



## **United States Bankruptcy Court**

**Central District of California**  
Roybal Federal Building & Courthouse  
255 East Temple Street, Suite 1460  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**PETER H. CARROLL**  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

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### **RECOGNITION OF *PRO BONO* VOLUNTEERS IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In honor of National *Pro Bono* Celebration week, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, recognizes the extraordinary efforts of the attorneys serving self-represented filers. The Central District of California has the largest population of self-represented parties of any bankruptcy court in the nation. Attorneys that volunteer are helping those facing substantial economic hardship (and often language barriers) to navigate through the bankruptcy process. These attorneys serve an area of extreme need, providing vital services, advice, and in some cases legal representation for qualifying individuals. The service provided by these attorney volunteers greatly benefits the Court and all of its litigants, regardless of income level.

The volunteer efforts recognized include *pro bono* service in one or more of the following areas: self-help desks, Reaffirmation Agreement clinics, chapter 7 clinics, consumer debt clinics, bankruptcy seminars concerning filing requirements and the different chapters of bankruptcy, and legal representation for qualifying cases. A brief description of the varied programs forming this network of assistance for self-represented parties within the Central District of California follows the honor roll listing.

The Court thanks each of the following Honor Roll of *Pro Bono* Volunteers for their current and continued support in serving the self-represented parties in our district.<sup>1</sup>

**PETER H. CARROLL, CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

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<sup>1</sup> The attached Honor Roll lists the names of the volunteers from the previous 12 months provided by each organization. The list will be updated quarterly to add any new volunteers emailed to [HonorRoll@cacb.uscourts.gov](mailto:HonorRoll@cacb.uscourts.gov). The volunteer organizations are to review the list each September and email the Honor Roll address with any names that are to be removed for the annual update.

United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California

**2012 Honor Roll of *Pro Bono* Volunteers**



National Pro Bono Celebration  
October 21 - 27, 2012

**Public Counsel's Debtors Assistance Project  
Chapter 7, Adversary Proceeding & Reaffirmation Hearing Volunteers**

<i>Faye Barta</i>	<i>Marisa H. Hawkins</i>	<i>Carolyn Olson</i>
<i>Ethel Bennett</i>	<i>M. Jonathan Hayes</i>	<i>Shai Oved</i>
<i>Nan Blitman</i>	<i>Carmel Herr</i>	<i>Leonard Pena</i>
<i>Cliff Bordeaux</i>	<i>Keith Higginbotham</i>	<i>Monica Reider</i>
<i>Mark E. Brenner</i>	<i>Gail Higgins</i>	<i>Todd Roberts</i>
<i>Laura Buchanan</i>	<i>David Jacobs</i>	<i>R. Grace Rodriguez</i>
<i>Amber Burroff</i>	<i>Travis Kasper</i>	<i>Lauren Ross</i>
<i>Chris Cantore</i>	<i>Jeff Katz</i>	<i>Natella Royzman</i>
<i>Corey Carter</i>	<i>Kari Keidser</i>	<i>Mark Ruszecki</i>
<i>Ellen Cheney</i>	<i>Mary Kenney</i>	<i>Natalie Ryan</i>
<i>Michael D'Alba</i>	<i>Jim King</i>	<i>Allan Sarver</i>
<i>Lesley Davis</i>	<i>Ilyse Klavir</i>	<i>Darren Schlecter</i>
<i>Shawn Eldridge</i>	<i>Nancy Korompis</i>	<i>Salvatore Sciortino</i>
<i>Douglas Flahaut</i>	<i>Michael D. Kwasigroch</i>	<i>Jennifer Skornik</i>
<i>Faith S. Ford</i>	<i>Jonathan Leventhal</i>	<i>Tyson Takeuch</i>
<i>Clemente Franco</i>	<i>Jennifer Li</i>	<i>Marla Tauscher</i>
<i>Roshni Gandhi</i>	<i>Peter Lively</i>	<i>Susana Tolchard</i>
<i>Norma Garcia</i>	<i>Osheen Lucasian</i>	<i>Meghan Triplett</i>
<i>Michael I. Gottfried</i>	<i>Rene Lopez de Arenosa Jr.</i>	<i>Jason Wallach</i>
<i>Mary Grant</i>	<i>Eva Malholtra</i>	<i>Steven Werth</i>
<i>Hillary Grossberg</i>	<i>Susan I. Montgomery</i>	<i>Katherine Windler</i>
<i>Patrick T. Green</i>	<i>Roksana D. Moradi</i>	<i>Steven Wolvek</i>
<i>Daniel Greenbaum</i>	<i>Jason Murai</i>	<i>Marcelle Wong</i>
<i>David S. Hagen</i>	<i>Sandra Nutt</i>	<i>Aleksandra Zimonjic</i>
<i>David Hao</i>	<i>Philomena Nzegge</i>	<i>Roye Zur</i>
<i>Stella Havkin</i>	<i>Yvette Ochoa</i>	

