

United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California

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



## INTAKE AREAS OPEN AMID COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

On June 22, 2020, the Bankruptcy Court began implementing the Court's reconstitution efforts by reopening the Intake areas in all five courthouses to the public to accept in-person filings. All visitors to an Intake area who are not wearing a face covering without an approved medical exemption or not observing posted social distancing rules may be refused service. The public computers and electronic kiosks may be disabled in an Intake area in an effort to reduce any spread of infection through their use. Intake areas will not be accepting cash payments for filing or copying fees unless an exception is made by the Clerk of Court.

## COURT TO RESUME IN-PERSON HEARINGS

As physical access to the United States Bankruptcy Court is now permitted per the General Order [20-04](#), individual judges assigned to cases may hold matters in person in the courtroom or continue to hear matters remotely through telephonic or by video service. The requirement to appear in person or remotely for evidentiary hearings and trials will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the assigned judge. Through December 31, 2020, remote access to all non-evidentiary hearings will be permitted, even where in-person hearings are held. Unless the person has a medical exemption, face coverings are required in public areas and also when entering a courtroom. The presiding judge will determine whether face coverings may be removed in the courtroom.



## ZOOM GUIDE FOR ATTORNEYS AVAILABLE NOW

In order to facilitate court activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, certain judges will be using the Zoom for Government platform to stream and host court proceedings via video conference. The Court has issued a Zoom guide to assist attorneys participating in hearings. To view the guide, please access the [link](#) on the Court's website.

## AMENDED PRICING FOR COURTCALL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 DISRUPTION

The Court is currently operating and holding hearings, but will conduct as many as possible telephonically. CourtCall has amended pricing for its services and is offering discounted rates to attorneys through August 31, 2020 and free access for parties who do not have an attorney (pro se parties).

Please contact CourtCall at (888) 88-COURT or (866-582-6878) or visit their [website](#) for details. Review the Telephonic Instruction tab on each judge's [webpage](#) for specific instructions.

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](mailto: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>

## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF JUDGE TIGHE ON RECONSTITUTION

Here is an update on our reconstitution plans after the COVID-19 related shutdown. After reviewing the hundreds of answers we received from the bar survey, surveying all court staff and judges, and reviewing the latest local, state and federal guidance, we believe the best approach is to slowly return to in-person operations while closely monitoring data from each county and any COVID-19 cases in any courthouse. To that end, you can expect the following:

1. The federal courthouses of the district will open to the public on June 22. Intake windows will be open in the Clerk's Office. Drop boxes will be used for many documents. Public computers and electronic kiosks will be disabled. The number of people allowed in will be limited, and no cash will be accepted. We encourage everyone who can to continue filing all pleadings remotely. There is still no need to provide paper judges' copies of pleadings unless they are over 25 pages.
2. Some of you have requested in-person hearings, and others would like to remain remote. Judges will start holding in-person hearings slowly after July 1, but most are waiting from one to six months to transition to more in-person hearings, all subject to a revision in plans if circumstances change. All will permit remote appearances through the end of the year for motions even if in-person appearances are allowed. For evidentiary hearings and trials, each case will be reviewed with counsel and the parties so that the particular circumstances of the case and the parties can be taken into consideration. Judges will each state on their webpage or on hearing notices what their procedure is for particular types of cases. Some will be telephonic only, some by video only and some in-person. If you have a specific concern in a case, please raise it with the judge assigned to the matter. If you have questions about a hearing that is not answered by the hearing notice or the website, please contact the Courtroom Deputy for the assigned judge. We will endeavor to communicate with the bar and the parties to a case.
3. If you should need to come to the courthouse, please wear a face covering unless you are medically exempted from the rule. Exceptions to the face covering rule when you are speaking in court will be decided by each judge. There may be temperature checks and screening questions at the entrance. A limited number of people will be allowed in the elevator, so allow time to get to court. Appropriate distances will be marked out in the courtroom and hallways, and occupancy numbers in the courtrooms will be reduced, so please observe all signs and avoid congregating in groups. Jury boxes may be used for seating to create more distance. The courtrooms will be cleaned every evening and all surfaces sanitized. There will be fresh disposable microphone covers available for each new speaker, so please remove your microphone cover when you are done with your appearance. Wipes and hand sanitizer will be at each table. Please wipe down the surface around you when you are done if any court is scheduled after you.
4. All CDC and GSA protocols have been in effect and will continue for maintaining a safe courthouse. All public areas and restrooms will be sanitized every evening. Procedures are already in place to close sections of a courthouse immediately if a COVID-19 case is discovered and all affected areas will be deep cleaned. Please be assured that everyone takes your concerns very seriously.
5. GSA has provided the following information to the Court about HVAC systems: GSA strives to exceed the limit of outside air levels while balancing humidity, tenant comfort and safety. GSA is working with its operations and maintenance contractors to review the ventilation exchange rates, and increase outside air to the maximum extent possible within each building. GSA will inspect all air handling unit filters to ensure that they are operating within the limits prescribed by the equipment manufacturer. The Court will work with GSA and building landlords to monitor HVAC issues.
6. This is a fluid situation, and we will be progressing step by step to continue court operations while trying to keep everyone safe. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH SECTION ON COURT’S SITE

The Court’s website now has a section dedicated to displaying the community outreach programs and events hosted throughout the year. This section will serve as a resource, which will be updated regularly with recent community outreach events. Each event includes the date of occurrence, a brief description, and photos. Partnering with educational institutions, youth organizations, and government agencies, the Court hopes to provide an understanding of the federal judiciary and support the interests of individuals seeking to learn more about the justice system.

