

Judicial Practice Guide: 17 Common Situations

Judge **Sheri Bluebond** – July 2025

# 1	Communicating with Judge's Staff
<p>Email: You may communicate with Judge Bluebond's chambers by calling (213)894-8980 (main line); (213)894-8981 (Marie Houle); or (213)894-8982 (Jennifer Wolfberg); or via email by addressing your message to chambers_sbluebond@cacb.uscourts.gov. Please note, however, that chambers staff will not provide you with legal advice.</p> <p>Request for a Hearing on Less Than Regular Notice: In order to obtain a hearing on less than 48 hours' notice or on shortened time, follow the corresponding procedures set forth in LBRs 9075-1(a) and 9075-1(b). (Additional information concerning compliance with these rules can be found in the Central Guide at Hearings: Request Hearing on EMERGENCY -- Less than 48-hours of Notice Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court and Hearings: Apply to Set a Hearing on SHORTENED NOTICE Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court.) A list of telephone numbers for Judge Bluebond's chambers can be found at TCGSupp9075-1(a) Judges-Emergency-Motion-Contacts.pdf.</p>	

# 2	Court Hearings -- Pre-registration, Appearances, Decorum
<p>Unless otherwise directed by the Court, you may choose to appear before Judge Bluebond either in person in Courtroom 1539, by telephone or by video (through Zoom.Gov). All attorneys, trustees and self-represented parties who wish to appear by telephone or video should register in the manner described in Judge Bluebond's Procedures Regarding Telephonic and Video Appearances: Honorable Sheri Bluebond Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court. These instructions may be also be found under the Phone/Video Appearances tab of Judge Bluebond's section of the Court's website. The Zoom connection information for each hearing will be provided in Judge Bluebond's publicly-posted hearing calendar, which may be viewed online at: http://ecf-ciao.cacb.uscourts.gov/CiaoPosted/?jid=BB (Use the tab on the far left to select Judge Bluebond.)</p>	

# 3	Tentative Rulings
<p>Section 3-05 of The Central Guide describes what may be found in a tentative ruling and where to find the link to tentative rulings for any judge: Hearings: POSTED CALENDARS and TENTATIVE RULINGS: Free Access Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>Judge Bluebond's procedures concerning the use of tentative rulings may be found here: BB Procedures onorders.pdf. These procedures also appear on Judge Bluebond's section of the Court's website under the tab, "Instructions/Procedures."</p> <p>Please note that, even if Judge Bluebond has issued a tentative ruling for a given hearing, unless (1) Judge Bluebond's chambers staff or calendar clerk has confirmed that no appearance is necessary or (2) the tentative ruling itself states that no appearance is necessary or that appearances have been</p>	

waived, **appearances are required**. A moving party's failure to attend the hearing on its motion will result in denial of the motion for failure to prosecute and may result in the issuance of an order to show cause re sanctions. An opposing party who fails to attend the hearing on a motion that it has opposed will be deemed to have withdrawn its opposition to the relief requested in the motion.

# 4	Does Judge Bluebond Follow All the Local Bankruptcy Rules?
A list of the instances in which Judge Bluebond employs practices that vary from, or imposes requirements in addition to, the Central District's Local Rules is posted on Judge Bluebond's section of the Court's website and may be found at this link: Judicial Variance Statement for Judge Sheri Bluebond .	

# 5	Judge's Copies of Documents filed with the Court
<p>Section 3-02 of The Central Guide links to the LBRs pertaining to judge's copies, and guidance on how to assemble and deliver a judge's copy may be found here: Chambers: DELIVER a JUDGE'S COPY Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>You must serve Judge Bluebond with a hard (paper) copy of all papers filed with the Court that are more than 25 pages in length (including caption pages, tables and exhibits). Do not send a double-sided copy. If there is more than a single exhibit attached to the document, please use exhibit tabs. The judge's copy must be stapled or bound in such a way that the binding will remain in place while the judge's copy is read. Do not simply put a rubber band around a stack of documents or use a binder clip to hold the document together. If the document is too large to staple, use an Acco fastener (see, e.g., Amazon.com: 70022 Acco Premium Prong Fastener - 2.75" Length - 50 / Box - Silver : Office Products), a three-ring binder or another durable form of binding.</p>	

# 6	Scheduling Hearings
<p>All judges in the district have "Self-Calendaring" instructions posted on their webpages. Judge Bluebond's self-calendaring procedures may be found here: Bluebond, S. Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court. A calendar that reflects the specific days and times that Judge Bluebond hears particular matters may be found here: BB Self-Calendaring.pdf. Please use only the day and time that are appropriate for the type of matter you wish to schedule. If for any reason you need to schedule a matter for a date or time that is not available on Judge Bluebond's calendar of dates, or if you anticipate that your matter will take more than 15 minutes to resolve, please contact Judge Bluebond's courtroom deputy, Maria Evangelista, at 213-894-3688 to request a different date or time.</p>	