**Los Angeles Bankruptcy Self Help Desk & Clinic Volunteers**

<i>Francisco Acosta</i>	<i>Roshni Gandhi</i>	<i>Shawn Mitchell</i>
<i>Danny Agai</i>	<i>Norma Garcia</i>	<i>Brian Murray</i>
<i>Ismael Aliyev</i>	<i>Mary Elizabeth Grant</i>	<i>Jack Nguyen</i>
<i>Lenny Alzate</i>	<i>Terry Huttayananont</i>	<i>Sandra Nutt</i>
<i>Michael Avanesian</i>	<i>Tamala Johnson</i>	<i>Lynda Padilla</i>
<i>Armen Avidissian</i>	<i>Steven Greenstein-Katz</i>	<i>Eumir Perez</i>

*Steven Baron  
James Beirne  
Nan Blitman  
Raffy Boulgourjian  
Henry Broome  
Thomas Bruder  
Chris Cantore  
Imelda Cerillo  
Laura Claveran  
Jason Derman  
Chike Emenike  
Sheldon Eskin  
Charles Evans  
Michelle Fernandez  
Clemente Franco*

*Curt Harrington  
Travis Kasper  
Jeffrey Katz  
Bert Kawahara  
Paul Kelly  
Sujin Kim  
Anna Korte  
Annie Krikorian  
Mary Lenahan  
Jennifer Li  
Caelo Marroquin  
Mando Macayaon  
Lindsay McMenamin  
Kim McReynolds Bell  
Neeta Menon*

*Robert Reganyan  
Natalie Ryan  
Sal Sciortino  
Elizabeth Sutlian  
Marla Tauscher  
Emmanuel Vargas  
Carolyn Walter-Burch  
Larry Webb  
Justin Wilson  
Katherine Windler  
James Witmond  
Marcelle Wong  
Delmas Woods  
Hedy Zhang*

#### **San Fernando Valley Division Self-Help Desk Volunteers**

*Anil Bhartia  
Nan Bitman  
Mark Brenner  
Daniel Greenbaum  
David Handel  
M. Jonathan Hayes*

*Marlene Hemmings  
Gail Higgins  
James King  
Ilyse Klavir  
Jonathan Leventhal  
Roksana D. Moradi*

*Jennifer Phan  
Natalie Ryan  
Pat Said  
Larry Webb  
Joel Wilde*

#### **Bet Tzedek Legal Services Debtors' Rights and Bankruptcy Program Volunteers**

Student and Graduate Volunteers:

*Robert Babajouni  
Mark Bolin  
Merle Gould  
John Joy*

*Gagan Khan  
Limor Mojdehiazad  
Joshua Wodka  
Jonathan Zweig (Graduate)*

Paralegal Volunteers:

*Tim Christian*

Attorney Volunteers:

*Arthur Wilner*

#### **Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County Consumer Debt Clinic Volunteers**

*Luis Esparza  
Carissa Horowitz*

*Jean Lynn  
Casey Nelson  
Reed Olmstead*

*Monica Robles  
Randy Sutter*

#### **Santa Barbara County Bar Association Reaffirmation Hearing Volunteers**

*William Beall  
Eric Burkhardt  
David Commons  
Karen Grant*

*Jonathan Gura  
Carissa Horowitz  
Robert Hurlbett  
Janet Lawson*

*Reed Olmstead  
Susan Salehi  
Peter Susi*

#### **Public Service Law Corporation (Riverside) Volunteers**

*Kimari Brody  
Ryan Carrigan  
Solomon A. Chejfer  
Raul Garcia  
Misty Isaacson*

*Justin Kirk  
Chris Langley  
Dennis E. McGoldrick  
Rogelio Morales  
Yvette Z. Morris*

