

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

Maureen A. Tighe, Chief Judge
Kathleen J. Campbell, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court



PROCEDURES FOR PHASED REOPENING DURING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

On June 22, 2021, Chief Judge Maureen A. Tighe issued [General Order 21-05 In Re: Procedures for Phased Reopening During COVID-19 Public Emergency](#). The general order was issued in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to more closely align with District Court operations in light of the United States District Court [General Order No. 21-08 In Re: Coronavirus Public Emergency Order Concerning Phased Reopening of the Court](#), entered on June 11, 2021. The general orders allow all normal operations to resume for the Divisions of the Central District of California, subject to posted restrictions.



Effective Monday, June 28, 2021, permission to appear in person or by video or telephone, is in the discretion of the presiding judge. Local Bankruptcy Rule 9011-1 is no longer suspended, effective June 28, 2021. Previously-issued guidance regarding filing fees, Social Security Number Statements, mediations, and judges' or courtesy copies, remains in place. Additional information on safety measures and Chapter 13 eSR filing can be found in [General Order 21-05](#).

Please check the [Court's Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and Court Operations webpage](#) for updated information. You may also utilize the website's [Chat Live](#) function or contact the Court's Call Center at (855) 460-9641, during normal business hours.

COURT TO HOST TRAINING WEBINAR "HOLDING REMOTE EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS AND TRIALS"

On August 2 the U.S Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, will be hosting a training webinar "Holding Remote Evidentiary Hearings and Trials". Everyone is welcome to attend this free informative training. The topics of discussion include submitting and presenting exhibits, Zoom issues that may differ from typical motions argument, and witness preparation.

Chief Judge Maureen A. Tighe, Hon. Martin R. Barash, Hon. Neil W. Bason, Hon. Julia W. Brand, Hon. Ernest R. Robles, and Chief Deputy of Administration John Hermann will be presenting at the training webinar. For more information on Zoom video hearing guides and training material, please access the [link](#) on the Court's website. For more information about the upcoming webinar, visit the following [link](#). Please note that the webinar will be recorded and posted on the Court's website for future reference.

COURT LAUNCHES PAY.GOV

On July 2, a new free electronic fee payment method for Self-Represented Litigants became available for a limited selection of services. The new method is processed through Pay.gov and accepts automated clearing house (ACH) payments only. Online payments are accepted only for installment payments after the first installment (chapters 7 and 13 only), certified copies, and copies. Pay.gov is operated by the U.S. Department of Treasury and is a web-based application that allows users to make online payments to government agencies. The new online payments page provides easier access for Self-Represented Litigants to make payments remotely for the selection of services described. Please visit our [Online Payments page](#) for complete details, including links to the Court's Pay.gov page, and a step-by-step training document.

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>

JUDGE ERITHE A. SMITH TO BE INDUCTED INTO JOHN M. LANGSTON ASSOCIATION'S HALL OF FAME

Judge Erithe Smith has been selected for induction into the John M. Langston Bar Association's Hall of Fame. The mission of the John M. Langston Association is to empower leadership, advance the professional development of its membership, and promote the administration of justice in the Black community and the community at large. The Association honors outstanding attorneys and judges who have practiced law or served on the bench for 35 years or more who have made significant contributions to the legal community. The 29th Annual Dinner and Ceremony honoring Hall of Fame Inductees will be on Saturday, October 23. The ceremony will highlight some of Judge Smith's many accomplishments and contributions.



Judge Smith will also be awarded Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association on October 19.



JUDGE MARK S. WALLACE PROFILED IN DAILY JOURNAL

On June 4, the Daily Journal published a profile of Judge Mark S. Wallace. The article describes Judge Wallace's even judicial temperament, receptiveness to new arguments, and his rich background in tax law.

The profile briefly follows Judge Wallace's path to judgeship, including working as a tax attorney for more than 30 years. Attorney Michael B. Reynolds, who has appeared before Judge Wallace multiple times, noted his robust tax background allows him to "apply his intellectual curiosity and creativity to issues, and come up with solutions or potential solutions that might not be immediately apparent to most people."

Judge Wallace finds that having a comprehensive understanding of the law allows him to occasionally rule in a more compassionate way.

"The way I see my role is, I have to apply the law — I can't intentionally deviate from the law because somebody is in a bad situation in terms of their health or for another reason," Wallace noted. "But oftentimes the law allows me to exercise certain discretion, and in those instances I am very open to exercising that discretion so that things can proceed in a more humane and respectable fashion."



HYBRID COURTROOM UPGRADES UNDERWAY

Thanks to the efforts of the Court's Audio Visual and IT teams, bankruptcy courtrooms throughout the District are receiving substantial technology upgrades. These efforts will help facilitate a hybrid courtroom model to support simultaneous participation of individuals remotely and in person. In addition to new display screens and video cameras disbursed throughout the courtroom to facilitate viewing participants and exhibits, the courtrooms also include a document camera at the lectern for sharing paper based exhibits in the hybrid court environment. The ability to appear remotely is at the discretion of the presiding judge.

