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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.

## SHERI BLUEBOND

Chief Judge

## KATHLEEN J. CAMPBELL

Executive Officer/Clerk of 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 SHERI BLUEBOND APPOINTED CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

On January 1, 2015, Judge Sheri Bluebond assumed the post of Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California. Judge Bluebond succeeds Judge Peter H. Carroll, who has served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge since 2011. She is the seventh Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District.

Judge Bluebond has served as a bankruptcy judge since 2001. In December 2014, Chief Circuit Judge Sidney R. Thomas announced her reappointment to a second term, effective February 1 of this year. Judge Bluebond received her B.A. from UCLA, graduating *summa cum laude*, and her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law. There, she finished first in her class, served on the *UCLA Law Review*, and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. She became a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy in 2012 and serves on the Executive and Bankruptcy Committees of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Bluebond was a partner at the Los Angeles law firm of Irell & Manella LLP.

The Passing of the Gavel from Chief Judge Carroll to Judge Bluebond will take place on Thursday, January 29 at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena.



## LOS ANGELES BANKRUPTCY FORUM HONORS JUDGE ALAN M. AHART

On December 8, 2014, at the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum's Annual Holiday Party, a tribute was paid to Judge Alan M. Ahart for his retirement after almost 27 years on the bench. The event was co-sponsored by the Financial Lawyers Conference, Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association, Turnaround Management Association SoCal, the Bankruptcy Section of the Beverly Hills Bar Association, and the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Sections of the Los Angeles County Bar Association at Mr. C Beverly Hills in Los Angeles.

Judges Vincent P. Zurzolo, Geraldine Mund, Maureen A. Tighe, Robert N. Kwan, Scott C. Clarkson, Catherine E. Bauer, Sheri Bluebond, Sandra R. Klein, Richard M. Neiter, Julia W. Brand, Scott H. Yun, and Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell attended the gala that included former and present law clerks, Court staff, attorneys, staff from the U.S. Trustee's Office, accountants and other bankruptcy and insolvency professionals. John N. Tedford IV, partner at Danning, Gill, Diamond & Kollitz, LLP and former law clerk to Judge Ahart, presented Judge Ahart with a memento on behalf of all the

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For more information,  
visit our web site at [www.cacb.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov).

## COURT CLOSED

Thursday, January 1—New Year's Day

Monday, January 19—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 16—Washington's Birthday



### Accessing Court Information by Twitter

The Court has been posting to its Twitter account since 2011, and has sent over 2,000 different tweets to more than 600 followers. The Court posts announcements, Notices of Sale, Public Notices, and other timely information. In March, the Court began tweeting judicial opinions.

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](http://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, follow @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](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov)/contact.

sponsoring organizations, as recognition of his contribution to the legal community. Judges Mund and Zurzolo delivered heartfelt speeches that highlighted Judge Ahart as a well-respected colleague and member of the judiciary. In his closing "thank you" speech, Judge Ahart thanked Congress for authorizing the judgeship position in 1988, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit that appointed him, his wife and family, externs and law clerks, and the bar.

Judge Ahart was appointed on April 4, 1988 and reappointed on April 4, 2002. He will be retiring but will serve as a recalled bankruptcy judge beginning on January 2, 2015.

## LASAROW AWARDS

On Thursday, November 20, 2014, Public Counsel's 2013 William J. Lasarow Awards were held in the lobby of the Edward R. Roybal Building and Courthouse in Los Angeles. Public Counsel hosts the annual awards reception to recognize volunteers serving the *pro se* bankruptcy population throughout the Central District.

Based on filing statistics through the end of November 2014, the Central District led the nation in *pro se* filings for the year, with 23.5 percent of petitions filed without an attorney. This far surpasses the national average for *pro se* filings, which is around 8 percent.

Following an opening by Public Counsel's Senior Staff Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux and President and CEO Hernán Vera, Bankruptcy Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo gave remarks at the ceremony. Judge Zurzolo spoke about the significance of gratitude, which, he commented, he was surprised to see absent from the list of cardinal virtues. He encouraged the practice of gratitude as a virtue that transcends religion, and thanked the volunteers for their contributions in assisting hundreds of self-represented parties. Echoing Mr. Vera's and Ms. Bordeaux's remarks, he praised the development of self-help services throughout the district. Retired Judge William J. Lasarow, for whom the award was named, also addressed the audience, stating that he was honored to have the award in his name.

Staff members from each of the five organizations operating Self-Help Desks in the district presented an award to a volunteer serving their organization. The honorees were: Lindsay McMenamin (Public Counsel—Los Angeles Division); Reed Olmstead (Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County—Northern Division); Ryan S. Carrigan (Public Service Law Corporation—Riverside Division); Matthew Rosene (Public Law Center—Santa Ana Division); and Yi Sun Kim (Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County—San Fernando Valley Division). Despite a general decrease in the number of filings, the number of *pro se* filings remains nearly a quarter of total filings in the district, underscoring the benefit to the Court, in addition to the public, provided by the service of *pro bono* volunteers.



