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UNITED STATES
BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT
OF CALIFORNIA

Court News



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In Memoriam Hon. William J. Lasarow 1922-2016

The Hon. William J. Lasarow passed away on November 18, 2016 at the age of 94. Judge Lasarow was appointed to the bankruptcy bench in the Central District of California in 1973 and reappointed in 1986. He served as chief judge from 1978 to 1990 and on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel as one its first members from 1979 to 1982. He retired in 1992 and continued to serve in a recalled capacity until 1994.

Judge Lasarow is credited with raising awareness of the need for *pro bono* representation of some bankruptcy filers. In recognition of his efforts, Public Counsel established the annual William J. Lasarow Awards, which honor bankruptcy *pro bono* volunteers. Judge Lasarow continued to be actively involved in the court's *pro bono* program for many years and attended annual awards receptions until 2015.

Judge Lasarow resided in Studio City, California, and is survived by his wife of many years, Marilyn. Cards for the Lasarow family may be sent to the Executive Officer/Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell at 255 E. Temple Street, Suite 1260, Los Angeles, CA 90012, for forwarding.

LASAROW AWARDS HONOR *PRO BONO* VOLUNTEERS IN CENTRAL DISTRICT

On the evening of Thursday, November 10, Public Counsel hosted the 2016 William J. Lasarow Awards in the lobby of the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Los Angeles. Named after the beloved bankruptcy judge from the Central District, the annual awards honor the service of *pro bono* volunteers. A little over a week after the ceremony, on November 18, Judge Lasarow passed away. He was 94.

Over 50 guests were welcomed by Public Counsel Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Maggie Bordeaux, whose opening remarks discussed the way *pro bono* attorneys have helped clients and the Court by protecting vulnerable individuals. Attorneys, court staff, and judges were in attendance, including Chief District Court Judge Virginia A. Phillips, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond, and Bankruptcy Judges Vincent P. Zurzolo, Ernest M. Robles, Thomas B. Donovan, Robert N. Kwan, Deborah J. Saltzman, Sandra R. Klein, Julia W. Brand, and Martin R. Barash.

Several keynote speakers made remarks to recognize the volunteers. Public Counsel President and CEO Margaret Morrow spoke about the importance of the time and effort volunteers spend to ensure bankruptcy filers have the opportunity to get a fresh start. She noted that the volunteers play a critical role in ensuring access to justice while also helping to streamline court proceedings and guard against fraud and abuse in bankruptcy cases. Chief Judge Bluebond spoke about Judge Lasarow's distinguished career serving on both the bench and on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, and the way he laid the groundwork for the Court today. Chief Judge Bluebond also stressed the importance of volunteers,



Maggie Bordeaux



Judge Vincent P. Zurzolo

especially in the Central District, which handles 15 percent of the nation's *pro se* bankruptcy filings. Bankruptcy Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell also reflected on Judge Lasarow's service to the Court and emphasized the positive impact that volunteers made in 2015, serving approximately 4,900 visitors districtwide. She noted that during the same year the Court took in 11,395 *pro se* filings, comprising 25 percent of the Court's filings. Data from a to a national work measurement study in which the Court participated this fall reflected that *pro se* cases take almost three times as much clerical effort as attorney-represented cases. Ms. Campbell said that the Court's partnership with *pro bono* volunteers enables the Clerk's Office to operate more efficiently.

For each division's self help desk, awards were presented to volunteers by representatives from the *pro bono* organization sponsoring that location. Award winners included the following attorneys: Brian Brumfield (Los Angeles Division/Public Counsel's Debtor Assistance Project), Christopher Gautschi (Northern Division/Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County), Christian Uchechukwu Anyiam (Riverside Division/Public Service Law Corporation), Lydia Tse (Santa Ana Division/ Public Law Center), and Nan Blitman (San Fernando Valley Division/ Neighborhood Legal Services). Each recipient present spoke about the personal satisfaction gained from assisting bankruptcy litigants with resolving questions about their bankruptcy cases.

COURT CLOSED

Monday, January 16— Martin Luther King Day

Monday, February 20— George Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)



Accessing Court Information by Twitter

The Court has tweeted over 3,300 times since 2011, and its Twitter account has nearly 700 followers. The Court tweets announcements, Notices of Sale, Public Notices, and other timely information. In March 2015, 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.

