

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

Julia W. Brand, Chief Judge
Kathleen J. Campbell, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court



NINTH CIRCUIT REAPPOINTS BANKRUPTCY JUDGES IN CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit have reappointed Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Julia W. Brand and U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Neil W. Bason, both from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, to their second 14-year terms, both effective October 24. Judge Brand and Judge Bason maintain chambers in Los Angeles, both were appointed to the bankruptcy bench on October 24, 2011.

Bankruptcy judges serve a 14-year renewable term and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the Ninth Circuit. The court

uses a comprehensive merit selection process for the initial appointment. For reappointments, the court conducts a performance review and considers public comment evaluations.



SAVE THE DATE: PASSING OF THE GAVEL CEREMONY

The Passing of the Gavel ceremony will take place on January 29, 2026, at 4:00 PM at the U.S. Court of Appeals in Pasadena, CA (125 South Grand Avenue). The event will mark the transition of Chief Bankruptcy Judge from the late Honorable Theodor C. Albert to the Honorable Julia W. Brand. Judge Maureen A. Tighe will ceremonially pass the gavel on behalf of Judge Albert. The ceremony will not only honor Judge Albert's years of distinguished service but also celebrate Judge Brand as she assumes her new role as Chief Judge.

In recognition of Judge Albert's remarkable career and lasting contributions to the Court, a portrait of him will be unveiled during the ceremony. This tribute will serve as a lasting reminder of his integrity, dedication, and impact on the legal community.

Reserved seating in the main courtroom is by invitation only; however, there is limited public seating in the overflow room. All who are unable to attend are welcome to observe the ceremony by live stream from your computer or other device. A Bar-sponsored reception will be held in the lobby area immediately following the conclusion of the ceremony at approximately 5:00 PM.

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.

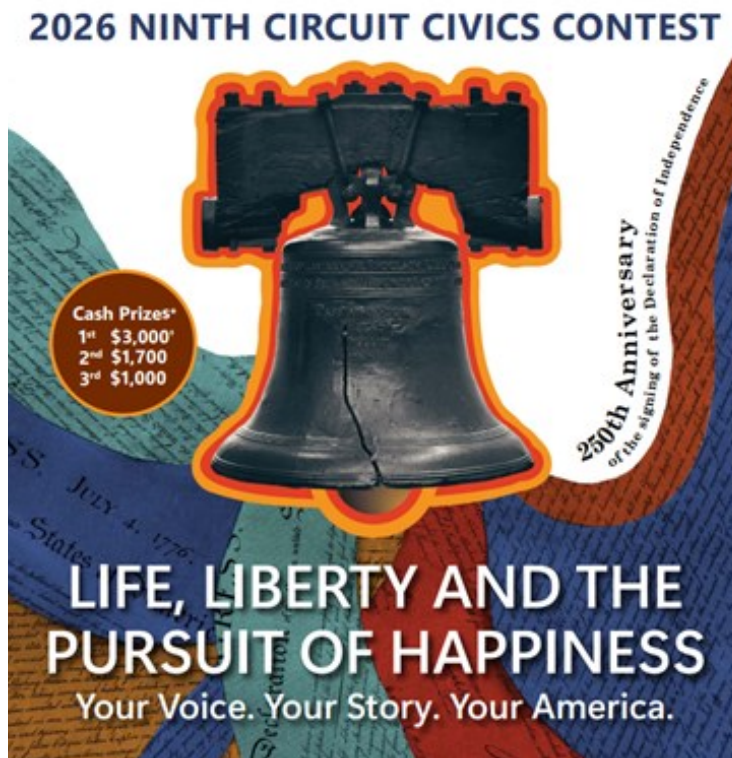
Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please email us at editor@cacb.uscourts.gov.

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

NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST ON LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ANNOUNCED

The Ninth Circuit has announced the theme of its annual civics contest for high school students. In 2026, contestants will consider “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: Your Voice. Your Story. Your America.” The Ninth Circuit Civics Contest prompt challenges students to choose one of these enduring rights—Life, Liberty or the Pursuit of Happiness—and tell us: (i) why this right was essential in 1776, (ii) how this right impacts you, your family or your community today; and (iii) what should we do to protect or improve this right moving forward?

The 2026 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to high school students residing in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Students in the 9th through 12th grades attending public, private, parochial and charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status, are invited to participate. Children of federal judges, chambers staff and employees of federal court offices are not eligible to participate. Essay and video entries can be submitted on the website starting Jan. 7, 2026. The deadline for all entries will be March 6, 2026. Contest rules and entry instructions are available at www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest.



The United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Central District of California will conduct a local contest to select finalists for the circuit-wide competition. To enter the local contest, students must reside in one of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura. Winners of the local contest will also receive cash prizes of \$1,000 for 1st place, \$750 for 2nd place and \$500 for 3rd place. The 1st-place winners of the local contest and a parent/guardian will be invited to the 2026 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. For more information about the district contest, please visit this [link](#).

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL RULES AND FORMS AMENDMENTS

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee) has proposed amendments to their respective rules and form and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment. The public comment period ends February 16, 2026.

