

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.

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LASAROW AWARDS HONOR SELF-HELP DESK VOLUNTEERS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

On Thursday, December 3, Public Counsel hosted its 2015 William J. Lasarow Awards in the lobby of the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. Public Counsel holds the annual awards and reception to recognize volunteers serving the *pro se* bankruptcy population throughout the Central District. Senior Staff Attorney Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux opened the ceremony, thanking the volunteers for their service and highlighting the way the Central District is used as a model for self-help programs across the country.

The Court continues to be among the bankruptcy courts with the highest number of filings in the nation, projecting slightly above 46,000 filings through December for the 2015 calendar year. This year, the total number of *pro se* debtors in the district was over 10,780, based on local court data collected through November 2015. Despite a general decrease in the number of filings nationwide, the number of *pro se* filings in the Central District remains at nearly a quarter of the total filings, underscoring the benefit to the Court, in addition to the public, achieved by the service of *pro bono* volunteers. In her remarks, Chief Judge Bluebond noted that the national average of *pro se* filers is only 9 percent.

Retired Judge William J. Lasarow was among more than 65 guests in attendance, including Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond and Bankruptcy Judges Catherine E. Bauer, Thomas B. Donovan, Sandra R. Klein, Robert N. Kwan, Victoria S. Kaufman, Scott H. Yun and Vincent P. Zurzolo. After a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the shooting that had taken place in San Bernardino one



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For more information,
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COURT CLOSED

Friday, January 1—New Year’s Day

Monday, January 18—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, February 15—Washington’s Birthday

SELF-HELP DESKS’ HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Bankruptcy Self-Help Desks, assisting individuals who have decided to file bankruptcy without an attorney, will have the following modified schedules during the holiday season:

- Los Angeles will be closed from December 15, 2015 through January 10, 2016.
- Riverside will be closed on December 24, 2015 and on December 31, 2015.
- Santa Ana will be closed from December 21, 2015 through January 5, 2016.
- San Fernando Valley will be closed from December 18, 2015 through January 6, 2016.
- Northern Division will be closed from December 18, 2015 through January 7, 2016.

For information about the regular hours for each Self-Help Desk, please see the [Don’t Have an Attorney](#) page at the Court’s website.



Accessing Court Information by Twitter

The Court has been posting to its Twitter account since 2011, and has sent over 2,700 different tweets to more than 650 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). 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/contact.

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day earlier, Judge Zurzolo also spoke. He talked about the need to show compassion and love as the best response to a tragic event, and said that the work of *pro bono* attorneys was a fitting example of “showing compassion and love” to the community. He also praised the partnership between the Court and its *pro bono* community, based on a shared commitment to serving the population of the Central District.

Each of the five organizations operating Self-Help Desks district-wide honored an outstanding volunteer for 2015. The honorees were: for Public Counsel in Los Angeles, W. Sloan Youkstetter; for the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County in the Northern Division, Uchechi Egeonuigwe; for the Public Service Law Corporation in the Riverside Division, Ruben Escalante; for Public Law Center in Santa Ana, Philip Metzinger; and for Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County in the San Fernando Valley, Gail Higgins. The volunteers shared personal stories from their experiences as volunteers, and spoke about the lasting satisfaction they have gained from giving back to the community through *pro bono* service.

REVISED LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4

The Board of Judges has approved the following revised Local Bankruptcy Rules that will become effective on January 4, 2016:

- LBR 2016-2: chapter 7 trustee disbursements.
- LBR 2090-1: limited scope of representation.
- LBR 3015-1: chapter 13 trustee distributions upon conversion/dismissal.
- LBR 9013-1: express or implied consent to Bankruptcy Court’s entry of final order or judgment.
- Technical corrections, e.g.: LBR 1000 series, LBR 4001-2, LBR 7000 series, LBR 8000 series, LBR 9000 series.

To view the revised rules and a summary of the revisions, visit the Court’s [Local Bankruptcy Rules webpage](#).

JUDICIAL PROFILE OF JUDGE JURY PUBLISHED

The September issue of the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association’s (CDCBAA’s) newsletter features a profile of Judge Meredith A. Jury. The article, coauthored by CDCBAA President Nancy B. Clark and attorney Renee Sawyer Blume, takes an in-depth look at Judge Jury’s career, focusing on her perspective as a woman in professions that have been historically dominated by men. Beginning with the judge’s childhood in Valparaiso, Indiana, where her mother’s observation of the Golden Rule was a formative influence, the profile follows her path to the bench. A *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Colorado, Judge Jury earned master’s degrees in Economics and Education before enrolling in law school. In 1974, while studying law at UCLA, Judge Jury began working at Best Best & Krieger as a summer law clerk; by 1976, the firm had made her its first female associate. She went on to become the firm’s first female partner and the managing partner of its office in Ontario, California.