JUDGE ERNEST M. ROBLES REAPPOINTED

The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the reappointment of U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Ernest M. Robles to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Robles, 64, who maintains chambers in Los Angeles, was appointed to the Central District bankruptcy bench in 1993. His third 14-year term took effect June 12, 2021.

During his second term, Judge Robles presided over the Chapter 11 case of Verity Health System of California, Inc., the second-largest health care bankruptcy filing in American history. Judge Robles also presided over the case of Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Inc., another high-profile Chapter 11 health care filing.

Here he is with his granddaughter, Mia.



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday, September 6 - Labor Day

Monday, October 11 - Columbus Day

To view the 2021 Federal Holiday Public Notice on the Court's website click [here](#).

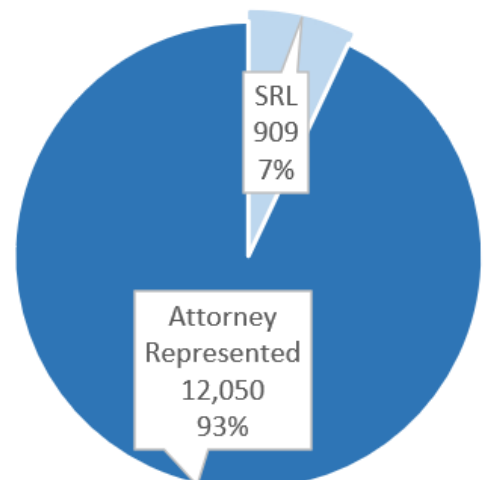
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru June 30, 2021. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	4931	98	550	5579	-9.37%
Northern	650	9	69	728	-13.74%
Riverside	3422	10	306	3738	-20.21%
San Fernando Valley	1035	40	125	1200	-2.59%
Santa Ana	1533	28	149	1710	-12.39%
Total	11571	185	1199	12955	-12.87%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2021 YTD	511	143	17	671
2020 YTD	527	135	32	694

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/ecfstatsdash/ecfstatsdash-new.html>

TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
Airport Van Rental, Inc.	LA-20-20876-BB	11	12/11/20	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Eagan Avenatti, LLP	SA-19-13560-SC	7	09/13/19	\$0 - \$50K	\$500K - \$1 million
Thomas Vincent Girardi	LA 20-21020-BR	7	12/18/20	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million
Glenroy Coachella, LLC	LA-21-11188-BB	11	02/15/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Glostation USA, Inc.	SV-20-11435-MB	11	08/13/20	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Hawkeye Entertainment, LLC	SV-19-12102-MT	11	08/21/19	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Yueting Jia	LA-19-24804-VZ	11	10/14/19	\$500m - \$1billion	\$1 - \$10 billion
Queen City Rehabs & Renovations, LLC	SV-20-12110-MB	11	11/27/20	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
The Source Hotel, LLC	SA-21-10525-ES	11	02/26/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million
Western Community Energy	RS-21-12821-SY	9	05/24/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million

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

BANKRUPTCY FRAUD PROSECUTIONS

The following information has been provided by the Office of the United States Trustee:

The State of California vs. Tamara Dadyan, et al.

- On May 24, 2021 and May 25, 2021 nine individuals pleaded guilty to multiple counts including theft from an elder, identity theft, and grand theft, resulting in a loss of approximately \$6M affecting over 200 properties. Between 2010 and 2019, the group ran a mortgage rescue enterprise targeting distressed homeowners with promises they could stop a foreclosure if the homeowners made monthly payments to the “rescuers”. Instead, they delayed the foreclosures and evictions by filing fraudulent bankruptcy documents, false court documents and false fractional interest grant deeds. On May 24, 2021 Tamara Dadyan as sentenced to seven years and four months in state prison. Four other defendants were sentenced to state prison for terms between one and two years. Two defendants have not been sentenced. For more information see [California DOJ Press Release](#).

USA vs. Richard Allen Mease

- On July 7, 2020 a First Superseding Indictment was filed against BPP Richard Allen Mease charging eighteen counts of false statements in a bankruptcy, mail fraud, and criminal contempt. The indictment alleges that on at least four separate occasions Mease failed to disclose his role as a bankruptcy petition preparer and that he failed to pay disgorgements as ordered by the bankruptcy court. Mease and his business, First Capital Consulting Group, had previously been permanently enjoined from preparing or assisting in the preparation of any bankruptcy documents filed in the Central District. On May 20, 2021 BPP Richard Allen Mease plead guilty to criminal contempt. Sentencing is set for August 9, 2021. For more information see [USAO press release](#).