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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.

PETER H. CARROLL

Chief Judge

KATHLEEN J. CAMPBELL

Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Please email us at 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>.

Important Updates

Court Website:

- Court Manual
- Public Notices



Public Counsel Senior Staff Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux, Shirley Donovan, Judge Thomas B. Donovan, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, Retired Judge William J. Lasarow, Marilyn Lasarow, Judge Maureen A. Tighe, Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán D. Vera, Judge Sandra R. Klein, and Judge Richard M. Neiter

PUBLIC COUNSEL HOSTS LASAROW AWARDS, HONORING VOLUNTEERS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

On Thursday, November 21, Public Counsel, one of the nation's largest *pro bono* law firms, hosted the annual William J. Lasarow Awards ceremony in the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse in Los Angeles. Public Counsel hosts the annual awards ceremony and reception to recognize volunteers serving the *pro se* bankruptcy population throughout the Central District of California.

For the 12-month period ending September 30, the Central District led the nation in *pro se* filings with 21,097, representing over 21 percent of all *pro se* filings nationally. The Central District's *pro se* filing rate of 25.5 percent is nearly three times the national average of 8.8 percent. Without the services of *pro bono* volunteers who staff the Self-Help Desks in each of the five divisions, self-represented parties would not receive essential guidance on bankruptcy law and advice on how best to obtain an effective resolution to their cases.

Retired Bankruptcy Judge William J. Lasarow, District Judge George H. Wu, and Bankruptcy Judges Neil W. Bason, Catherine E. Bauer, Julia W. Brand, Thomas B. Donovan, Sandra R. Klein, Robert N. Kwan, Richard M. Neiter, and Maureen A. Tighe joined over 100 guests at the gala event. Senior Staff Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux and Public Counsel President and CEO Hernán Vera opened the ceremony, followed by Bankruptcy Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, who congratulated all the volunteers and noted the significance of receiving a distinguished award in Judge Lasarow's name. Judge Zurzolo also noted that despite a decline in the number of filings in the Central District, the percentage of *pro se* filings remains steady at over a quarter of total filings, underscoring the significant need for volunteers to assist self-represented parties.

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NOTICE OF ENTERED ORDER AND SERVICE LIST NO LONGER REQUIRED; REVISIONS TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2014

Effective January 2, 2014, revisions to the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California's Local Bankruptcy Rules (LBRs) eliminate the Notice of Entered Order and Service List requirement. All LBR form orders have been revised to remove the Notice of Entered Order and Service List. The revised LBRs also clarify responses to motions and dismissal of motions; add a procedure for a creditor or debtor to follow when a filed document mistakenly contains a personal identifier; clarify practice for motions and contested matters, and motions and matters determined without additional notice and without a hearing; and clarify the standard for hearings on less than 48 hours' notice. Section 4 and Appendix F of the Court Manual have also been revised. For more information, please see Public Notices 13-022, 13-023, 13-024 and 13-025.

For more information, visit our web site at www.cacb.uscourts.gov.

COURT CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1—
New Year's Day

Monday, January 20—
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 17—
Presidents' Day



Accessing Court Information by Twitter

The Court has been posting to its Twitter account for over two years now, and has sent over 1,400 different tweets to more than 500 followers. The Court posts announcements, Notices of Sale, Public Notices, and other timely information.

You do not need a Twitter account to view the Court's tweets—just click on the Twitter logo on the home page of the Court's website (www.cacb.uscourts.gov). The postings are arranged in chronological order, making it easy to quickly catch up with what is going on at the Court. If you have a Twitter account, you can use this free service to follow us @cacbnews.

WEBSITE FEEDBACK

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California continues to enhance its website based on feedback from users. Please let us know your thoughts about what is working well and what could be improved at www.cacb.uscourts.gov/contact.

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Each of the five organizations operating Self-Help Desks in the Central District honored an outstanding volunteer during 2013. The honorees were: for Public Counsel in Los Angeles, Jim King; for the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County in the Northern Division, Carissa Horowitz; for the Public Service Law Corporation in the Riverside Division, Scott Talkov; for the Public Law Center in Santa Ana, Leslie Keith Kaufman; and for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County in the San Fernando Valley, Anil Bhartia. The combined efforts of these organizations and their volunteers were instrumental in helping the Court improve access to justice and service to the public during 2013, and they are greatly appreciated.

CALVIN ASHLAND AWARDS DINNER

On Thursday, November 14, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association (CDCBAA) hosted the largest-ever Calvin Ashland Awards Dinner at the LA Hotel Downtown. Among the crowd of 170 in attendance were Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll and Bankruptcy Judges Ernest M. Robles, Maureen A. Tighe, Theodor C. Albert, Robert N. Kwan, Scott C. Clarkson, Sandra R. Klein, and Neil W. Bason; Clerk of Court/Executive Officer Kathleen J. Campbell; and U.S. Trustee Peter Anderson.

