Following consideration of a variety of space options, the Court negotiated a new lease for the San Fernando Valley Division, effective November 13, 2011.
2.	Create a plan for court operations in the event of a natural disaster or other catastrophe that affects all or substantially portions of the district.	In 2013, the Court began discussions with the District Court's emergency communication personnel to exchange best practices and begin a merger of the two Emergency Notification Systems (ENS) to save expenses and improve the speed of emergency information. Additionally, the agencies agreed to exchange various services such as training, continuity planning and emergency preparedness activities to offset funding for the appointment of a district-wide Emergency Preparedness and Security Officer. These measures were a part of a long-term plan designed to save money and improve the efficiency of information sharing and emergency response. Court COOP personnel joined the Greater Los Angeles Area Federal Executive Board (GLAFEB) Continuity Working Group (CWG) Steering Committee for Calendar Years 2013 thru 2015. In August of 2013, Court COOP personnel attended the National Emergency Preparedness Workshop in Washington D.C. This workshop was the first step in the creation of a national level program for all judicial agencies designed to facilitate the creation of various emergency management programs through the development of tools, databases and resources for emergency management practitioners across the judiciary. The process of revising the Courts COOP program also included the developed a comprehensive Test, Training and Exercise or TT&E plan. This plan was intended to ensure the steady enhancement Court personnel's knowledge of COOP concepts and expectations, as well as their individual role in the overall plan. A regular schedule of test and exercises will ensure the Court's COOP program grows with the Court.
3.	Determine the amount of space used by the Court that is necessary to serve the public.	In 2012, the Clerk's Office released 9,725 square feet at the San Fernando Valley Division and 14,000 square feet at the Santa Ana Division. In 2013, the Court volunteered the release of 675 square feet in the Santa Barbara Division.
4.	Establish a "virtual" courtroom system.	Currently, Santa Ana Division Judges Clarkson and Wallace hear Riverside Division cases assigned to them by videoconference between the Riverside and Santa Ana Divisions on a routine basis. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll hears Northern Division matters by video from his Los Angeles Division courtroom. In previous years, Judges Bluebond, Bufford, E. Carroll, Donovan, and Neiter were assigned a portion of the Riverside Division case filings that they heard by videoconference from their Los Angeles Division courtrooms.