In addition to the volunteers being honored, three other special awards were presented by Judge Zurzolo and Ms. Bordeaux. First, Judge Zurzolo presented the Lasarow Founders Award to attorneys Jeffrey Krause and Thomas Wolper. Judge Zurzolo spoke about the way the *pro bono* effort has grown as a result of the founders' efforts: it began with non-dischargeability defense but now includes everything from assistance at reaffirmation hearings to helping debtors to determine whether to file at all. When accepting their awards, Mr. Krause and Mr. Wolper also expressed their support for the way the *pro bono* effort has grown since its inception. Ms. Bordeaux presented a surprise award to Hon. Thomas B. Donovan in honor of his extraordinary



career and contributions to the bankruptcy community. Ms. Bordeaux spoke of Judge Donovan's intelligence, compassion, and temperament, and described his background: his time as a competitive golfer, service in the army, career in private practice, and eventual appointment to the bankruptcy bench. Judge Donovan accepted his award by distinguishing his service from that of the volunteers, noting that he gets paid, and he "was just doing his job."

COURT LAUNCHES LOAN MODIFICATION MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM

On December 5, the Court introduced a pilot program to manage loan modifications involved in bankruptcy cases. The Loan Modification Management Program (LMM) is designed to function as a forum for debtors and creditors to reach a consensual resolution when a debtor's property is at risk of foreclosure. Judges Bason, Brand, Yun, Bauer, and Barash are currently participating in the LMM pilot. For more information regarding LMM procedures and required LMM forms, please visit the Court's <u>website</u> and click on <u>Loan Modification Pilot Program</u>.

REASSIGNMENT OF NORTHERN DIVISION CHAPTER 7 AND 13 CASES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3

Effective January 3, 2017, Judge Deborah J. Saltzman's Northern Division chapter 7 cases and related adversary proceedings will be reassigned to Judge Peter H. Carroll. Also effective January 3, Judge Peter H. Carroll's Northern Division chapter 13 cases and related adversary proceedings will be reassigned to Judge Deborah J. Saltzman.

To schedule matters on Judge Carroll's or Judge Saltzman's calendars, please refer to their <u>self-calendaring instructions</u> on the <u>Court's website</u> or call (805) 884-4873. Please note that the judge's initials following the bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding numbers of the reassigned bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings shall be changed to reflect the reassigned judge.

If you have any questions, please call (805) 884-4873.

REVISIONS TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3

The Board of Judges has revised the Court's Local Bankruptcy Rules (LBRs). The following revised LBRs become effective January 3, 2017:

- LBR 1001-1(f) and LBR 9011-3(c): to address Pham BAP Opinion (CC-14-1342).
- LBR 1006-1(a): revised to track FRBP 1006.
- LBR 1007-1(a): revised to track FRBP 1007.
- LBR 2016-2(d): revised to increase tax preparer flat fee from \$750 to \$1,000.
- LBR 3017-1(a): revised to reflect FRBP 2002(b)(1) change, from 25 days to 28 days, for notice of deadline to object to disclosure statement (plus an additional 14 days pursuant to LBRs).
- LBR 4001-1(c): revised to require additional service for motions requesting relief applicable in future cases.

The revised LBRs, and a redline summary of the revisions, are available on the <u>Local Bankruptcy</u> <u>Rules</u> page of the <u>Court's website</u>.



POWER LUNCH BRINGS 50 STUDENTS FROM LA PUENTE VALLEY REGIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAM TO COURT

On November 9, the Court hosted a Power Lunch for approximately 50 students from the La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program. Students met with approximately 40 judges, special guests, and lawyers to learn about the law and the legal profession.

Participating judges included Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond; Bankruptcy Judges Neil W. Bason, Sandra R. Klein, and Barry Russell; Senior District Judges Terry Hatter, Jr. and Consuelo B. Marshall; District Judges John A. Kronstadt and Beverly Reid O'Connell; and Magistrate Judges Steve Kim and Jean P. Rosenbluth. Bankruptcy Clerk of Court and Executive Officer Kathleen J. Campbell and members of her staff helped make the event a huge success.

In addition to the judges listed above, a number of attorneys volunteered, including assistant United States attorneys, deputy federal public defenders, and attorneys from private practice. Members of the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Pretrial Services Office, as well as numerous judicial law clerks and externs, also participated.

Judge Klein kicked off the program by introducing the guest speaker, Magistrate Judge Steve Kim, who encouraged the students to seek out "plus, minus, and equal" mentors. This philosophy, which Judge Kim discovered in *Ego is the Enemy* by Ryan Holiday, is great advice for everyone. "Pluses" are people from whom you can learn, experts in their fields who can show you how to improve and where you might be going wrong. "Equals" are your peers, people who are equally as good as you and who challenge, support, and motivate you. Finally, "minuses" are people you can teach and help by passing on your knowledge, experience, and skills.

Judges Marshall, Rosenbluth, and Bluebond welcomed the students on behalf of their colleagues. After Judge Klein introduced the judges and provided "fun facts" about them, Judge O'Connell led the students in a game of Legal Jeopardy! At the end of the Lunch, Judge Klein thanked everyone for participating and gave a heartfelt thank you to the Clerk's Office staff who work hard behind the scenes to make the Power Lunches such successful, worthwhile events.