Jeffrey Golden, named Trustee of the Year for 2013, became the first Chapter 7 Trustee ever to win the award. Bankruptcy attorney Jim King received the Founder's Lifetime Achievement Award for his efforts in support of the consumer bar, the Court, Public Counsel Law Center's Debtor Assistance Project (DAP), and *pro bono* organizations.

In his speech, Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll celebrated CDCBAA's extraordinary efforts in supporting the DAP and *pro bono* organizations. Public Counsel attorneys Maggie Bordeaux and Christian Cooper joined him to accept a check for the proceeds from CDCBAA's Fifth Annual Earle Hagen Memorial Golf Tournament. The 2013 event raised \$29,231.35 for the DAP, bringing the total amount the event has raised over the past five years to more than \$130,000.



Attorneys Maggie Bordeaux, Christian Cooper, and Jim King with Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll



Founder's Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Jim King and Trustee of the Year Jeffrey Golden

BOARD OF JUDGES PRESENTS AWARD TO ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY EVAN DAVIS

At the Board of Judges meeting on December 6, Judge Sandra R. Klein presented an award from the Court to Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Davis for his successful prosecution of the foreclosure scam artist Glen Alan Ward. Mr. Ward pleaded guilty to charges stemming from his 15-year foreclosure scheme, involving over 800 properties and more than 400 bankruptcy cases, that included bankruptcy fraud and identity theft. Mr. Ward promised homeowners that he could stave off foreclosure for a fee of \$700 per month. Once he received the fee, Mr. Ward convinced the distressed homeowner to transfer a tiny interest in the house to an unrelated debtor. He would then present the automatic stay to the lender to stop the foreclosure sale. After Mr. Ward had fled to Canada, where he continued to engage in misconduct, federal agents and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police worked in a coordinated effort to locate and arrest him. Citing the need to accumulate information to build a case of this type, Mr. Davis encouraged the judges to refer any compelling cases to him.



Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Davis, and Judge Sandra R. Klein

JUDGE BARRY RUSSELL RECEIVES 2013 WILLIAM L. NORTON JR. JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

On Friday, November 1, Judge Barry Russell received the William L. Norton Jr. Judicial Excellence Award at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) in Atlanta, Georgia. The award, established by Thomson/West Publishing and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), is "given annually to a bankruptcy judge, based upon a career of lifetime achievement, who has distinguished himself or herself as an educator, writer, or scholar." The Norton Award is presented annually to a bankruptcy judge at the NCBJ's Friday ABI luncheon, where Thomson Reuters also presents a check for \$10,000 in the recipient's name to the education endowment funds of ABI and NCBJ. In their announcement of this year's award, the Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law, Inc. cited Judge Russell's "[exemplary] leadership and scholarship contributions to bankruptcy law for the past 40 years."

NEW LOCATION FOR OFFICE OF U.S. TRUSTEE

On Monday, January 13, the Offices of the U.S. Trustee in Los Angeles and Woodland Hills will reopen at a new location in downtown Los Angeles:

Office of the United States Trustee
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1850
Los Angeles, California 90017
Phone: (213) 894-6811

The Los Angeles office, currently located on Figueroa Street, will hold its final 341(a) meetings on Thursday, January 9. The Figueroa Street office will be closed to the public on January 9 and 10. On Tuesday, January 14, 341(a) meetings will resume on the 10th floor of the new location.

In Woodland Hills, 341(a) meetings will remain at their current location until further notice. The Woodland Hills office will be closed to the public as of January 8. Neither location will process mail or deliveries received during the closures until the new office opens on January 13.

JUDGES BLUEBOND AND KLEIN ADDRESS ABI CONFERENCE

Judges Sheri Bluebond and Sandra R. Klein spoke at the American Bankruptcy Institute's 25th Annual Winter Leadership Conference, held during the first week in December at the Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes. Judge Bluebond participated in a panel called "Plan Support Agreements/Pre-Arranged Cases" which included practitioners from across the country. Judge Bluebond's panel discussed the use of plan support agreements, their impact on non-signatories, disclosure and solicitation issues, lessons learned from recent cases, and the applicability of plan support agreements in middle-market cases. Judge Klein participated in a panel that included Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judge Eugene R. Wedoff of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and Judge Gregg W. Zive of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada, who also assists with cases in this district. Judge Klein's panel, which was titled "Do's and Don'ts of Written Advocacy," provided guidance for effective and persuasive written advocacy at both the trial and appellate levels.

