

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

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



TWO NEW BANKRUPTCY JUDGES APPOINTED TO THE U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit have appointed Misty A. Perry Isaacson and Edward K. Bernatavicius as bankruptcy judges on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. Both judges will serve 14-year terms and will maintain chambers in the Court's Riverside Division.

Judge Perry Isaacson's term began Thursday, June 25, 2026, when Chief Bankruptcy Judge Julia W. Brand of the Central District administered the oath of office. Judge Bernatavicius began his term on July 6, 2026, when Chief Judge Brand administered his oath of office.

"I am delighted to welcome Judge Perry Isaacson to the bankruptcy bench in our Riverside division. Her wealth of experience across all chapters of the Bankruptcy Code, her history of public service and her dedication to the Riverside community make her a strong addition to the bench," said Chief Judge Brand.

"I am pleased to welcome Judge Bernatavicius to the bankruptcy bench in our Riverside division. Judge Bernatavicius brings a strong knowledge of bankruptcy law and a dedication to public service to our community. His enthusiasm for the law and the bankruptcy community make him a strong addition to our bench," said Chief Judge Brand.

"I am deeply honored by this appointment and am sincerely grateful to my family, friends, colleagues and judges of our Circuit who have supported me throughout my legal career and during this appointment process. Their guidance and encouragement have meant a great deal to me. I look forward to serving the bankruptcy community and the Ninth Circuit with fairness, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the administration of justice," said Judge Perry Isaacson.

"I am deeply grateful for the confidence placed in me and honored to have the opportunity to serve as a bankruptcy judge. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the bankruptcy community to uphold the integrity of the judicial process and serve the public with diligence and respect," said Judge Bernatavicius.



Bankruptcy Judge Misty A. Perry Isaacson and Chief Judge Julia W. Brand



Bankruptcy Judge Edward K. Bernatavicius and Chief Judge Julia W. Brand

Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Perry Isaacson served as an attorney at Pagter and Perry Isaacson APLC since 2010, where her practice focused exclusively on bankruptcy and related litigation. She represented debtors, creditors, Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 trustees, the U.S. trustee, and both plaintiffs and defendants in adversary proceedings. Previously, she served as a trial attorney from 2009 to 2010 in the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Department of Justice, in Riverside, where she supervised the administration of bankruptcy cases and the conduct of trustees in cases filed under Chapters 7, 11, and 13.

Judge Perry Isaacson has been active in Ninth Circuit leadership, serving on the Ninth Circuit's Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee as chair from 2022 to 2023, chair-elect from 2019 to 2022, and vice chair from 2018 to 2019. She also served as co-chair and as a member of the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives for the Central District of California from 2017 to 2018 and from 2014 to 2018, respectively.

Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Bernatavicius had served as a trial attorney since 2006 in the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Department of Justice, in Phoenix, where he represented the U.S. trustee for the District of Arizona in a full spectrum of consumer, commercial and ethical issues in bankruptcy cases.

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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 www.cacb.uscourts.gov/publications

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Judge Bernatavicius had served as a Ninth Circuit lawyer representative for the District of Arizona since 2024. He was a member of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court's steering committee that founded the inn in 2011 and served as its president from 2014 to 2016. Judge Bernatavicius is the recipient of the 2018 Honorable Daniel P. Collins Mentorship Award.

Judge Perry Isaacson earned a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Long Beach, in 1993 and received her Juris Doctor from Southwestern University School of Law in 1997.

Judge Bernatavicius graduated with a Bachelor of Science in political science, rhetoric and public address from the University of Lynchburg in 1994, when he received the university's Innovative Leadership Award and earned his Juris Doctor in 1998 from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, where he was elected commencement speaker by his graduating class.

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California reported 29,591 bankruptcy filings in calendar year 2025, an increase of 14.2% from calendar year 2024. The Court is authorized 21 permanent judgeships.

Judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit have statutory responsibility for selecting and appointing bankruptcy judges in the nine western states that comprise the 9th Circuit. The Court uses a comprehensive merit selection process for initial appointments and reappointments. Bankruptcy judges serve renewable 14-year terms and handle all bankruptcy-related matters under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

A REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTION AND THE COURTS AT THE 250TH: REFLECTIONS FROM PHILADELPHIA

by Judge Scott Clarkson

On June 15–16, 2026, I had the privilege of attending The Constitution and the Courts at the 250th, a judicial education program jointly sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. The program brought together thirty federal judges from across the country, leading constitutional scholars, and judicial educators to reflect on the origins of the Constitution, the development of the federal judiciary, and the continuing role of the courts as the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of American independence. Five of our bankruptcy judges from around the country were invited to this excellent program: Cynthia Norton (WD Mo.), Patricia (Trish) Mayer (E.D. PA), Dale Somers (KS), Paul Hage (E.D. MI.) and me.

The setting itself added immeasurably to the experience. Sessions were held at the National Constitution Center and included a guided tour of Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, and other historic sites where many of the foundational events of our constitutional system unfolded. Standing in the rooms where the Constitution was debated and where the early Supreme Court met provided a powerful reminder that our daily work as judges is part of a long and continuing constitutional tradition.

The faculty featured distinguished scholars from Yale, Georgetown, Duke, Princeton, Stanford, Boston University, George Mason University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Maryland. Discussions examined competing visions of constitutional interpretation in the Founding Era, the establishment of the federal judiciary, and the relationship between local institutions and the early federal courts. The program combined formal presentations with extensive opportunities for discussion among judges and faculty.



