

United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California

Theodor C. Albert, Chief Judge  
Kathleen J. Campbell, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court



## INVESTITURE OF JUDGE MAGDALENA REYES BORDEAUX

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, the investiture of the Honorable Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux was held in Courtroom 303 in the Riverside Division. U.S. Marshal David M. Singer gave the opening of court, after which members of Judge Reyes Bordeaux's family led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell called the calendar. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Theodor C. Albert and Chief District Judge Philip S. Gutierrez welcomed the distinguished judges and agency heads in attendance. The ceremony was attended by over 150 of Judge Reyes Bordeaux's family, friends, and associates.



Chief District Judge Gutierrez noted that the bench in the Riverside Division now reflects the face of the community that it served, as Judge Reyes Bordeaux became the first Latina appointed to the bankruptcy bench in the Central District of California. Chief Judge Albert provided an overview of Judge Reyes Bordeaux's impressive background, highlighting her decades-long career helping members of the public and how this experience will be a valuable asset to the Court.

Judge Reyes Bordeaux earned her B.A. in 1992 from U.C. Irvine, and in 1997 received her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, where she served as the managing editor of the UCLA Journal of Law & Technology. She practiced bankruptcy law for over 22 years, most recently as a senior supervising staff attorney with Public Counsel. Judge Reyes Bordeaux served as an appointed member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Executive Committee, was an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School, and has written numerous articles on bankruptcy issues including two articles which made the cover of Los Angeles Lawyer Magazine.

After Chief District Judge Gutierrez administered the oath, Judge Reyes Bordeaux was enrobed by her mother, husband, and daughter. Remarks were then delivered by Judge Maureen A. Tighe, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Hernan D. Vera, and attorneys Robert Marticello and Leigh E. Ferrin. Their remarks touched on the historic nature of Judge Reyes Bordeaux's appointment, her commitment to public service and helping those in need, her tireless work ethic, and strong leadership abilities.

In her closing remarks, an appreciative Judge Reyes Bordeaux gave her heartfelt gratitude to all who supported her throughout her career, mentioning her family, friends, and colleagues. Judge Reyes Bordeaux also thanked Court staff for assisting in the preparation of the ceremony and thanked everyone who traveled from near and far to attend her investiture ceremony.

A reception followed the ceremony at the outdoor courtyard space of the Riverside Division.

Court News is published by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California as an informational service for the practitioners and public of our Court.

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please email us at [editor@cacb.uscourts.gov](mailto:editor@cacb.uscourts.gov).

This issue and back issues of the Court News are available on the Court's website at <http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/publications>

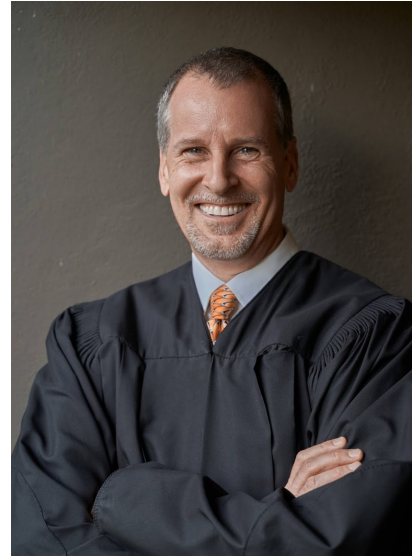
## JUDGE NEIL BASON PROFILED IN DAILY JOURNAL

On February 28, the Daily Journal published a profile of Judge Neil Bason. The article, by Sunidhi Sridhar, describes Judge Bason's rise to the bench, transparent approach in handling cases, and careful consideration of the law while maintaining an efficient courtroom.

The profile briefly follows Judge Bason's path to judgeship, including practicing as special counsel at Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin PC in San Francisco and clerking for U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali in the Northern District of California. Bankruptcy law runs in the family, as Judge Bason's father George F. Bason Jr., was a federal bankruptcy judge for the District of Columbia. "I'm so grateful to my parents because many fathers will have a little competition with their sons and my dad was never like that," Bason reflected. "Always encouraging, both my parents."