# 7	Does Judge Bluebond Allow Digital Signatures that are Explained in LBR 9011-1?
<p>Section 9011-1 of The Central Guide at Signature Requirements; Types of Signatures Allowed; NEW Software-Generated Signatures Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court explains the court's policy regarding software-generated signatures of clients and opposing counsel when a document is to be filed electronically via CM/ECF. Judge Bluebond follows the signature procedures set forth in Section 9011-1 of The Central Guide.</p>	

# 8	"Ex Parte" Motions
<p>Sometimes parties use the term "ex parte" when they believe the court should enter an order quickly or hold a hearing right away. "Ex Parte" means "without notice." It is very rare to obtain a court order without notice. Nearly all motions require some form of notice. See section 2-05 of The Central Guide at: Hearings: LBR 9013-1(d): REGULAR NOTICE (7, 14, 21, 30 or 42 days of notice) Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Some motions may be determined without a hearing. See LBR 9013-1(p)-(q) and Section 2-09 of the Central Guide found at: Hearings: LBR 9013-1(p)-(q): NO HEARING UNLESS JUDGE REQUIRES Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court. (2) Some motions can be heard on more than 48 hours – but less than regular notice – if the standard for shortened notice is met. See section 2-06 of The Central Guide. Hearings: LBR 9075-1(b): SHORTENED NOTICE (Fewer Than 21 Days) Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court (3) Other motions can be heard within 48 hours if the standard for an emergency hearing is met. See section 2-07 of The Central Guide. See Hearings: LBR 9075-1(a): EMERGENCIES (48 Hours of Notice) Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court 	

# 9	Stipulations and Motions to Continue a Hearing
<p>Unless otherwise instructed by Court, contacting chambers is not an effective method for obtaining a continuance. When all parties agree to continue a hearing, follow LBR 9013-1(m)(2) and LBR 9071-1(a)(2), which require that the parties file a stipulation to continue the hearing at least two court days prior to the date scheduled for the hearing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The parties must state clearly the proposed new date or range of dates for a new hearing and the reason for the proposed date. (2) The stipulation must contain good cause for not using the original hearing date. (3) The parties must lodge a separate proposed form of order. <p>When a party files a motion to continue, Judge Bluebond follows LBR 9013-1(m)(1), which requires that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The motion must be filed with a notice of motion under LBR 9013-1(p). (2) A motion must include a declaration under penalty of perjury explaining the need for a continuance; and (3) The motion must satisfy the requirements set forth above for a stipulation to continue the hearing. 	

# 10	Submitting Exhibits as Evidence to a Motion or in a Trial
<p>In bankruptcy court, evidence is typically provided by written declaration instead of by oral testimony. Exhibits require authentication to be admissible. Testimony in a written declaration, made by a person who has personal knowledge and authority, is required to authenticate the contents of each exhibit.</p> <p>Section 9014(d)-(e) of The Central Guide describes how to submit exhibits as evidence to support a motion, an opposition, or a reply, as required by LBR 9013-1(c). CONTESTED MATTERS: Evidence Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>When exhibits are to be used along with live testimony in an adversary proceeding trial or in a contested matter, Judge Bluebond will issue a trial procedures order explaining how exhibits should be transmitted to the Court and introduced at trial.</p>	

# 11	What to Put in An Order Granting a Motion
<p>Section 1-15 of The Central Guide provides guidance for lodging an order. See Orders: Judgments: Electronic LODGING: Attorneys: LOU Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>Additional guidance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Link the order to the proper motion, stipulation, or other request for relief. (2) In the caption, indicate the document being ruled on, such as “order granting/denying motion ...” (3) Do not include the word, “Proposed” in the caption of the order. (4) Where possible, use the Court’s Lodged Order Upload Program: LOU (Lodged Order Upload) Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court (5) Remember to file a notice of lodgment. (Filing the notice and actually lodging the order are two separate steps. Merely filing an order with a notice of lodgment attached is NOT the same thing as lodging the order. Filing an order will merely cause the unsigned form of order to appear on the docket. It will not be presented to the judge for review, signature or entry.) 	