BANKRUPTCY ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

On December 13, the Los Angeles chapter of the Federal Bar Association held the 10th Annual Bankruptcy Ethics Symposium at the Roybal Federal Building and Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Featured speakers at the three-and-a-half hour MCLE program included Judges Ernest M. Robles and Deborah J. Saltzman, along with attorneys Gillian N. Brown, J. Scott Bovitz, M. Erik Clark, Christie L. Cronenweth, Evan A. Jenness, Stella A. Havkin, David W. Meadows, and David A. Tilem.

Judge Robles and attorneys Cronenweth, Tilem, Clark, and Brown presented "Pre-Bankruptcy Planning: 20 Shades of Gray," a review of the rules in federal and California state law that govern bankruptcy attorneys' conduct. The panel used hypothetical situations in which attorneys might find themselves to discuss relevant portions of Titles 11 and 28 of the U.S. Code, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the state's Rules of Professional Conduct, and the State Bar Act.

Judge Saltzman and attorneys Bovitz and Meadows presented "Technology Tips and Trapdoors." After a brief review of those sections of the [Court Strategic Plan](#) that address technology, the panel discussed a number of IT-related issues, including the current state of courtroom technology at District Court, the use of hyperlinks in court filings, and the new ethical risks that cloud computing has created for lawyers. The morning session also included a conversation about ethics with attorney Jenness. In the afternoon, two optional presentations followed: "Substance Abuse" with Dr. Alex Yufik of the State Bar of California and "Elimination of Bias" with attorneys Kenneth D. Sulzer and Julia Brodsky.

NEW LIVE CHAT FEATURE IN CM/ECF:

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California has launched an online live chat program for registered users of CM/ECF. The program allows customers to instant message court representatives for answers to case-specific questions and for help finding frequently requested forms, motions, and orders. Live chat is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding federal holidays and other published court closures. Click the chat icon on the CM/ECF homepage to contact a representative.

CM/ECF TIPS

Dictionary Update Reminders:

Effective December 1, in accordance with the change to Bankruptcy Rule 1007(b)(7), the Court created the new event codes "Personal Financial Management Certificate for Debtor" and "Personal Financial Management Certificate for Joint Debtor." These new events will be used *only* by approved Financial Management Course Providers to file certificates on behalf of debtors and joint debtors, respectively.

Official Form 23, "Debtor's Certification of Completion of Instructional Course Concerning Financial Management," was revised on December 1. The Court modified the event to read "Financial Management Course Certification for Debtor" and "Financial Management Course Certification for Joint Debtor." The form includes instructions that the debtor should complete and file Official Form 23 *only* if an approved provider of a post-petition instructional course *has not* already notified the Court of the debtor's completion of the course by filing the certificate. Please refer to revised Official Form 23.

Top 20 Cases of Interest Filed in the Last 24 Months*

Allied Industrial Inc.

SV-13-11948-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 03/21/13, Assets \$13 million and Liabilities \$7 million. No updates.

American Suzuki Motor Corp.

SA-12-22808-SC, Chapter 11, Filed 11/05/12, Assets \$100-\$500 million and Liabilities \$100-\$500 million. 1) Motion to Extend Time / Notice of Motion and Debtor's Motion to Extend Time to File Claim Objections filed 12/13/13. 2) Objections to claims hearings continued to 1/16/14 and 2/13/14.

ARI-RC6, LLC (Lead), ARI-RC 12, LLC, ARI-RC 14, LLC, ARI-RC 21, LLC, ARI-RC 23, LLC

SV13-14678-AA, (LEAD); SV13-14697-AA, SV13-14692-AA. SV13-14604-AA, SV13-14695-AA, Chapter 11, Filed 07/15/13, Assets \$10-\$50 million and Liabilities \$10-\$50 million. Status hrg. to be held on 1/15/14 @10:00 am.

A & S Booksellers, Inc.

SV-12-10392-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 01/13/12, Assets \$0.01- 0.05 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Motion for Relief from Stay filed 11/13/13. Hearing set for 12/4/13.

AWTR Liquidation Inc. fka Rhythm and Hues, Inc.

LA-13-13775-NB, Chapter 11, Filed 02/13/13, Assets \$10- \$50 million and Liabilities \$50-100 million. Order entered on 12/12/13 granting objection of debtor to claim No. 38 filed by General Electric Capital Corporation.

Bethal Healthcare Inc.

SV-13-12220-GM, Chapter 11, Filed 04/01/13, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status Conference Held 9/17/13. Motion for Relief from Stay filed 11/26/13. Hearing set for 12/17/13.

Beverly Hills Antiques, Inc. c/o D. K. Gottlieb

SV-12-21028-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 12/26/12, Assets and Liabilities unknown. No updates.