### Community Outreach Events



To view the new section, please visit the Court’s website and click on the About the Court tab and select [Community Outreach](#) from the dropdown menu.

## JUDGE VICTORIA S. KAUFMAN REAPPOINTED

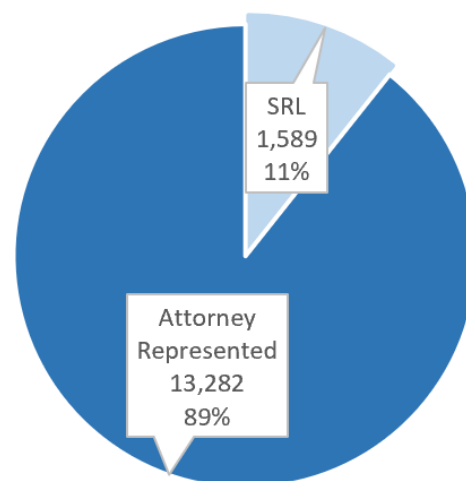
Judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit have approved the reappointment of Judge Victoria S. Kaufman to a second 14-year term on the bench. Judge Kaufman’s reappointment was effective May 2, 2020. Judge Kaufman has served the Court since 2006.

## BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru June 30, 2020. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	4,965	80	1,111	6,156	-22.34%
Northern	699	12	133	844	-28.90%
Riverside	3,929	19	737	4,685	-20.91%
San Fernando Valley	999	34	199	1,232	-26.75%
Santa Ana	1,671	39	242	1,952	-25.61%
Total	12,263	184	2,422	14,869	-23.12%

### Central District of CA - Filings YTD



Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2020 YTD	527	135	32	694
2019 YTD	583	141	56	780

The interactive Statistics Dashboard is a new feature of 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-new.html>

## TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST\*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
Banner Mattress Inc.	RS-19-13381-SC	11	04/22/19	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Eagan Avenatti, LLP	SA-19-13560-CB	7	09/13/19	\$0 - \$50K	\$500K - \$1 million
Hawkeye Entertainment, LLC	SV-19-12102-MT	11	08/21/19	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
HVI Cat Canyon, Inc.	ND-19-11573-MB	11	07/25/19	\$100K - \$500K	\$500K - \$1 million
Yueting Jia	LA-19-24804-VZ	11	10/14/19	\$500m - \$1 billion	\$1 - \$10 billion
Kendall Frozen Fruits, Inc.	SA-18-14052-SC	11	11/05/18	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Ruby's Diner, Inc. a California Corp	SA-18-13311-CB	11	09/05/18	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Verity Health Systems of CA, Inc.	LA-18-20151-ER	11	08/31/18	\$500K - \$1 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Visiting Nurse Association of Inland Counties	RS-18-16908-MH	11	08/15/18	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$50 million
Zacky & Sons Poultry, LLC	LA-18-23361-RK	11	11/13/18	\$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:

### USA vs. Donald Woo Lee

- On March 2, 2020, Dr. Donald Woo Lee (Defendant) pleads guilty to one count of false declarations in a bankruptcy proceeding pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §152(3). Defendant and his wife filed a Chapter 11 petition on September 24, 2013. On November 18, 2013, Defendant as President of Prime Partner's Medical Group filed a Chapter 11 petition, with both cases Substantively Consolidated on May 23, 2014, and later converted to Chapter 7 on April 15, 2015. In or about January 2015, the trustee's court-appointed agent determined that Prime Partner's Medical Group had issued a check in the amount of \$252,000 payable to CW-1, which was an unauthorized post-petition transfer. The trustee negotiated a settlement with CW-1 and the Defendant for repayment in which the Defendant agreed to submit a declaration under penalty of perjury disclosing the source of payment. On or about July 27, 2015, the Defendant submitted a declaration stating that none of the funds were from the estate or any other corporate entity that Defendant had an interest in, and that the payments to the estate were loans from individuals. However, these individuals did not loan Defendant the money, but instead the Defendant issued checks at \$20,000 for each individual and asked them to deposit these checks into their personal accounts and to remit cashier's checks to Defendant to pay back the estate. The funds paid to these individuals came from two corporate bank accounts that Defendant owned and operated.



**COURT CLOSED**

Monday, September 7