COURT PUBLISHES HONOR ROLL UPDATE FOR 2016

The week of October 23, the Court published its annual update to the <u>Honor Roll</u> for *pro bono* volunteers. The Honor Roll is featured on the scrolling banner on the Court's website and is published each year in conjunction with the American Bar Association's <u>National Pro Bono Celebration</u> Week (October 23-29, 2016). Each September, participating *pro bono* organizations submit the updated list of volunteers for the previous 12 months. The 2016 Honor Roll lists 291 volunteers, including attorneys, law students, paralegals and interpreters. Quarterly updates to the Honor Roll may be submitted to <u>HonorRoll@cacb.uscourts.gov</u>. Since 2011, the Court has displayed a link to the Honor Roll on the homepage of its website under **Programs & Services -> For Attorneys -> Pro Bono Volunteers Honored**.

CM/ECF TIPS

Forgotten CM/ECF Password

To reset your CM/ECF password:

- Go to https://ecf.cacb.uscourts.gov.
- Click the link "Central District of California – Document Filing System."
- 3. Click here in the sentence "If you forgot your CM/ECF password, you can request a password here."
- Enter your ECF login ID at the prompt and click "Submit"

The CM/ECF program will send an email to the email address you have on record with the Court. If you need to verify the email address in CM/ECF is current, please call the ECF Help Desk for assistance at (213) 894-2365 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

CM/ECF Online Credit Card

The CM/ECF Online Credit Card module is designed to provide all CM/ECF users with the ability to pay filing fees through a secure environment over the internet via Pay.gov. The module offers advantages that include the ability to:

- Pay the filing fee through a secure environment on the internet with a credit card at any time
- Review the history of credit card transaction payments
- Review outstanding payments due to the court
- Request on-line payment of any unpaid balance

After submission of the credit card information, the filing fee is paid directly to the U.S. Treasury. A transaction receipt is displayed and is docketed to the case immediately.

Payment Methods

VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover credit cards may be used, including debit cards with the VISA and MasterCard logo.

Note: Debtor's credit card or debit card may not be used to pay filing fees.

Help Desk

Please call the ECF Help Desk at (213) 894-2365 if you have questions regarding the payment process. The Help Desk staff is available to assist you from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

Top 20 Cases of Interest*

Anzhey Barantsevich

SV-16-12073-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 07/18/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Scheduling and case management conference to be held on 1/19/17 at 9:30 a.m.

BioData Medical Laboratories, Inc.

RS-16-20446-MW, Chapter 11, Filed 11/28/2016. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Chapter 11 status conference scheduled for 1/26/17 at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 225, Riverside. Motion for an order finding that the appointment of a patient care ombudsman is unnecessary filed by debtor on 12/1/16 with hearing scheduled 12/22/16 at 9 a.m. in Courtroom 225, Riverside.

Donmetz Home LLC.

SV-16-10317-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 02/02/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status conference hearing continued to 1/26/17 at 2 p.m. Hearing regarding confirmation hearing first amended chapter 11 plan of reorganization to be held on 1/26/17 at 2 p.m.

Dorothy Hannah Hamilburg aka Hannah Hamilburg

ND-15-10528-PC, Chapter 11, Filed 03/16/16. Assets \$1-50 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Continued hearing re: motion to reconsider memorandum of decision and order disallowing claim, motion for partial reconsideration of order granting debtor's motion objecting to Donato Errico's proof of claim no. 15 scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. Continued hearing re: motion for order authorizing nunc pro tunc, debtor to incur debt scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. Continued hearing re: motion to disallow claims scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. Continued hearing re: motion to file amended proof of claim of Donato Errico (claim no. 15) scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. Continued ch. 11 status conference scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. Continued hearing re: motion to appoint a chapter 11 trustee scheduled for 2/8/17 at 10 a.m. AP15-1024PC continued status conference re: notice of removal scheduled for 2/9/17 at 10 a.m.

Early California Restaurants

SV-16-13386-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 11/29/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Scheduling and case management conference continued to 1/10/17 at 1:30 p.m. Motion for order extending time to file schedules of assets and liabilities and statement of financial affairs filed on 12/12/16.

East Coast Foods, Inc.

LA-16-13852-BB, Chapter 11, Filed 03/25/16. Assets \$0-\$50 million and Liabilities \$10-50 million. Order entered on 12/21/16 (A) awarding monetary sanctions re contempt for failure to comply with "Order granting 'Motion for order authorizing the examination of debtor and requiring debtor to produce documents and for Herbert Hudson to appear for examination pursuant to FRBP 2004" (B) setting deadlines for production of documents in connection with "Order authorizing the examination of debtor and requiring debtor to produce documents and for Herbert Hudson to appear for examination pursuant to FRBP 2004" and (C) scheduling continued hearing and case status conference.