City of San Bernardino

RS-12-28006-MJ, Chapter 9, Filed 08/01/12. Assets and Liabilities \$1,000 + and Liabilities \$1,000 +. Status conference on chapter 9 voluntary petition set for 1/22/14. Motion for rejection of collective bargaining agreements with Public Employees Assoc. and SB Police Officers Assoc., and SB Firefighters Assoc. set for 1/22/14. Motion for relief from stay re: grievance and related procedures filed by SB Police Officers Assoc. set for 1/22/14. Motion for relief from stay filed by SB Professional Firefighters Assoc. set for 1/22/14. Status conference on complaint by City of San Bernardino against Jose Munoz set for 3/6/14.

CLK Human Resources, LLC

RS-13-19002-MW, Chapter 11, Filed 05/21/13. Assets \$0.01- 0.05 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Chapter 11 Status Conference continued to 1/16/14. Monthly Operating Report #5 for the month ending September 2013 was filed 11/1/13.

Gamma Medica-Ideas (USA), Inc.

SV-12-17469-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 08/20/2012. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Motion to Convert Case from Ch. 11 to 7 filed on 10/24/13. Hearing set on 12/19/13.

Halsey M. Minor

LA-13-23787-TD, Chapter 7, Filed 05/24/13, Assets \$50-100 million and Liabilities \$50-100 million. Hearing for Motion for Relief from Stay regarding real property at 822 Sarbonne Road, Los Angeles is set for 1/9/14 at 10:00 a.m.

Hamlet Group Inc.

SV-13-12398-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 04/05/2013, Assets \$500,001-\$1 million and Liabilities \$1-\$10 million. Order Granting Motion for Relief from Stay, entered on 11/25/13. Motions for Relief from Stay filed on 11/12/13 & 11/14/13. Hearings set for 12/4/13 & 12/11/13.

Internet Specialties West, Inc. a CA Corp.

SV-12-20897-GM, Chapter 11, Filed 12/18/12, Assets \$13 million and Liabilities \$5 million. No updates.

KSL Media Inc. (Lead Case) Jointly Administered with TV 10's LLC - SV13-15930-AA and Fulcrum 5, Inc. - SV 13-15931-AA

SV-13-15929-AA, Chapter 11, Filed 9/11/13, Assets \$10- \$50 million and Liabilities \$50-100 million. Orders granting Applications to Employ Grobstein Teeple Financial Advisors & to Employ Landau Gottfried & Berger LLP, signed 10/25/13. Amended Schedule F filed 11/18/13. Administrative Proofs of Claim due 1/15/14 and Gov't. Proofs of Claim due 5/27/14

Nesbitt Portland Property, LLC; Nesbitt Bellevue Property, LLC; Nesbitt El Paso Property, LP; Nesbitt Denver Property, LLC; Nesbitt Lynnwood Property, LLC; Nesbitt Colorado Springs Property, LLC; Nesbitt Livonia Property, LLC; Nesbitt Blue Ash Property, LLC

ND-12-12883-RR; ND-12-12884-RR; ND-12-12888-RR; ND-12-12889-RR; ND-12-12890-RR; ND-12-12891-RR; ND-12-12894-RR; ND-12-12895-RR, Chapter 11, Filed 07/31/12, Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$100-500 million. No Updates

Point Center Financial Inc.

SA-13--11495-TA, Chapter 11, Filed 1/19/13, Assets \$10- \$50 million and Liabilities \$50-100 million. 1) Case converted to Chapter 7 on 10/28/13. 2) Order Approving Motion of Jeffrey Gomberg For Order Requiring The Trustee To Produce Requested Information Pursuant to Fed R. Bankr P 2004 entered on 12/5/13.

Raymond P. Boucher

SV-12-10052-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 01/03/12, Assets \$5.26 million and Liabilities \$5.51 million. No updates.

Taicom Securities Co., Ltd

SA-12-20383-CB, Chapter 15, Filed 08/31/12, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Order entered on 10/28/13 vacating Order to Show Cause re dismissal.

The Village at Nipomo, LLC

SV-13-13593-AA, Chapter 11, Filed 05/28/13, Assets \$12 million and Liabilities \$10 million. Order Granting Application to Employ John Rossetti Inc dba Rosetti Co Commercial Real Estates, as Broker for the Debtor, entered 11/12/13.

West Covina Motors, Inc.

LA-12-52197-ER, Chapter 11, Filed 12/28/12, Assets \$10- \$50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Trustee's reply in support of motion for order approving stipulation between trustee and the County of Los Angeles re: County's payment for debtor's modification of two vehicles filed on 12/11/13.

*Based on a combination of asset and liability levels, number of creditors, high activity, and/or name recognition.