To view the proposed revisions, reports explaining the proposed changes, as well as information about submitting written comments or testimony at public hearings, please visit the Rules and Policies webpage on the U.S. Courts website at <https://www.uscourts.gov/forms-rules/proposed-amendments-published-public-comment>.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND COURT CLOSURES

Thursday, January 1 - New Year's Day

Friday, January 2 - Administrative Leave Day

Monday, January 19 - Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day

To view the 2026 Federal Holiday Public Notice on the Court's website click [here](#).

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA – LOS ANGELES BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit invites applications from highly qualified candidates for a Bankruptcy Judgeship for the Central District of California. This position is available immediately; however, the selection process may take up to 18 months to complete. The official duty station for this position is Los Angeles, California.

The term of office is 14 years with a possible renewal appointment subject to reappointment procedures. The current salary is \$227,608 per annum. Relocation expenses are not reimbursable.

The Court of Appeals uses an open and competitive selection process. All applications are screened by a Merit Screening Committee, which selects a limited number of applicants for interview and reference checks. From the initial group of interviewees, selected applicants will be referred for further interview by a joint Judicial Council and Court of Appeals committee, which then submits a recommendation of nomination to the Court of Appeals. The selected nominee will be required to satisfy FBI and IRS background investigations prior to appointment, as well as comply with the financial disclosure requirements pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Pub. L. No. 95-521, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978) (codified as amended at 5 U.S.C. app. § 101-111).

Basic qualifications for consideration include: (1) admission to practice before the highest court of at least one state, the District of Columbia, or one of the United States territories; (2) membership in good standing in every bar in which membership is held; and (3) at least five years of legal practice experience (certain other legal experience may be substituted). Applicants are considered without regard to race, sex, gender (including pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, and parenthood), color, creed, national origin, citizenship, ancestry, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, or past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed forces, in addition to any other status or characteristic protected under applicable federal law.

The Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judge Application Instructions and Application Form are available on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov. A copy may also be obtained by emailing personnel@ce9.uscourts.gov. The application is lengthy, so applicants are advised to allow sufficient time to complete and submit the application. Once completed and signed, the original application and supporting materials must be sent in hard copy to the Office of the Circuit Executive, 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Additionally, an electronic copy of the completed and signed application and supporting materials must be emailed to personnel@ce9.uscourts.gov. Applicants must submit their own applications in the format required by the Bankruptcy Judge Application Instructions.

Letters of reference are optional. To be considered, such –letters must be submitted with the original and electronic application and supporting materials.

Deadline for receipt of all application materials, including hard copy via mail delivery and electronic copy via email: 5:00 p.m. (Pacific) on Thursday, February 12, 2026. The United States Courts is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to equity and inclusion in its hiring practices. For more information please refer to the announcement at this [link](#).

TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
Beverly Community Hospital Asso.	LA-23-12359-VZ	11	04/19/23	\$1 - \$10 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Electric Bike Company LLC	SA-25-12810-SC	7	10/03/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Frisco Baking Company, Inc.	LA-25-11395-NB	11	02/24/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
GRDN Hospitality	LA-25-16321-DS	11	07/24/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Howard's Appliance, Inc	LA-25-21116-BB	11	12/10/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
The Litigation Practice Group P.C.	SA-23-10571-SC	11	03/20/23	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Palo Verde Healthcare District	RS-25-17084-SY	11	09/30/25	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Ronald Stephen Welty	SA-25-11408-MH	11	05/25/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Sol Beauty Co., Inc	SA-25-13407-MH	7	12/04/25	\$0 - \$50K	\$100K - \$500K
Windsor Terrace Healthcare, LLC	SV-23-11200-VK	11	08/23/23	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million

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

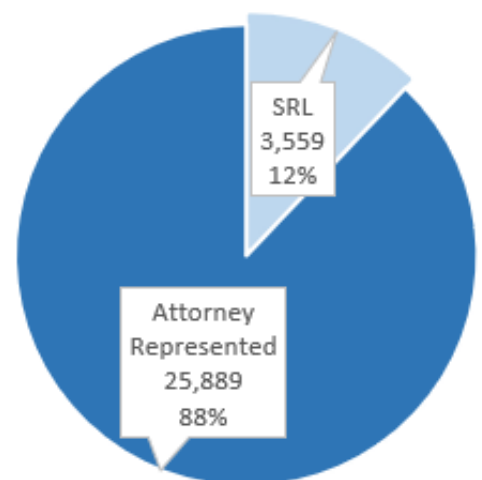
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru December 31, 2025. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	9,964	201	1,792	11,957	10.18%
Northern	1,575	26	214	1,815	20.43%
Riverside	8,110	43	1,301	9,454	19.00%
San Fernando Valley	2,036	69	396	2,501	12.10%
Santa Ana	3,181	93	444	3,718	9.67%
Total	24,866	432	4,147	29,445	13.58%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2025 YTD	1,340	375	60	1,775
2024 YTD	1,246	330	54	1,630

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/ecfststatsdash/ecfststatsdash-new.html>