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 continuing Status Conference to 4/19/17 at 9 a.m., objection to claim filed and hearing set 1/9/17 at 2 p.m. re objection seeking to modify amt. of fix claims, 1. Motion granted; 2. Exclusivity period to file joint chapter 11 plan is extended from 11/29/16 to and including 2/27/17 for debtor and the committee; 3. Extending the exclusivity period for debtor and the committee to solicit acceptance of their joint plan from 1/28/17 to and including 4/28/17; and 4. Extensions granted herein are without prejudice to the debtor's ability to seek further extensions of the exclusivity periods filed 12/22/16.

Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Inc.

LA-16-17463-ER, Chapter 11, Filed 06/06/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-50 million. Order entered on 12/16/16 approving second stipulation extending the deadline for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors to submit disputes to the secured claims of Roxbury Healthcare Services, LLC and Sycamore Healthcare Services, LLC.

Georgina, LLC

SV-16-10140-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 01/18/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status conference hearing continued to 2/21/17 at 1:30 p.m. Order granting Hersal Kohan's motion designating case a single asset real estate case pursuant to bankruptcy 362(D)(3) entered on 12/7/16.

Henderson Holdings 1 LLC

SV-16-10685-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 03/09/16. Assets \$1- 10 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Scheduling and case management conference hearing continued to 1/12/17 at 9:30 a.m. Order granting motion for final decree and order closing case entered on 12/7/16.

K&A Global Management Company

SV-16-13295-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 11/17/16. Assets \$1- 10 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Scheduling and case management conference to be held on 1/12/17 at 9:30 a.m.

Majestic Air Inc

SV-16-11538-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 05/23/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status and case management conference continued to 2/21/17 at 10 a.m. Order granting motion to use cash collateral entered 11/29/16. Order granting debtor's motion for an order authorizing debtor to enter into post-petition lease of nonresidential property pursuant to FRBP 6004(a), 11 USC Sec. 363(b) and LBR 6004-1(d) entered 12/9/16.

Menco Pacific Inc

SV-16-12791-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 09/26/16, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Scheduling and case management conference continued to 2/21/17 at 9:30 a.m. Hearing regarding motion to reject executory settlement agreement between the debtor and Jon Blumenthal continued to 2/21/17 at 9:30 a.m.

Mirada Park LLC

SV-16-13158-VK, Chapter 11, Filed 11/02/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Status conference hearing to be held on 1/12/17 at 1 p.m.

Miyagi Sushi, Inc.

RS-16-16990-MJ, Chapter 11, Filed 08/07/16, Assets \$50-100 million and Liabilities \$500-1 million. JNotice of claims bar date filed 11/23/16. Claim deadline: 12/5/16. Last day to file objections to proofs of claims is set for 12/19/16. Hearing on objections to proofs of claims is set for 1/11/17 at 1:30 p.m.

Nasty Gal Inc.

LA-16-24862-BB, Chapter 11 Filed 11/09/16, Assets \$10-50 million and Liabilities \$10 - \$50 million. Order entered on 1/4/17 approving the appointment of Wesley H. Avery as the Consumer Privacy Ombudsman.

Olin Virtual Academy

SV-16-11187-MB, Chapter 11, Filed 04/20/16. Assets \$1-10 million. Scheduling and case management conference continued to 2/21/17 at 1:30 p.m. Voluntary dismissal of motion for order approving settlement agreement between the debtor and K12 Inc filed on 11/1/16. Order granting debtor's motion for an order assuming lease between debtor and Razmik Tahmasian & Gevorg Voskanian regarding the nonresidential real property located at 2600 Foothill Blvd., La Crescenta, CA 91214 pursuant to 11 USC sec 365(a) entered on 12/15/16.

Paulette Vonetta Moses

SV-16-100024-VK, Chapter 7, Filed 01/06/16. Assets \$1- 10 million and Liabilities \$1 - \$10 million. Order granting US Trustee's motion to dismiss or convert case entered on 9/26/16. Hearing regarding motion to compel for production of documents to be held on 1/19/17 at 2:00 p.m. Hearing regarding motion to compel attorneys to submit affidavit to this court stating whether or not they are representing the holder in due course and the creditor in this matter as well as other statements to be held on 1/19/17 at 2:00 p.m.

Real Estate Short Sale, Inc.

SV-16-11387-MT Chapter 11, Filed 05/06/16, Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status and case management conference continued to 1/17/17 at 10 a.m. Hearing regarding US Trustee motion to dismiss or convert case with an order directing payment of quarterly fees and for judgment thereon to be held on 1/17/17 at 10 a.m.

Stronghold Asset Management Corp.

SV-16-11961-MT, Chapter 11, Filed 07/06/16. Assets \$1-10 million and Liabilities \$1-10 million. Status and case management conference and hearing on approval of disclosure statement to be held on 4/27/17 at 9:30 a.m.