One of the program's greatest strengths was the diversity of the judicial participants. Attendees included judges from nearly every region of the country and from multiple levels of the federal judiciary. Examples included Circuit Judge Nicole Berner (Fourth Circuit), Circuit Judge Stephanos Bibas (Third Circuit), Circuit Judge Karen Nelson Moore (Sixth Circuit), Circuit Judge Gregory Phillips

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(Tenth Circuit), Chief District Judge Raul Arias-Marxuach (District of Puerto Rico), District Judge Kathleen Cardone (Western District of Texas), District Judge Mustafa Kasubhai (District of Oregon), Chief District Judge Frank Volk (Southern District of West Virginia), Bankruptcy Judge Patricia Mayer (Eastern District of Pennsylvania), Chief Bankruptcy Judge Dale Somers (District of Kansas), and Magistrate Judge Scott Frankel (Northern District of Indiana).

For me, the program was exceptionally valuable. It provided historical context that deepened my understanding of the constitutional foundations of the federal judiciary while also creating opportunities to exchange perspectives with judges from different courts, circuits, and judicial roles. The conversations reinforced the importance of an independent judiciary and highlighted how constitutional principles continue to shape our work every day. I returned with a renewed appreciation for the history of our institution, a broader perspective on the federal judicial system, and practical insights that will inform my service on the bench.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONSIDER “LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS – YOUR VOICE. YOUR STORY. YOUR AMERICA” IN ANNUAL CIVICS CONTEST

The U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California recently hosted a civics contest for high school students in grades nine through twelve (Local Contest), which was held in conjunction with a civics contest sponsored by the Ninth Circuit for high school students in the Western United States (Ninth Circuit Civics Contest). This year’s Ninth Circuit Civics Contest “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—Your Voice. Your Story. Your America” challenged students to write an essay or produce a video to address one of these enduring rights—Life, Liberty or the Pursuit of Happiness—and reflect on its meaning and impact.

The first-, second-, and third-place winners received cash prizes. Each year, the top essays and videos in the Central District’s contest advance to the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest to compete with the essay and video winners from all the other districts in the Ninth Circuit. The Ninth Circuit Contest is sponsored by the Ninth Circuit’s Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts in the 15 judicial districts that comprise the Ninth Circuit. In all, the Ninth Circuit Contest received 1,043 essays and 185 videos this year. For more information, please visit <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND COURT CLOSURES

Friday, July 4 - Independence Day

Monday, September 1 - Labor Day

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

BANKRUPTCY FRAUD

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

Debtor Waives Discharge of \$512,605 - On April 23, 2026, the United States Trustee filed a complaint alleging that debtor had made false statements on his schedules, statement and the 341a meeting of creditors and concealed cash payments he had received in the 6 month period before he filed for chapter 7 bankruptcy. Debtor also produced a fraudulent medical letter in an attempt to thwart the United States Trustee’s investigation. Debtor stipulated to a denial of his discharge and on May 7, 2026, the court entered its judgment denying and waiving the discharge of the debtor.

Debtor Waives Discharge of \$395,345 - An investigation by the USTP’s Los Angeles office revealed that within a year of the bankruptcy filing, the debtor, a county eligibility worker, had leased/purchased a 2025 Porsche Panamera, 2024 Corvette, 2024 BMW, 2024 Audi, and 2024 Mercedes GL S450 for friends and family. During her Rule 2004 examination, debtor testified that she never used the vehicles, the vehicles were always kept in the possession of a friend or family member, and that the friend or family member was to pay the monthly payment, but that never occurred. There were no writings evidencing the arrangements. Also, credit card statements obtained by the United States Trustee showed that debtor had made over \$300,000 in credit card purchases within a year of the bankruptcy filing, including \$50,000 in luxury goods from Neiman Marcus. When questioned about what had happened to the purchased items, debtor testified that most of the luxury goods had been given away as gifts and that many of the other large purchases had been made for the benefit of family members who were to repay her but had failed to do so. Debtor failed to disclose the vehicle transfers, gifts, and payments made for insiders’ benefit, and the loan arrangements.

TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
Doheny Sunset LLC	LA-26-15558-BR	11	06/03/26	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 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
Ortho Mattress Inc	SV-26-11189-VK	11	06/01/26	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Palo Verde Healthcare District	RS-25-17084-SY	11	09/30/25	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Pico-Union Housing Corporation	LA-26-12372-VZ	11	03/12/26	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Ronald Stephen Welty	SA-25-11408-MH	11	05/25/25	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million

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

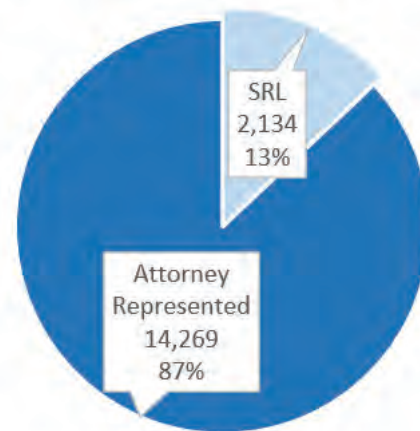
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year-to-date through June 30, 2026. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	5,485	114	1,008	6,607	18.42%
Northern	847	11	118	976	10.15%
Riverside	4,556	37	748	5,341	21.08%
San Fernando Valley	1,129	45	259	1,433	23.64%
Santa Ana	1,741	62	240	2,043	13.43%
Total	13,758	269	2,373	16,400	18.53%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2026 YTD	747	229	31	1,007
2025 YTD	651	184	29	864

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>