It was at Best Best & Krieger that, at the suggestion of her mentor at the firm, Judge Jury learned the new bankruptcy law established by the passage of the Bankruptcy

When to File a Motion to Reopen a Bankruptcy Case

A motion to reopen a bankruptcy case should be filed only when the bankruptcy case has been closed. The case docket must be reviewed to verify that the case is closed prior to filing this motion. If the "Motion to Reopen" event code is used to file the document and the case is still open, users will still be required to pay the appropriate filing fee.

When to File the Debtor's Certification of Completion of Postpetition Instructional Course Concerning Personal Financial Management

Official Form 423 should be completed and filed only if the financial provider has not already notified the Court of the debtor's completion of the course by filing the certificate. For chapter 7 filings, this form and/or the certificate must be filed within 60 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors. Additionally, a separate form is required for each debtor. The event code to file this document is located under:

Bankruptcy -> BK - Other -> **Certification about a Financial Management Course for Debtor 1 (Official Form 423)**

Bankruptcy -> BK - Other -> **Certification about a Financial Management Course for Debtor 2 (Official Form 423)**

If this form is not filed within the allotted time period, the clerk will be required to notify the debtor that the case will be closed without entry of a discharge.

For questions or additional information, please contact the ECF Help Desk at (213) 894-2365.

Reform Act of 1978. "His recommendation was that I needed a niche," Judge Jury remembers. "I needed something that would make me different than the other litigators at the firm for partnership reasons. So, it was at his recommendation that I learned the new law. I knew more about it the day it became effective than most of the lawyers that had been practicing for a long time. It was a very different law. I appeared in front of Judge David Naugle about ninety percent of the time. And he was happy to have a woman in his courtroom. He recognized that I knew the new law and the other attorneys did not. So, I had a leg up."

Though she says she never planned to be a judge, colleagues encouraged her to apply for judicial appointments in the Inland Empire, first at District Court and then at Bankruptcy Court. The Ninth Circuit appointed Judge Jury to her first term on the bench in November 1997. In the wide-ranging discussion of her judicial career that concludes the profile, Judge Jury discusses making the transition from representing creditors and trustees to adjudicating cases; her pragmatic approach to chapter 13s; the City of San Bernardino's ongoing chapter 9 case; being the senior bankruptcy judge in the Riverside Division; and the importance of family.

JUDGES CLARKSON AND BARASH PARTICIPATE IN ABI'S WINTER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The American Bankruptcy Institute held the 27th Annual Winter Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from Thursday, December 3 through Saturday, December 5. On Friday afternoon, Judges Clarkson and Barash took part in the "Supreme Court Round-Up." During this "round and round" program, 11 bankruptcy judges from across the country visited conference-goers' tables to discuss recent Supreme Court decisions with groups of nine or fewer. On Saturday morning, Judge Barash also sat on the "Judges' Hot Topics" panel.

REVISED OFFICIAL BANKRUPTCY FORMS AND NOTICES IMPLEMENTED DECEMBER 1, 2015

Over 100 revised Official Bankruptcy Forms and notices became effective nationwide December 1, 2015. Implementing a new version of the Court's case management system to accommodate the change was a huge undertaking for the Clerk's Office; it impacted chambers, Operations, Information Technology, Communications, and the public. The Clerk's Office began issuing multiple email blasts to ECF filers, posted two public notices and posted a webpage with information in advance so that attorneys, trustees, forms software providers, and other members of the public could prepare for December 1. The Court's webpages contain [new petition packages](#), revisions to [section two of the Court Manual](#) on requirements for case commencement documents, and a [video overview with links to additional information](#). Technical glitches in CM/ECF during the live implementation were few and were quickly resolved. Clerk's Office staff will issue deficiency notices when outdated case commencement forms are filed on or after December 1, 2015. Check with your software provider to ensure you are filing the current versions of the forms. Please direct questions to the ECF Help Desk at ECF_Support@cacb.uscourts.gov or (213) 894-2365.

Top 20 Cases of Interest*

Anna's Linens, Inc.

SA-15-13008-TA Chapter 11, Filed 06/14/2015, Assets \$50-100 million and Liabilities \$100-500 million. Monthly operating report #6 for the month ending 11/26/15 filed on 12/16/15.

AtheroNova Operations (FKA: Z & Z Medica Holdings, Inc), (Lead Case)

Jointly Administered with AtheroNova, Inc. SA15-11053-ES SA-15-11051-ES, Chapter 11, Filed 03/25/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Order to show cause why BK case should not be dismissed or converted and continuing status conference to 2/6/16 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 5A.

AVT, Inc.

RS-15-14464-MW, Chapter 11, Filed 05/01/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. 12/1/15 amended Schedule B (Official Form B6B) - personal property; amended Schedule E; amended statement of financial affairs; and amended voluntary petition; Exhibit A to voluntary petition, filed by debtor; motion for continued use of East West Bank's cash collateral pursuant to the stipulation filed by debtor. Hearing 12/22/15 @ 2 p.m.; Monthly Operating Report #7 for Month Ending 11/30/15.

Battle Creek Conservation Ventures, LLC

SV-15-11683-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 05/13/2015. Assets \$10- 50 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Motion to dismiss debtor hearing continued to 1/7/16 at 11 a.m. Status conference continued to 1/7/16 at 11 a.m.