Judge Bason facilitates a transparent approach including uploading a guide to his past rulings on various issues. "Things that I didn't think were worth publishing because I'm not breaking any new ground but [attorneys] can better prepare for what they want to argue and how they want to argue it," Bason explained.

Attorney Brian L. Davidoff appreciates the businesslike approach Judge Bason takes to matters, while being able to move the cases forward expeditiously. Nancy B. Clark of Borowitz & Clark LLP said she admires Bason's patience with those who appear before him. "He listens attentively to all arguments and ... is very knowledgeable of the law," said Clark. "Most of all, he is always kind and thoughtful."



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## COURTROOM OF THE FUTURE COMPLETED AT ROYBAL COURTHOUSE

State-of-the-art technology and intuitive audio-visual control systems have been added to all bankruptcy courtrooms in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse as part of the Courtroom of the Future (COTF) project. The effort is in accordance with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California's (CACB) goal to provide modern infrastructure that support trends and advancements in evidence presentation, digital audio recording of the official court record, telephonic and video conferencing, assistive listening and general flexibility in courtroom useability. The updated courtrooms now feature high-definition video conferencing, an upgraded audio system for optimal in-room and FTR sound quality, a video display system for the presentation of both paper and electronic exhibits (with annotation capabilities), assistive listening devices, and a central interface (control panel) that houses all available audio and visual functions.

To learn more about the audio-visual features implemented during the courtroom modernization, please review the pamphlet at the following link: <https://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/sites/cacb/files/documents/publications/Courtroom-of-the-Future.pdf>.

Tours are now available. Please contact the court Audio Visual department if you are interested in a one-on-one training session or group training. Training inquiries should be directed to either 213-894-TECH (8324) or by emailing [courttech@cacb.uscourts.gov](mailto:courttech@cacb.uscourts.gov).

Your feedback is important to us. If you have appeared in person or utilized the new technology in the courtrooms in the Los Angeles division in the last year, please consider completing this survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/nvW8PH9gJ8>

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## UPGRADE TO NEXTGEN CM/ECF 1.7.1.1

The United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, is preparing to upgrade NextGen CM/ECF to its latest version, 1.7.1.1. This critical systems upgrade will improve security and system performance. Court staff have been feverishly testing the new system and have worked with external stakeholders to ensure the system will work as expected.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

In conjunction with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the implementation process will begin on Friday, April 14, 2023. The Court will go live with the upgraded system on Tuesday, April 18, 2023.

This upgrade should have no visible changes or significant impact on internal or external users. As a result of the extensive implementation process, NextGen CM/ECF and related automated systems for this Court will be unavailable from 5:00 PM PST on Thursday, April 13, 2023, through 9:00 AM PST on Tuesday, April 18, 2023. Please refer to the public notice for more information.

## CALIFORNIA CENTRAL BANKRUPTCY COURT TO HOST 2023 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY CLERKS (NCBC)

On May 30 – June 2, 2023, the Central District of California will host the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC) in Anaheim. With over 1,000 members, the NCBC is dedicated to the professional development of the Clerks of Court and the deputy clerks of the Federal Judiciary. The 2023 conference will feature an educational program, keynote speakers, annual updates from court leaders and optional off-site activities. The annual event is expected to welcome over 450 Bankruptcy Court clerks, bankruptcy judges and court executives from across the United States, as well as representatives from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.