*Tonya Rodriguez  
Mark Schnitzer  
Ricky Shah  
Manfred Schroer  
Scott Talkov*

*Marjorie Johnson  
J. Ray Kelley  
David Kerr*

*Shirley Ogata  
William Radcliffe  
Ian Rodriguez*

*Eli Underwood  
Martha Warriner  
Jamie Wrage*

**Orange County Bar and Public Law Center Volunteers**

*Alisa Admiral  
Anerio Altman  
Alexandra Armstrong  
Jayson Aquino  
Sara Babadi  
Dan Bane  
Shilpa Bhalan  
Will Bollard  
Laily Boutaleb  
Brad Calvin  
Lawrence Carter  
Anthony Castillo  
Andrew Cho  
Tal Castro  
Sergio Chaidez  
Steven Chang  
Joan Chyun  
Jennifer Connor  
Jeff Diamond  
Shawn Dickerson  
Robert Driessen  
Doug Ecks  
Shawn Eldridge  
Michael Feeney  
Bruce Fink  
Parisa Fishback  
Ian Flatley  
Ken Fox  
Alan Friedman  
Bernard Frimond  
Selene Geoppo  
Rob Goe  
Kathleen Goldberg  
Richard Green  
John Grieffendorf  
Jason Guyser  
Kate Heidbrink  
Nida Henderson  
Halli Heston  
Richard Heston  
Matthew Holbrook*

*Jeffrey Hsu  
Xipeng Huang  
Alaa Ibrahim  
Misty Perry Isaacson  
Nina Javan  
Jessica Johnson  
Cory Jones  
Michael Jones  
Mark Karpe  
Les Kaufman  
Bridget Kelly  
Shirley Kenninger  
Jai Kim  
Jihee Kim  
Soon Kim  
Andrew Klimkowski  
Leslie Klott  
Uliana Kozeychuk  
Adrienne Lee  
Doug Luther  
Kristen Lu  
Kerri Lyman  
Aaron Malo  
Ed Malpass  
Keith Maneet  
Ginger Marcos  
Stan Markov  
Alan Martin  
Jame Mascaro  
Michael McGee  
Craig McLaughlin  
Harlene Miller  
Neda Mobassery  
Erin Moriarty  
Tullo Mumtaz  
Anthony Patrick Munoz  
Rami Nabi  
Raihana Niazi  
Barbara Su-Yin Ngo  
Hieu-Tony Ngo  
Michael Obradovitch*

*Sean O'Connor  
Stephen Olear  
Nancy Pham  
Roger Plasse  
Jared Powell  
Michael Porras  
Michelle Prescott  
Mohammed Qazi  
Tina Rad  
Peter Rasla  
Daniel Ratajczak  
Peter Recchia  
Karel Rocha  
Derik Roy  
Bobbie Ross  
Paula Schaefer  
Mary Schewatz  
Bethany Schramm  
Elizabeth Scott  
Fate Shenasan  
Josephine Sioson  
Roshele Snyder  
Arthur Stockton  
Michael Stoltzman  
Mark Swirt  
Firasat Tar  
Raphaela Taylor  
Bella Thompson  
Ava Tien  
Krystina Tran  
Fermin Valencia  
Anurita Varma  
Hieu Vu  
Peter Vu  
William John Wall  
Michael Wallin  
Andy Warshaw  
Andy Yun  
Kerry Zeiler  
Kelly Zinser  
Pamela Zylstra*

Student Volunteers:

*Elizabeth Alocer  
Wanli Chen  
Abby Hess*

*Jeremy Ficarola  
Timothy Rout  
Chris Taylor*

## **Programs for Self-Represented Parties at the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court**

### **Los Angeles Division:**

The Debtor Assistance Project (DAP) began as the Court's first effort to make *pro bono* programs available to the public within its geographic area. In the Los Angeles Division alone, the DAP places between 75-100 chapter 7 cases and adversary proceedings with *pro bono* counsel each year. It has become the umbrella committee and resource for projects throughout the district for all self-represented parties. The DAP is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section and the Public Counsel Law Center. It works closely with a number of other legal clinics throughout the district to provide free legal services to qualifying debtors and self-help support to all parties in the bankruptcy court. The DAP holds bi-monthly meetings at the Court, bringing together representatives from public interest law firms, volunteer attorneys, chapter 7 and 13 trustee representatives, bankruptcy judges, Clerk's Office, and members of the office of the U.S. trustee. The DAP raises funds and awareness for its programs, provides training for *pro bono* attorneys, and exchanges information on trends and issues related to providing *pro bono* and self-help assistance as well as best practices.

#### **Non-Dischargeability Representation**

Public Counsel locates *pro bono* attorneys for self-represented debtors in non-dischargeability adversary proceedings. A notice is sent by the court advising the debtor to contact Public Counsel if they need assistance. Income screening is then done by Public Counsel before a volunteer attorney is assigned. The attorneys then represent *pro se* debtors in non-dischargeability proceedings.

#### **Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic**

This program provides *pro bono* assistance at Reaffirmation Agreement hearings. Reaffirmation Agreement hearings for participating judges at a particular division are bundled together, usually twice each month. This enables *pro bono* attorneys, coordinated by Public Counsel, to offer debtors information about their rights in a consultation that takes place outside the courtroom before the hearing. Public Counsel has also made arrangements with students from the California State University Los Angeles Interpreter Program to provide Spanish translation services for the Reaffirmation Agreement clinic, both during the attorney consultation and in court.