Lindsay McMenamin, Ryan S. Carrigan, Judge William J. Lasarow, Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo, Matthew Rosene, Reed Olmstead, Yi Sun Kim

## HEARINGS ON JUDGE AHART'S CASES REASSIGNED EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1

Judge Alan M. Ahart will retire on January 2, 2015. Bankruptcy cases and related adversary proceedings will continue to be assigned to Judge Ahart until the newly selected bankruptcy judge takes the bench at the San Fernando Valley Division in early 2015.

**PAY STUB EVENT CODE**

When curing a Case Commencement Deficiency Notice for paycheck stubs, there is a pay stub event code in CM/ECF Bankruptcy Events. The event code is located under **Bankruptcy → BK → Other → Miscellaneous → Copies of All Payment Advices (pay stubs)**.

It is not necessary to enclose the Debtor's Certification of Employment Income form if it has already been filed, but pay stubs, pay advices, and/or other proof of employment income for the 60-day period prior to the date of filing may be enclosed. The pay stubs should contain the debtor's identifiable information, such as name, address, etc. The personal identifiers, such as social security number, tax payer identification numbers, bank account numbers, birth dates, and names of minor children, must be redacted by the debtor prior to submission.

**Filing a Response to a Motion**

A response must always be linked to an existing motion. When filing a response, you must click on **Bankruptcy** from the blue menu bar and select the following:

**Answer/Response → BK- Reference an Existing motion/application**

CM/ECF will prompt you to select the applicable motion to which your document is related. If the response you intend to file is related to an event other than a motion, you must file it using the generic event code Declaration and enhance the text with your full caption. Using the Declaration event will allow you to link your response to any non-motion document(s) on the docket.

**BK → Other → Declaration**

See example below:

**Declaration** re: Trustee's Response to Informal Comments and Objections of Creditors to recognized claim amounts.

**Filing an Objection, Opposition or Reply**

When filing an **Objection, Opposition or Reply**, you must click on **Bankruptcy** from the blue menu bar and select the following:

**Answer/Response → BK-Reference an Existing motion/Application → Objection**

CM/ECF will prompt you to select the applicable motion, declaration, notice, etc. that relates to your document. For additional information, please phone the ECF Support Desk at (213) 894-2365.

Effective January 1, hearings for Judge Ahart's bankruptcy cases and related adversary proceedings will be held by Judges Geraldine Mund, Maureen A. Tighe, and Victoria S. Kaufman. Bankruptcy cases filed on or prior to December 31, 2014 will be reassigned according to the terminal digit of the case number. Case numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 will be heard by Judge Kaufman, and cases with the terminal digit 2, 4, 6, 8, or 0 will be heard by Judge Tighe. Judge Mund will hear matters for all bankruptcy cases filed on or after January 1, 2015 that are assigned to Judge Ahart, as well as related adversary proceedings.

To schedule a hearing in 2015 for a bankruptcy case or related adversary proceeding assigned to Judge Ahart, please consult the judge's self-calendaring page. Should you have any questions, please contact Judge Ahart's courtroom deputy at (818) 587-2853.

**CHIEF DEPUTY OF OPERATIONS MICHAEL E. ROTBERG RETIRES**

On January 3, Chief Deputy of Operations Michael E. Rotberg will retire. Following a nationwide search, the Court selected Benjamin Varela to fill the position.

Mr. Rotberg retires with over 40 years of service to the federal government. He began working for the Social Security Administration in 1973. His career at the Court began in 1987, when he accepted the position of management analyst. After advancing through a number of positions of increasing responsibility, Mr. Rotberg was promoted to Chief Deputy of Operations in 1996. From September 2009 to February 2010, he served as Acting Clerk of Court.

Mr. Varela brings 18 years of experience in the Clerk's Office to his new position. He joined the Court in 1996, when he began working in the Los Angeles Division as an intake clerk. Since 2002, he has served as Operations Manager at the Santa Ana Division. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from CSU Dominguez Hills, and his MBA from Pepperdine University. Mr. Varela also holds a certificate in Paralegal Studies from the University of West Los Angeles.

**COURT PROVIDES FREE WIRELESS FOR ATTORNEYS AND TRUSTEES**

Since 2007, the Court has provided free wireless internet service for attorneys, trustees, and their support staff in all five divisions in the Central District. The Court manages the network, which is supported by the Attorney Admissions Fund. The network is protected with a WEP key. To avoid degradation in service for the intended users of the network, access is only granted to attorneys, trustees, and members of their staff.

For assistance with connecting to the wireless network, contact the ECF Help Desk in Los Angeles. The ECF Help Desk phone number is (213) 894-2365.



**JUDGE KLEIN ADMINISTERS OATH**

On Tuesday, December 2, Judge Sandra R. Klein administered the oath to the Loyola Law School students who passed the bar exam in July.



