

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE JUDGE JULIA W. BRAND DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. VIDEOCONFERENCING HEARINGS

To mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), all hearings before Judge Brand will be conducted remotely using ZoomGov until further notice.

a. ZOOMGOV

Hearing participants and members of the public may view and listen to hearings before Judge Brand using ZoomGov free of charge. Video and audio connection information for each hearing will be provided on Judge Brand's publicly posted hearing calendar, which can be viewed online at: <http://ecf-ciao.cacb.uscourts.gov/CiaoPosted> and going to "Select Judge" Julia W. Brand to see the Court's Tentative Rulings Viewing Calendar.

Individuals may appear by ZoomGov **video and audio using a personal computer** (equipped with camera, microphone and speaker), **or a handheld mobile device** (such as an iPhone). Individuals may participate by ZoomGov **audio only using a telephone** (standard telephone charges may apply). Neither a Zoom nor a ZoomGov account are necessary to participate and no pre-registration is required.

b. JUDGE'S COPIES NOT REQUIRED

Judge Brand will suspend compliance with LBR 5005-2(d) (requiring Judge's copies) until further notice. Judge Brand will re-evaluate the situation at a later date. Please do not send any papers to Judge Brand's chambers, as they will not be accepted.

2. EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS PROCEDURES

Judge Brand is extending the requirement that all evidentiary hearings be conducted by telephone or videoconferencing until further notice. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California continues to closely monitor the national and local response to COVID-19 virus.

Pursuant to Rule 43(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Federal Rules"), made applicable here by Rule 9017 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure ("Bankruptcy Rules"), the current COVID-19 pandemic provides "good cause in compelling circumstances" to conduct all evidentiary hearings remotely, through the use of telephonic and videoconferencing technologies, with Judge Brand's preferred method being via videoconferencing.

Thus, Judge Brand shall hold a hearing to determine whether the use of videoconferencing is reasonably available for use in all prospective evidentiary hearings. Judge Brand will periodically review the situation to determine whether "good cause in compelling circumstances" continues to exist for possible extension of authority to

conduct the evidentiary hearings remotely. However, if Judge Brand determines that an in-person evidentiary hearing is required to ensure either due process of law or due to lack of videoconferencing technologies by any party in interest, Judge Brand may conduct the evidentiary hearing in a manner that complies with local public health guidance.

Judge Brand finds that the procedures adopted herein will provide “adequate safeguards” for purposes of Federal Rule 43(a) and ensure due process of law.