#### **Self Help Desk**

The Los Angeles Division launched an onsite self-help desk in 2009 that serves the public two days each week. The self-help desk provides self-represented debtors and creditors with chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy information, forms, access to reference material, and provides referrals for additional legal assistance. Income eligible individuals can also attend a chapter 7 self-help clinic. The Los Angeles Division self-help desk is sponsored by Public Counsel, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Association (CDCBAA), and the Los Angeles County Bar Association - Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Subcommittee's Debtor Assistance Project.

### Chapter 7 Representation

Income qualified debtors may receive *pro bono* representation from Public Counsel where volunteer attorneys can be found. As the demand for representation is greater than the availability of volunteers, the self help programs are designed to assist those debtors with simple cases and the ability to represent themselves more effectively. Public Counsel locates attorney volunteers through the CDCBAA, the Los Angeles and San Fernando County Bar Associations, and the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum. Bet Tzedek Legal Services also provides a Debtors' Rights Clinic every six to eight weeks, with priority given to those who are disabled or 55 years of age or older, followed by individual representation where needed. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles also holds regular clinics and assists debtors in preparing their cases for filing on their own.

### **Riverside Division:**

The Public Service Law Corporation of the Riverside County Bar Association offers limited free legal services and bankruptcy seminars for *pro se* debtors located in the area served by the Riverside Division. The Court made space available at the Riverside Division for the Public Service Law Corporation to provide *pro bono* and self-help services. In a joint effort, the District Court and the Bankruptcy Court plan to open a self-help desk in November of 2011.

### Non-Dischargeability Defense

The Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum has provided non-dischargeability defense on a limited *ad hoc* basis when it can locate volunteer attorneys.

### **Santa Ana Division**

#### Legal Clinic

The Santa Ana Division has a weekly onsite legal clinic operated by Public Law Center that provides free legal advice for self-represented parties in chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Public Law Center also provides *pro bono* representation in chapter 7 cases with attorneys from the local bar, when available. The legal clinic is co-sponsored by the Orange County Bar Association, Orange County Bar Association – Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, and the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum. Orange County Legal Aid also holds a weekly chapter 7 clinic and assists debtors in filing on their own if it is a no asset case.

#### Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic

The Santa Ana Division has a Reaffirmation Agreement clinic similar to the one in Los Angeles. The clinic is operated by the Public Law Center with volunteers from the local bar.

#### Non-Dischargeability Defense

The Public Law Center has provided non-dischargeability defense on an *ad hoc* basis when it can locate volunteer attorneys.

## **Northern Division**

### **Consumer Debt Clinic**

Serving Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, a consumer debt clinic was formed and began operation in 2009 in Lompoc before moving to the Northern Division in 2010. The clinic is operated by the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC). Volunteer staff attorneys are available twice each month to answer questions about individual consumer debt issues. Volunteer staff attorneys also answer questions by parties who attend the self-help clinic.

### **Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic**

The Santa Barbara County Bar Association arranges for volunteer attorneys to meet with self-represented debtors before each Reaffirmation Agreement hearing.

## **San Fernando Valley Division**

### **Self Help Desk**

The San Fernando Valley Division opened the Court's first onsite self-help desk in 2007. The self-help desk is operated by Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Association, and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Self-represented debtors and creditors are assisted one day a week. *Pro bono* attorneys from the two bar associations hold weekly seminars and provide free legal information on bankruptcy. Topics commonly covered include bankruptcy filing requirements, the difference between chapter 7 and chapter 13, and where to find a bankruptcy attorney. The self-help desk also provides computers for debtors to view "Bankruptcy Basics" videos in addition to other videos regarding key principles of bankruptcy.

### **Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic**

The San Fernando Valley Division judges also participate in the Reaffirmation Agreement program operated by Public Counsel (see Los Angeles Division for more details). More recently, the San Fernando Valley Division has partnered with California State University Los Angeles and California State University Northridge to make Spanish translation services available at Reaffirmation Agreement hearings at no cost.

### **Non-Dischargeability Representation**

Public Counsel locates *pro bono* attorneys for self-represented debtors in non-dischargeability adversary proceedings in the same manner as that done in Los Angeles.

### **Chapter 7 Representation**

Income qualified debtors may receive *pro bono* representation from Public Counsel where volunteer attorneys can be found as part of the same program serving the Los Angeles Division. Bet Tzedek Legal Services also provides representation to individuals with a priority to those who are disabled or 55 years of age or older.