



**PETER H. CARROLL**  
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

## **United States Bankruptcy Court**

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

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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

**2013 Honor Roll of *Pro Bono* Volunteers**



National Pro Bono Celebration  
October 20 - 26, 2013

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

<i>Carolyn Afari</i>	<i>Eliza Ghanooni</i>	<i>Lisa Oh</i>
<i>Andrew Aholtz</i>	<i>Michael I. Gottfried</i>	<i>Carolyn Olson</i>
<i>Martin Barash</i>	<i>Daniel Greenbaum</i>	<i>Shai Oved</i>
<i>Faye Barta</i>	<i>David S. Hagen</i>	<i>Leonard Pena</i>
<i>James Beirne</i>	<i>Stella Hawkin</i>	<i>Monica Reider</i>
<i>Sanaz Bereliani</i>	<i>Marisa H. Hawkins</i>	<i>Todd Roberts</i>
<i>Nan Blitman</i>	<i>M. Jonathan Hayes</i>	<i>R. Grace Rodriguez</i>
<i>Cliff Bordeaux</i>	<i>Carmel Herr</i>	<i>Selena Rojhani</i>
<i>Mark E. Brenner</i>	<i>Keith Higginbotham</i>	<i>Lauren Ross</i>
<i>Laura Buchanon</i>	<i>Gail Higgins</i>	<i>Allan Sarver</i>
<i>Christopher D. Cantore</i>	<i>Jeff Katz</i>	<i>Zev Schechtman</i>
<i>Ellen Cheney</i>	<i>Jim King</i>	<i>Paul Anton Schiffin</i>
<i>Laura Claveran</i>	<i>Ilyse Klavir</i>	<i>Salvatore Sciortino</i>
<i>Joseph Collier</i>	<i>Jonathan Leventhal</i>	<i>Evelina Shpolyansky</i>
<i>Natalie Daghandan</i>	<i>Peter Lively</i>	<i>Jennifer Skornik</i>
<i>Lesley Davis</i>	<i>Osheen Lucasian</i>	<i>Marla Tauscher</i>
<i>Michael DeLaney</i>	<i>René López de Arenosa Jr.</i>	<i>Meghan Triplett</i>
<i>Aaron de Leest</i>	<i>Eva Malholtra</i>	<i>Thomas Ure Jason</i>
<i>Suzette Douglas</i>	<i>Richard E. McGuire</i>	<i>Wallach Steven</i>
<i>Shawn Eldridge</i>	<i>Susan I. Montgomery</i>	<i>Wolvek Regina</i>
<i>Douglas Flahaut</i>	<i>Roksana D. Moradi</i>	<i>Zeltser Aleksandra</i>
<i>Faith S. Ford</i>	<i>Jason Murai</i>	<i>Zimonjic Roye Zur</i>
<i>Norma Garcia</i>	<i>Philomena Nzegge</i>	

Law Graduate Volunteer(s): *Matthew Baker, J.D.*

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

<i>Danny Agai</i>	<i>Michelle Fernandez</i>	<i>Kathryn Parry</i>
<i>Michael Avanesian</i>	<i>Clemente Franco</i>	<i>Patrick Parsa</i>
<i>Armen Avedissian</i>	<i>Roshni Gandhi</i>	<i>Eumir Perez</i>
<i>Marlon Baldomero</i>	<i>Richard Garber</i>	<i>Laurae Rossi</i>
<i>Edwin Barnum</i>	<i>Norma Garcia</i>	<i>Natalie Ryan</i>
<i>Steven Baron</i>	<i>Mary Elizabeth Grant</i>	<i>Paul Schiffin</i>
<i>Elissa Barratt</i>	<i>Stephen Greenstein-Katz</i>	<i>Sal Sciortino</i>
<i>Jim Beirne</i>	<i>Curt Harrington</i>	<i>Peter Selawsky</i>
<i>Judith Benson</i>	<i>Travis Kasper</i>	<i>Eveylina Shpoylansky</i>
<i>Nan Blitman</i>	<i>Jeffrey Katz</i>	<i>Whitney Snyder</i>
<i>Raffy Boulgourjian</i>	<i>Paul Kelly</i>	<i>Marla Tauscher</i>

*Sean Breaux  
Thomas Bruder  
Christopher D. Cantore  
Laura Claveran  
Dolisa Colley  
Sheldon Eskin  
Charles Evans*

*Jennifer Li  
Lindsay McMenamin  
John Melissinos  
Shawn Mitchell  
Arpi Mnatsakanyan  
Sandra Nutt  
Lisa Oh*

*Holly Trief  
Joshua Valero  
Carolyn Walter-Burch  
Katherine Windler  
Marcelle Wong*

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

*Anil Bhartia  
Nan Blitman  
Mark Brenner  
Lindsey Green  
M. Jonathan Hayes  
Gail Higgins*

*Yi Sun Kim  
James King  
Ilyse Klavir  
Jonathan Leventhal  
René López de Arenosa Jr.  
Gustavo Mendoza*

*Roksana D. Moradi  
Todd Roberts  
Pat Said  
James Tenner*

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

Attorney Volunteers:	<i>Harrison Flanagan Mark Gordon</i>	<i>Arthur Wilner Jonathan Zweig</i>
Additional Volunteers:	<i>Tim Christian Karen Getelman Merle Gould John Joy Elizabeth Kim Gagan Khan</i>	<i>Natalie Minev Limor Mojdehiazad Faramarz Nabavi Christian Ochoa Kathryn Podsiadlo Kenneth Star</i>