FACILITIES AND SECURITY

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
5.	Establish or create technology to enable litigants to appear from wherever they are.	Litigants appear telephonically when permitted by judge via CourtCall. Worked with CourtCall and AO to design pilot video appearance project for designated case parties in interest. Santa Ana Division Judges Clarkson and Wallace hear Riverside Division cases assigned to them by video conference between the Riverside and Santa Ana divisions on a routine basis. Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll hears Northern Division matters by video from his Los Angeles Division courtroom. In past years, Judges Bluebond, Bufford, E. Carroll, Donovan, and Neiter held routine hearings on Riverside Division cases by video conference from their Los Angeles Division courtrooms. In previous years, Judges Bluebond, Bufford, E. Carroll, Donovan, and Neiter were assigned a portion of the Riverside Division case filings that they heard by videoconference from their Los Angeles Division courtrooms.
6.	Validate efficacy of Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plan on a continuing basis.	The Court's COOP plan is continuously updated to ensure that it adheres to the latest available version/template, and that it reflects the Court's current organizational structure and performance goals. In 2013, the Court continued the COOP revision process, further bolstering the document's relevance to current Court functions and operations. This process is slated to continue as the Court moves to new systems and begins to increase collaboration with other federal agencies. In addition, new training courses were developed to ensure pertinent aspects of COOP are understood by all personnel involved in the Court's COOP program.
7.	Explore providing space in the courthouses for providing *pro bono* legal assistance. (See also Community Outreach Objective #9)	In 2013, the Northern Division relocated its consumer debt clinic to new office space in the lobby to make it more visible. The new office has a transaction window next to the division's Intake windows. With the opening of the *Pro Se* Clinic at the Riverside Division in 2011, all five divisions now have onsite self-help desks to provide *pro se* parties with free legal information, reference material, and *pro bono* support. The Court also makes rooms available for *pro bono* attorneys to provide legal advice to *pro se* debtors prior to Reaffirmation Agreement hearings at the Los Angeles, Santa Ana, Northern and San Fernando Valley Divisions.
8.	Make electronic locks and access to doors, elevators, and locations more universal, and limit physical keys and cipher locks.	Judge Mund's office space in the San Fernando Valley Division was outfitted with a full security package. This package, funded by the U.S. Marshals and installed by UDT, eliminates the need for visitors to use Judge Tighe's chambers entrance. In the Los Angeles Division, the Clerk's Office completed installing card readers at the rear door of every bankruptcy courtroom as a security measure. Keycard readers throughout the district are being upgraded for compatibility with smartcards. This upgrade has been completed at the Riverside Division and is nearly completed at the Santa Ana Division.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
1.	Evaluate and modify, if necessary, the use of the telework program. (See also Case Management Objective #7)	The Clerk's Office revised its telework program to include additional positions eligible to telework and increased the number of days select operations positions can telework up to three days per week.
2.	Ensure a smooth transition as senior staff members retire.	The Court facilitated the 2012 Workforce Planning training and workshops for its managerial staff in April through August. While Workforce Planning is an ongoing process, this project has enabled court management to address staffing levels in a proactive manner, particularly around re-engineering department structures, competencies, human resources metrics, and succession planning. In addition, educational programs were developed for future leaders and current members of management. The programs focused on leadership, communication, and technical skills. A total of 74 staff members completed these programs.
3.	Recruit and retain a workforce consistent with the court's technology.	Due to extensive workforce reductions throughout the year, the Court did not actively recruit staff. However, training and development efforts continued to enhance workforce skills while strengthening the Court's succession planning program.
4.	Enhance training for all staff.	Total in-house training offerings increased by 140 percent from 462 in 2012 to 648 classes in 2013. A total of 4,356 student seats were filled across the five divisions. Classroom training on new desktop applications, such as Microsoft PowerPoint, were offered at all divisions. The Court launched the T minus 15 training program, which consisted of short, 15 minute training sessions done remotely by the instructor through WebEx. Students logged in at their desks and were back to work quickly. Application classes were offered through WebEx to all divisions, ensuring all staff received the same training and also reducing costs. Finally, annual programs including Law Clerk/Extern Training, IT Security Training, and the Winter Education Seminar were offered. The Office Services/Space Planning Department continued to offer emergency preparedness and judicial security support to the court through training and relevant supporting materials. This included the expansion of the Floor Warden program to include all staff, supervisors, and managers. The district-wide training