Brake Madness, Inc.

SV-15-13766-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 11/13/15, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status conference continued to 1/5/16 at 1:30 p.m. Motion to dismiss case for abuse filed by creditor Key Man Capital LLC. Hearing to be held on 1/5/16 at 1:30 p.m.

Carson Civic Center Property, LLC

SV-15-11573-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 05/04/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Order dismissing case filed 12/1/15.

CBA 54, LLC

SV-15-13429-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 10/14/15. Assets \$1-50 million. Status and case management conference hearing to be held on 12/17/15 at 9:30 a.m.

Choa Dayton, LLC

SV-15-13447-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 10/15/15. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status and case management conference hearing to be held on 12/17/15 at 9:30 a.m. Order granting application to employ Blake Lindemann as counsel for debtor in possession filed 12/14/15.

DigitalSound Production Services Inc.

SV-15-13952-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 11/30/15. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. 341(a) meeting to be held on 1/6/16 at 10 a.m. Status conference to be held on 1/5/16 at 1:30 p.m. Order granting emergency motion of debtor for entry of an order (1) authorizing, but not requiring, debtor to pay prepetition (A) wages, salaries, and other compensation, (B) employee medical, workers' compensation and similar benefits, and (C) reimbursable employee expenses; and (2) authorizing and directing applicable banks and other financial institutions to receive, process, honor, and pay checks presented for payment and to honor fund transfer requests (LBR 2081-1(a)(6)) filed 12/4/15. Second interim order regarding emergency motion of debtor for entry of interim and final orders: (A) authorizing the debtor to borrow money secured by property of the estate pursuant to 11 USC 364(c)(1) & (2) and 364(d); (B) authorizing use of cash collateral; (C) granting adequate protection for use of prepetition collateral; and (D) granting related relief (11 USC 363 and 364; Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001) filed 12/14/15.

Freedom Communications Inc. AKA: Orange County Register

SA-15-15318-MW, Chapter 11, Filed 11/01/15. Assets \$10 million and Liabilities \$10 million. Order extending time to file schedules to 12/21/15.

Laurel Canyon MK2 LLC

SV-15-11763-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 05/19/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Order on motion to compel the performance of Houston Apartment Holdings, LLC under the settlement agreement entered into prior by both parties was denied without prejudice on 11/24/15.

Local Corporation, a Delaware Corp. DBA Local.com Corporation

SA-15-13153-SC, Chapter 11, Filed 06/23/2015, Assets \$10- 50 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$50 million. Monthly operating report #6 for the month ending 11/30/15 filed on 12/17/15.

Malibu Associates, LLC

ND-15-10477-DS, Chapter 11, Filed 03/10/2015. Assets \$50-100 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Hearing re: motion to convert case from chapter 11 to chapter 7 continued to 1/7/16 at 1:30 p.m.

MediaShift, Inc. jointly administered with Ad-Vantage Networks, Inc.

LA-15-25024-SK, LA-15-25030-SK, Chapter 11, Filed 09/30/2015, Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Hearing on 12/16/15 at 10 a.m. for debtor's emergency motion for entry of an order (1) approving stipulation for use of cash collateral (2) authorizing the limited use of cash collateral on an interim basis pending a final hearing pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §363 (3) granting replacement liens as adequate protection (4) setting a final hearing and (5) granting related relief.

Morgan Drexen

SA-15-12278-CB, Chapter 11, Filed 04/30/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. This case converted to chapter 7 on 6/19/2015. Order granting Chapter 7 Trustee's motion approving settlement with landlord, the Irvine Company.

Net Data Centers, Inc.

LA-15-12690-BB, Chapter 11, Filed 02/23/2015. Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Professional fee statement for the month of November 2015 was filed on 12/9/15.

Picture Car Warehouse, Inc.

SV-15-13495-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 10/20/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status and case management conference hearing to be held on 12/17/15 at 9:30 a.m. Order granting in part, denying in part, ex parte motion for reconsideration of order on debtor's emergency motion for order (i) authorizing debtor in possession to use cash collateral and (ii) turnover of estate property filed 11/18/15. Cash collateral hearing continued to 1/7/15 at 1 p.m.

Stage Coach Venture, LLC

SV-15-13471-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 10/18/15. Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. 341(a) meeting continued to 1/7/16 at 9:30 a.m. Status conference hearing to be held on 1/14/16 at 1 p.m.

The Beaumont Group LLC, a California limited liability company. DBA: First Street Storage

SA-15-13344-SC, Chapter 11, Filed 07/01/2015. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Status conference and case management conference hearing continued to 1/7/16 at 11 a.m., Courtroom 5C.

Wrightwood Guest Ranch, LLC

RS-15-17799-SC Chapter 11, Filed 08/05/15, Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status conference continued to 1/12/16 @ 1:30 p.m.; amended disclosure statement filed by debtor 12/4/15; amended chapter 11 plan filed by debtor 12/4/15; monthly operating report #3 for month ending 11/30/15.

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