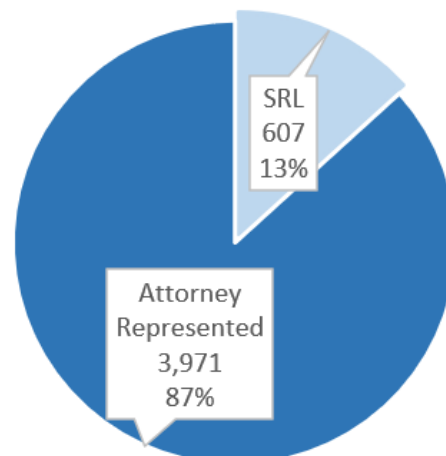
## BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru March 31, 2023. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	1,528	37	406	1,971	6.94%
Northern	198	2	33	233	-7.90%
Riverside	1,044	13	239	1,296	6.22%
San Fernando Valley	328	9	80	417	4.25%
Santa Ana	552	9	99	660	13.40%
Total	3,650	70	857	4,577	6.49%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2023 YTD	225	63	18	306
2022 YTD	239	85	7	331

Central District of CA - Filings YTD



The interactive Statistics Dashboard is a feature on the Court’s website that provides up-to-date filing and closing data for chapter 7, 11, and 13 cases, as well as adversary proceedings. Users can view data sorted by division or from the entire Central District, or they can choose to view only pro se (SRL) or business cases. The Statistics Dashboard also displays year-by-year and month-by-month comparisons; another option compares each month of the current year to the corresponding month of the prior year. Access the “Interactive Statistics” through the link: <https://ecf.cacb.uscourts.gov/ecfstatsdash>

## TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST\*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
AfterShock Comics, LLC	SV-22-11456-MB	11	12/19/22	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Better Nutritionals, LLC.	RS-22-14723-MH	11	12/20/22	\$50 - \$100 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Chinecherem Eze LLC	SV-22-10954-MB	11	08/16/22	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Elite Aerospace Group, Inc.	SA-21-12231-TA	11	09/13/21	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Thomas Vincent Girardi	LA 20-21020-BR	7	12/18/20	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million
Glenroy Coachella, LLC	LA-21-11188-BB	11	02/15/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Alex A. Khadavi	LA-21-14449-BB	11	05/27/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million
Arian Mowlavi	SA-23-10296-ES	11	02/21/22	\$1 - \$10 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Plamex Investment, LLC	SA-21-10958-ES	11	04/14/21	\$100 - \$500 million	\$100 - \$500 million
TRX Holdco, LLC	SA-22-10948-SC	11	06/08/22	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million

\*Based on a combination of asset and liability levels, and/or name recognition.

## BANKRUPTCY FRAUD PROSECUTIONS

The following information has been provided by the Office of the United States Trustee:

### USA v. Mark Handel

On February 23, 2023, former chapter 11 debtor Mark Handel plead guilty to making a false statement in bankruptcy and subscribing to a false tax return. Handel also agreed to forfeit approximately \$3,545,712, which represents the proceeds of the sale of real estate in Alameda County. Handel also agreed to pay the IRS approximately \$1,450,070 in tax liabilities, which includes civil fraud penalties. Handel filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on April 14, 2015. On his schedules and statements, he stated he had no income from 2013 until April 2015. In fact, Handel earned approximately \$2,263,221 in income from DTMM Construction Inc., a real estate development company held in Handel's wife's name. Handel also failed to disclose an interest in real estate in Livermore, California. Handel also failed to disclose approximately \$1,096,175 in additional income on his 2015 tax return and failed to report a total of approximately \$6,886,877 in income on his 2010 to 2017 tax returns. Handel also falsely reported a net operating loss of \$7,259,119 on his 2017 federal income tax return as well as underreported his income on his 2018 tax return by \$1,411,050 and admitted to failing to pay \$460,408 in additional tax. Handel faces a statutory maximum penalty of eight years in federal prison.

### USA v. Howard Dixon Slingerland

On March 8, 2023, Howard Dixon Slingerland, the former president and CEO of a Hollywood-based anti-poverty nonprofit agency and chapter 7 debtor, Youth Policy Institute Inc., pleaded guilty to embezzling and misusing funds from the nonprofit. He also pleaded guilty to one tax charge for failure to report the embezzled funds as income on his tax return. Slingerland faces a statutory maximum sentence of ten years in federal prison on the conversion count and three years in federal prison on the tax count.