## 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. Motion for Relief filed 12/12/14.

**American Suzuki Motor Corp.**

SA-12-22808-SC, Chapter 11, Filed 11/05/12, Assets \$100-\$500 million and Liabilities \$100-\$500 million. Withdrawal of claims #25 and 308 filed 10/15/14. No further action filed.

**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, Adversary ARI-RC112 LLC, et al vs. ARI-RC 9, LLC et al, case 1:14-ap-01200 filed on 11/12/14.

**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 12/9/14 approving stipulation resolving motion for an order disallowing claims filed by the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector.

**Bethal Healthcare Inc.**

SV-13-12220-GM, Chapter 11, Filed 04/01/13, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. 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 continued to 1/15/15. Order entered 12/12/14, approving second stipulation further extending the period within which the City must assume or reject certain unexpired leases of nonresidential real property to and including 6/30/15. Amended order entered 12/11/14, continuing in effect the automatic stay pending final hearing on the motions for relief from automatic stay filed by City of San Bernardino Professional Firefighters Local 891 and San Bernardino Police Officers Assoc. pending final hearings on those motions.

**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. Order entered 11/21/14, continuing chapter 11 status conference to 2/19/15. Status report # 7 filed 10/30/14.

**Georges Marciano, 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.

**Halsey M. Minor**

LA-13-23787-TD, Chapter 7, Filed 05/24/13, Assets \$50-100 million and Liabilities \$50-100 million. 341(a) meeting was continued to be held on 1/16/15 at 1:30 p.m.

**Hamlet Group Inc.**

SV-13-12398-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 04/05/2013, Assets \$500,001-\$1 million and Liabilities \$1-\$10 million. Case closed on 12/5/14.

**HDOS Enterprises**

LA-14-12028-NB, Chapter 11, Filed 02/03/14, Assets \$10-\$50 million - \$1-\$10 million. Order granting motion for Final Decree was entered on 12/3/14.

**Internet Specialties West, Inc. a CA Corp.**

SV-12-20897-GM, Chapter 11, Filed 12/18/12, Assets \$13 million and Liabilities \$5 million. Judge's instruction for entering a discharge in Ch. 11 case filed 11/04/14.

**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. 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. Adversary case 8:14-ap-01284 Notice of federal court of removal of civil action/consolidation filed 10/28/14; Transfer of claims agreement filed 10/30/14; Motion for relief filed 11/17/14 hearing set for 12/9/14 shorting notice; Motion to approve compromise under rule 9019 filed 11/18/14 with hearing set for 12/9/14 @ 11:00 am; Order Granting Chapter 7 Trustee's Motion to disqualify Jeffrey S Benice filed 11/20/14; Motion for relief filed 11/25/14 hearing set 1/6/15 at 10:00 am; Order approving stip. to continue hearing on motion for relief to 1/6/15; Notice of appeal filed 12/4/14 re. Order on Generic Motion, appellant designation due 12/18/14.

**S.B. Restaurant Co. dba's: Elephant Bar Restaurant, Elephant Bar Global Grill Wok Kitchen, Texas S.B. Restaurant Co. of CA, S.B. Restaurant of Missouri Co. S.B. Restaurant Co. of Kansas, LLC S.B. Restaurant Co. of Central Florida, LLC**

SA-14-13778-ES, SA-14-13780-ES, SA-14-13781-ES, Chapter 11, Filed 6/16/14, Assets \$50-\$100 million and Liabilities \$50-\$100 million. Application for compensation filed 11/18/2014, Hearing set First Interim Application 12/22/14 @ 10:00am; Motion for relief from stay hearing continued 1/6/15 @ 9:30 Estate under section 363(b); Order approving stip. among the debtors CM7 Capital Partners LLC; Status report and Certificates of services filed 12/2-4/14; Notice filed on 12/2/14 regarding effectuation of assumption and assignment on non-residential real property leases and request for entry of order filed by debtor.

**Senor Fish**

LA-14-10076-RN, Chapter 11, Filed 01/02/14, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Order entered on 12/15/14 approving compromise of controversy, authorizing sale of certain assets free and clear, and determining this compromise to be in the best interests of the estate and its creditors.

**Taicom Securities Co., Ltd**

LA-12-47423-BB, Chapter 15, Filed 08/31/12, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Case closed on 12/8/14.

**Todd-Soundelux, LLC**

LA-14-19980-SK, Chapter 11, Fileds 5/21/14, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Motion to convert case from Chapter 11 to 7 was filed on 12/16/14.

**The Village at Nipomo, LLC**

SV-13-13593-AA, Chapter 11, Filed 05/28/13, Assets \$12 million and Liabilities \$10 million. No updates.

**West Covina Motors, Inc.**

LA-12-52197-ER, Chapter 11, Filed 12/28/12, Assets \$10- \$50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Hearing set for 1/6/15 at 10:00 a.m. re motion for enforcement of prior orders determining that debtor and its estate have no remaining interest in terminated GM Dealer Sales and Service Agreement.

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