sessions were labeled mandatory for the Clerk's office staff and strongly recommended for judicial chambers. This single change, which will expand the knowledge base from a previously small group of people (Floor Wardens) to all employees, is expected to net significant benefits to the court during emergency situations. The court also addressed various emergency communications issues and implemented an interim judicial evacuation protocol which supports current USMS capabilities. The 2013-2014 series of the Paths to Success leadership development program began in March. The district-wide program allows the Court's aspiring leaders the opportunity to develop their leadership and project management skills, and to become more versatile Court employees. The orientation session covered an overview of the program and an introduction to leadership discussion. The program held class sessions throughout the year and will conclude in May 2014.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
4.	Enhance training for all staff. (cont.)	The Court introduced two new tools, the PeopleSoft HRMIS ePerformance module and Individual Development Plans (IDPs), which helped staff in performing their duties, especially during these times of constrained resources. ePerformance enabled all Clerk's Office Performance Evaluations (PEs) to be completed online. The Court also introduced IDPs, a new form for capturing and tracking learning and development goals for all staff. Automating the PE process across the district helped the Court be more efficient. Also, adding an IDP to each Performance Plan promoted skill development and helped staff to be more effective in their positions. Hour-long sessions for the launch of CM Assist were offered. CM Assist is a case distribution program that allows the user to distribute and organize caseloads to employees and will make it easier for work to be distributed across the divisions. The Bankruptcy Court partnered with the Ninth Circuit Law Library and LexisNexis to bring an educational program to the Court. The program was broadcast to Judges and Chambers staff at participating division offices. The Court hosted a two-day cross-agency training session for employees who perform the role of Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) at their agencies. The course was facilitated by an experienced instructor from the Northwest Procurement Institute. The program provided CORs with complete and comprehensive coverage of contract formation and contract administration policy and issues, including standards of conduct and ethics; development of requirements documents; contract documentation; inspection procedures; changes, terminations, and disputes.
5.	Develop a new employee recognition program consistent with national guidelines.	The Court implemented a new employee recognition program called Spot-on-Award for Recognition (SOAR). During 2013, the third year that the SOAR program was in place, a total of 188 awards were given to 112 employees district-wide. SOAR gives the opportunity for the Clerk's Office to recognize an employee's contribution to the performance of a team, division, or the entire district. Awards are given based on contributions to the Court in the areas of Customer Service, Outstanding Performance, Teamwork, Suggestions, Special Acts, and Special Service. Awards are divided into three categories: monetary, non-monetary, and time-off. The program also includes custom minted coins that are awarded by the Chief Judge or Executive Officer/Clerk of Court for significant contributions.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
6.	Establish a mechanism for line staff to provide feedback to management staff.	Three Centers of Excellence were created to address the following areas: **Process Improvement:** • Saving the Court money by streamlining how rental checks are processed • Changing the procedures for BNC notices • Scrubbing unused or duplicate codes from the CM/ECF Dictionary • Creating training modules to ensure all staff understand bankruptcy in the same way **Communication:** • Standardize and publicize best practices for communication (email etiquette, utilizing Tasks Lists, Reminders) • HELP articles in monthly court newsletter • Creation of Job Shadow proposal **Employee Engagement:** • Creation of High Five Board for employee recognition • Organized several volunteering/donation initiatives (school supplies, food drive, etc.) • Creation of iBOT training plans
7.	Explore alternative work schedules for staff.	No update
8.	Implement digital time card and leave tracking/management systems.	The Court adopted the Judiciary's HRMIS electronic time card and leave tracking system in November 2012. In January 2013, Court staff started using the HRMIS Leave Tracking module to submit leave requests and timesheets.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
1.	Expand CM/ECF to all constituents.	The Court introduced Filing Agent on July 16, 2012 to enable attorneys to assign logins for their office staff that use CM/ECF. All those using Filing Agent can do so simultaneously. The Court continued testing eSR, a national CM/ECF program for *pro se* filers to electronically file petitions. Effective December 1, 2013, changes to the FRBPs and CM/ECF relieve debtors of the obligation to file certification of completion from a financial management course, as long as the course provider directly provides certification to the court. FRBP 1007(b)(7) now allows financial management course providers to notify courts when debtors have completed the financial management course. Supporting the rule change, the new Financial Management Provider functionality in CM/ECF permits course providers to log in as external users and certify that debtors have completed the course by docketing the appropriate event. On December 1, 2013, a new CM/ECF feature was added to enable approved financial management course providers to electronically file certificates of course completion. The Clerk's Office extended invitations to over 130 financial management course providers. Over 1,500 financial management course completion certifications were electronically filed at the Court. The Court provides online CM/ECF training modules for those interested in obtaining access to CM/ECF or improving their skills. By the end of 2013, a total of 4,891 users had been registered to electronically file documents via CM/ECF.