# 12	Procedures for Settlements, Including Dismissal of a Dispute
<p>Sometimes a dispute gets settled and the moving party decides not to continue pursuing relief. In such a case, the movant can file a notice of voluntary dismissal unless a stipulation is needed. See section 9013-1(k) of The Central Guide found at: Motions: Voluntary DISMISSAL or Stipulation to Dismiss Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>FRBP 9019(a) provides that a trustee may settle a matter by filing a separate motion to approve a compromise. See LBR 9019-1, made effective on 10-21-2024, and Section 9019-1 of The Central Guide found at: Settlement; Compromise of Controversy; Motion Required; Notice on Related Adversary Proceeding Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>LBR 9019-1 clarifies that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proceeding to settle or compromise a dispute qualifies as a contested matter. 2. The motion to compromise must be filed on the docket of the main case, even if the compromise will settle part or all of an adversary proceeding. 	

3. The notice of motion and the motion to compromise must indicate whether the compromise settles all claims against all parties, or whether any parties or claims remain in the dispute.
4. If the compromise is within an adversary proceeding, a notice must also be filed in the adversary proceeding to indicate that a motion to compromise has been filed on the main case docket.

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Procedures in Adversary Proceedings

Judge Bluebond's procedures applicable to adversary proceedings may be found here: <C:\Documents and Settings\tam\Local Settings\Temp\Domino Web Access\StatusConfProc.wpd>.

Although LBR 7016-1(b)(3) contemplates two possible ways to propose a pretrial order, as set forth in Judge Bluebond's Judicial Variance Statement, parties should not **file** a joint pretrial stipulation. Instead, they should **lodge** a proposed joint pretrial order that includes all of the information described in LBR 7016-1(b)(2) and should file a notice of lodgment of that order.

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Procedures in Chapter 11 Cases

At the beginning of each chapter 11 case, Judge Bluebond enters an Order Setting Initial Chapter 11 Status Conference that requires, among other things, service of the order and the filing of a case status report. At the initial status conference, Judge Bluebond typically sets deadlines for filing proofs of claim. It is not necessary to file a motion asking Judge Bluebond to set a bar date.

Conditional Approval of Disclosure Statement: As set forth in Judge Bluebond's Judicial Variance Statement, Judge Bluebond does not conditionally approve disclosure statements and, unless both solicitation and voting occurred prepetition, does not combine hearings on disclosure statements and plans.

Form of Plans: Unless Judge Bluebond expressly instructs a plan proponent to use a particular form of plan or disclosure statement, the use of a form plan or disclosure statement is not required. However, if a plan proponent elects to use a form plan or disclosure statement, the plan proponent should delete or cross-out any portions of the form that are not applicable to the case. Merely checking a box labeled "not applicable" is not sufficient.

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What if My Opponent Won't Cooperate in Legal Discovery?

Judge Bluebond requires parties to comply with requirements of LBR 7026-1(c) when a discovery dispute arises. See section 7026-1(c) of the Central Guide for more explanation. [DISCOVERY: Resolve Disputes about Discovery Process | Central District of California | United States Bankruptcy Court](#)

# 16	Participating in the Court's Loan Modification Management Program
	<p>Our court has a program for debtors who own real property that is at risk of foreclosure. It is called the "Loan Modification Management Program" because there is a company that manages a portal where documents are submitted and stored. The short term for the program is "LMM Program." The purpose of the program is for lenders and debtors to work together in a supervised manner to hopefully avoid the foreclosure process.</p> <p>A debtor whose case is assigned to Judge Bluebond may participate in the LMM program. See section 3-10 of The Central Guide for the LMM procedures and LMM forms. Special Tab: LOAN MODIFICATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p>

# 17	Court Mediation Program vs. Judicial Settlement Conferences
	<p>The Bankruptcy Court's Mediation Program was created in coordination with local bar associations to help parties involved in a bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding to resolve their disputes for free or at low cost. The mediation program is available to parties who voluntarily agree to participation in mediation or who are ordered to participate in mediation by a judge within the Central District of California. The applicable procedures and forms may be found in section 1-14 of the Central Guide: MEDIATION Program: Alternate Dispute Resolution Central District of California United States Bankruptcy Court</p> <p>Judge Bluebond may be willing to serve as a settlement judge over disputes presided over by other bankruptcy judges if the circumstances are such that the bankruptcy court's mediation program is not likely to produce a settlement. You may request that Judge Bluebond serve as a settlement judge in a matter pending before another judge by emailing her chambers at chambers_sbluebond@cacb.uscourts.gov or by calling 213-894-8980 or 213-894-8981. Please include in your message the names of the parties involved, a brief summary of the dispute, the case or adversary proceeding number(s), the name of the judge before whom the matter is pending, an estimate as to the likely length of the mediation, the time frame within which the mediation needs to occur and why the matter requires the services of a settlement judge rather than a panel mediator.</p>