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

<i>Misha Barto Carissa Horowitz Casey Nelson</i>	<i>Reed Olmstead Monica Robles Ann Rycroft</i>	<i>Natalie Spilborghs Randall Sutter</i>
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Paralegal Volunteer(s): *Jean Lynn  
Leo Santana*

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

<i>William Beall Eric Burkhardt David Commons Karen Grant Jonathan Gura</i>	<i>Carissa Horowitz Robert Hurlbett Janet Lawson Casey Nelson Reed Olmstead</i>	<i>Susan Salehi Natalie Spilborghs Peter Susi</i>
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**Public Service Law Corporation (Riverside) Volunteers**

<i>Ryan S. Carrigan Smith &amp; Carrigan</i>	<i>Amelie A. Kamau Dwight M. Kealy</i>	<i>Scott Talkov Reid &amp; Hellyer</i>
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*Andrea Darrow Smith  
Smith & Carrigan*

*Mark Schnitzer  
Reid & Hellyer*

*Eric Tweten*

*Ruben Escalante  
Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton,  
LLC*

*Manfred Schroer*

Student Volunteer:

*Sherwin Nam  
UC Santa Barbara*

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

*Anerio Altman  
Nora Aponte-Woodring  
Laily Boutaleb  
David Boyle  
Richard Brunette  
Brad Calvin  
Paul Cambio  
Jeffrey Cancilla  
Steve Cardoza  
Cathrine Castaldi  
Dan Chambers  
Christina Chan  
Steven Chang  
Daniel Cornelious  
Jeff Crowe  
Caroline Djang  
Brian Dow  
Alyssa Dowding  
Angelo DuPlantier  
Robert Farrell  
Joshua Finkelstein  
Erin Fitzgerald  
Aimee Flanagan  
Elizabeth Fleming  
Ken Fox  
Alan Friedman  
Bernard Frimond  
Rob Garretson  
Selene Geoppo  
J Victor Giongco  
Rob Goe  
Kathleen Goldberg  
Ronald Gomez  
Jacqueline Gottlieb  
Mark Gordon  
Christian Graham  
Michael Green  
Richard Green*

*John Grieffendorf  
Jason Guyser  
Cara Hagan  
James A. Hayes, Jr.  
Arnold Hernandez  
Halli Heston  
Richard Heston  
Matthew Holbrook  
Misty Perry Isaacson  
Michael Jones  
Mark Karpe  
Les Kaufman  
Bridget Kelly  
Leslie Klott  
Casey Koone  
Kristine Kyllander  
Elizabeth LaRocque  
Debby Le  
Adrienne Lee  
Sonia Linnaus  
Doug Luther  
Solida Ly  
Kerri Lyman  
Anthony Madu  
Aaron Malo  
Alan Martin  
Lynn Matus-Collins  
Michael McMahon  
Jennifer McNabb  
Jessica Mercado  
Angela Mestre  
Harlene Miller  
Anthony Modarelli  
Alexandra Morgan  
Amir Nader  
Esther Ngounly  
Joann Nguyen  
Rosemary Nguyen*

*Ashleigh Noda  
Henry Nunez  
Sean O'Connor  
Carolyn Olson  
Angelica Ornelas  
Brian Owens  
James D. Perry  
Fred S. Peters  
Gary Polston  
Tina Rad  
Stephanie Ramirez  
Peter Rasla  
Daniel Rios  
Constance Rogers  
Fatima Saleh  
Mohammad Saleh  
Filemon Kevin Samson  
Bruce Schweitzer  
Sheniece Smith  
Michael Spector  
Mark Swirt  
Steve Swytak  
Raphaela Taylor  
Robert Taylor  
M. Silvina Tondini  
Krystina Tran  
Lydia Tse  
Adanna Ukah  
Fermin Valencia  
Eric Vinje  
Michael Wallin  
Bruce White  
Eric Wilson  
Jeff Wong  
Kelly Zinser  
Pamela Zylstra*

Law Graduate Volunteers:

*Joe Boniwell  
Violeta Ebert  
Tu Richard Nguyen*

*Matt Rosene  
Ed Wunch*

Law Student Volunteers:

*Skye Anderson  
Uche Anene  
Adib Assassi  
Christopher Campbell  
Jeremy Ficarola  
Tiffany Full  
Samantha Goates  
Gregory Gomez  
Jackie Hamilton  
Leah Kaufman  
James Miller  
Myrna Miranda  
Ranika Morales*

*Sasha Nichols  
Katherine Riley  
David Root  
Timothy Rout  
Alexander Selman  
Blake Slater  
Wismick St. Jean  
Jordan Tessier  
Leslie Tos  
Brian Trinidad  
Vince Vuong  
Thomas Worger  
Ryan Wong  
Sirena Wu*

Paralegal Volunteers:

*Lori Gauthier  
Ganna Gudkova*

*Suzie Gulshan  
Jermone Mabry*

## **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 45-50 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, the Consumer Debt and Bankruptcy Clinic was formed and began operation in 2009 in Northern Santa Barbara County before moving to the Northern Division in 2010. The clinic is sponsored by the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC) and is held once a week in the Northern Division Clerk's office. Volunteer attorneys are available during the clinic to answer questions about individual consumer debt issues. A Bankruptcy Resource Center is also open during clinic hours to provide bankruptcy reference materials and forms.

### **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.