2.	Reduce paper/printer costs.	Among bankruptcy courts nationwide, the Central District is one of the most efficient when sending notices and orders via the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). The district is the most efficient in the nation when cost is measured per new case filed, and is second most efficient when average cost per notice is measured. A high percentage of attorneys, trustees, and other professionals only receive notices and orders from CM/ECF via Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF), meaning that the BNC sends each notice to fewer recipients. The Central District has also taken measures to shorten BNC mailings, cutting unnecessary information, condensing forms, and eliminating requirements. Effective in January 2014, the Court eliminated the requirement that a Notice of Entered Order and Service List be included in lodged orders. In March 2014, the Court will begin a pilot program that will allow the BNC to deliver notices to debtors by email. Networked copiers throughout the Court enable duplex printing and eliminate the need for separate scanners and fax machines while reducing toner expense. 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 studied printing practices and costs to help the Court make business decisions on how to acquire supplies and services more effectively and efficiently reduce expenses.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
3.	Enable *pro se* e-filing safely and in accordance with applicable laws.	The Court continued developing and testing eSR, a national CM/ECF program for *pro se* filers to electronically file petitions.
4.	Educate other bankruptcy courts regarding the benefits and advantages of the calendaring program CIAO! and other software developed by the Court.	Judge Peter H. Carroll and members of the Clerk's Office provided an overview of CIAO! to a national panel from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and other courts in 2008. In 2009, a member of the Clerk's Office demonstrated CIAO! to the CM/ECF Next Generation task force. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts adopted a competing calendaring program, but the Court continues to enhance features in CIAO! to serve its users. In April 2013, the Clerk's Office upgraded to CIAO! 6.0. This upgrade makes CIAO! compatible with Microsoft Word 2010. Also, CIAO! 6.0 incorporated visual and functional changes to the calendar. The monthly default screen enabled users to have a "weekly view" of the calendar, and exception dates became highlighted in pink to make them easier to identify. Other changes appeared on the View Docket and View Related Documents pop-up screens, which provided the user with a cleaner collapsed view of the docket, and the option to expand the view to include attachments to the main docket entry. CIAO! users now use their Lotus Notes identification and passwords instead of a separate CIAO! identification and password.
5.	Provide computer terminals in Clerk's Offices for *pro se* litigants to use for filing court documents electronically.	The Court continued testing eSR, a national CM/ECF program for *pro se* filers to electronically submit petitions. To practice coordinating with the local *pro bono* organization that will provide legal advice on questions that may arise when visitors use eSR, the Court is currently providing visitors access to a bankruptcy petition using Adobe Acrobat fillable forms. Visitors first attend Public Counsel's bankruptcy seminar, and then set an appointment with a clerk to use the fillable forms version of the petition at a Self-Help Resource Center terminal. Court staff assists visitors by flagging any legal advice questions for follow up by Public Counsel attorneys. Following a consultation with legal counsel, the electronic petition may then be updated by the visitor based on the advice provided. Last, Court staff assists with finalizing the petition and filing.
6.	Enable e-filing of proofs of claim by high volume claim filers such as the IRS.	The Court registered the IRS and other high-volume claim filers to electronically file claims through CM/ECF. Since 2007, the Clerk's Office has been successful in reducing the volume of proofs of claim filed with the Court on paper by enabling high volume claim filers such as the IRS to electronically file proofs of claims through CM/ECF. The Clerk's Office is currently evaluating an electronic filing program endorsed by the AO that allows individual creditors and non-registered ECF filers to create, amend, and withdraw a Proof of Claim in any chapter over the Court's Internet. A login and password is not required to use the program. Therefore, the Clerk's Office must ensure that the program has sufficient security features to prevent the fraudulent filing of proofs of claim.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Obj.#	Objective	Accomplishments/Status
7.	Modify CIAO! so tentative rulings are easily included in the docket as findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of court findings.	Not feasible as tentative rulings may be modified.

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	49,493	92.7%	804	135.1%	15,610	94.7%	65,907	93.6%
2009	83,674	69.1%	1,129	40.4%	23,848	52.8%	108,651	64.9%
2010	109,488	30.9%	1,125	-0.4%	32,176	34.9%	142,789	31.4%
2011	99,370	-9.2%	1,171	4.1%	34,161	6.2%	134,702	-5.7%
2012	81,201	-18.3%	908	-22.5%	23,472	-31.3%	105,581	-21.6%
2013	61,135	-24.7%	725	-20.2%	13,725	-41.5%	75,585	-28.4%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	16,596	71.8%	193	65.0%	6,441	125.1%	23,230	83.8%
2009	28,028	68.9%	348	80.3%	9,100	41.3%	37,476	61.3%
2010	42,186	50.5%	485	39.4%	14,064	54.5%	56,735	51.4%
2011	38,586	-8.5%	541	11.5%	15,166	7.8%	54,293	-4.3%
2012	32,571	-15.6%	421	-22.2%	11,181	-26.3%	44,173	-18.6%
2013	24,573	-24.6%	325	-22.8%	6,717	-39.9%	31,615	-28.4%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	7,129	94.2%	123	66.2%	3,572	119.1%	10,824	101.4%
2009	12,454	74.7%	238	93.5%	5,342	49.6%	18,034	66.6%
2010	12,059	-3.2%	204	-14.3%	4,852	-9.2%	17,115	-5.1%
2011	10,337	-14.3%	175	-14.2%	4,969	2.4%	15,481	-9.5%
2012	8,340	-19.3%	157	-10.3%	3,211	-35.4%	11,708	-24.4%
2013	6,331	-24.1%	151	-3.8%	1,915	-40.4%	8,397	-28.3%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	14,926	131.9%	302	529.2%	4,009	50.8%	19,237	110.4%
2009	25,800	72.9%	232	-23.2%	6,733	67.9%	32,765	70.3%
2010	33,618	30.3%	180	-22.4%	9,478	40.8%	43,276	32.1%
2011	31,147	-7.4%	158	-12.2%	9,199	-2.9%	40,504	-6.4%
2012	24,452	-21.5%	129	-18.4%	5,103	-44.5%	29,684	-26.7%
2013	18,557	-24.1%	72	-44.2%	2,946	-42.3%	21,575	-27.3%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	7,635	90.5%	162	78.0%	1,186	87.7%	8,983	89.9%
2009	12,444	63.0%	258	59.3%	2,037	71.8%	14,739	64.1%
2010	15,764	26.7%	203	-21.3%	2,894	42.1%	18,861	28.0%
2011	14,351	-9.0%	238	17.2%	3,783	30.7%	18,372	-2.6%
2012	11,920	-16.9%	145	-39.1%	3,108	-17.8%	15,173	-17.4%
2013	8,902	-25.3%	159	9.7%	1,714	-44.9%	10,775	-29.0%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS AND PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1980-2013*

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%
2008	3,207	68.4%	24	100.0%	402	71.1%	3,633	68.9%
2009	4,948	54.3%	53	120.8%	636	58.2%	5,637	55.2%
2010	5,861	18.5%	53	0.0%	888	39.6%	6,802	20.7%
2011	4,949	-15.6%	59	11.3%	1,044	17.6%	6,052	-11.0%
2012	3,918	-20.8%	56	-5.1%	869	-16.8%	4,843	-20.0%
2013	2,772	-29.2%	18	-67.9%	433	-50.2%	3,223	-33.5%

*Based on California Central District internal filings data

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

Kathleen J. Campbell
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

Michael E. Rotberg
Chief Deputy-Operations

Steven A. Sloniker
Chief Deputy-Administration

LOCATIONS

Los Angeles Division
Edward R. Roybal Federal Building
and United States Courthouse
255 East Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Riverside Division
3420 Twelfth Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Santa Ana Division
Ronald Reagan Federal Building and
United States Courthouse
411 West Fourth Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701

San Fernando Valley Division
21041 Burbank Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

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