

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

Theodor C. Albert, Chief Judge
Kathleen J. Campbell, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court



JUDGE MAGDALENA REYES BORDEAUX PROFILED IN RIVERSIDE LAWYER MAGAZINE

The July/August issue of the Riverside Lawyer Magazine features a profile of Judge Magdalena Reyes Bordeaux. The profile, authored by Michael Gouveia, covers Judge Reyes Bordeaux's early years, lessons learned at Public Counsel, and her continuing commitment to access to justice.

The profile briefly follows Judge Reyes Bordeaux's path to judgeship, including the vital role her mother played in her journey. "The most important things I learned from her was to treat people with respect, to always do the right (even when it's hard), and to never give up. If something did not go her way, she always seemed to find another way to make things work." In working at Public Counsel, Judge Reyes Bordeaux emphasized the importance of being courteous, patient, and empathetic. "I still remember how much it meant to my former clients that I took the time to actively listen. Many of them just wanted an opportunity to tell their story and to be heard—and I will never forget that."

Judge Reyes Bordeaux noted the mentorship of Judge Tighe and Judge Zurzolo early in her legal career. When asked about the goals in taking the bankruptcy bench, Judge Reyes Bordeaux stated, "To serve. I look forward to working hard every day to ensure that everyone appearing before my court is treated fairly, compassionately, and most importantly feels heard and understands my rulings."



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 RETIRES, CASES REASSIGNED

On October 29, Judge Erithe A. Smith will retire from the bench after serving over twenty-eight years as a bankruptcy judge. The recipient of the Judge of the Year by the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and John M. Langston Bar Association's Hall of Fame inductee was appointed to her first 14-year term as a bankruptcy judge on May 2, 1994 and reappointed to a second term on May 2, 2008. Judge Smith has been approved to serve as a recalled judge for the Central District of California. On September 1, most of Judge Smith's pending bankruptcy cases and related bankruptcy proceedings were reassigned to the other judges at the Santa Ana Division, as specified in the table at the following [link](#).



GENERAL ORDER 22-01 IN RE: PROHIBITION ON BROADCASTING, TELEVISIONING, RECORDING, AND PHOTOGRAPHING BANKRUPTCY COURT PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE TRANSMISSION

On September 8, 2022, Chief Judge Theodor C. Albert issued [General Order 22-01 In Re: Prohibition on Broadcasting, Televisioning, Recording, and Photographing Bankruptcy Court Proceedings, including Hearings Conducted by Remote Transmission](#). [General Order 22-01](#) was ordered to effectuate the policy of the Judicial Conference which prohibits federal court proceedings from being broadcast, televised, recorded or photographed for the purpose of public dissemination. General Order 22-01 reconciles the use of videoconferencing and telephone conferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic with the Judicial Conference's policy, as remote transmission was not expressly addressed in the applicable Local Bankruptcy Rule (LBR 5073-1).

UNIFORM SOURCE TO FIND MEDIAN HOME VALUES

The California Association of Realtors® has published median home sale prices by county, relevant for assisting in the determination of home valuation in certain bankruptcy matters. The median values are published annually and can be found at the following [link](#).



REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL RULES AND FORMS AMENDMENTS

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee) have proposed amendments to their respective rules and forms, and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment. The public comment period ends February 16, 2023.

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 & Policies webpage on the U.S. Courts website at <http://go.usa.gov/ypeJ>.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday, October 10 - Columbus Day

Thursday, November 24 - Thanksgiving Day

Monday, December 26 - Christmas Day (Observed)

Friday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Friday, November 25 - Day after Thanksgiving

Monday, January 2 - New Year's Day (Observed)

To view the 2022 Federal Holiday Public Notice on the Court's website click [here](#).

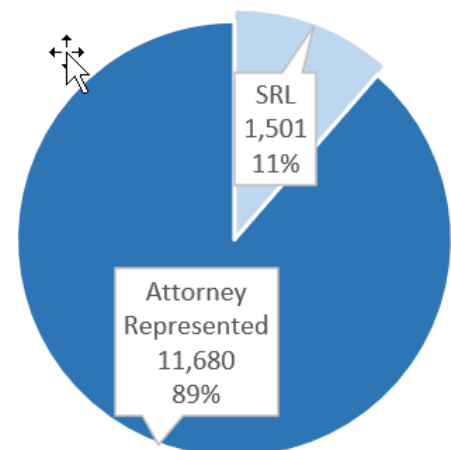
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru September 30, 2022. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	4505	99	953	5557	-28.92%
Northern	702	12	105	819	-19.31%
Riverside	3207	15	619	3841	-27.66%
San Fernando Valley	966	20	217	1203	-27.61%
Santa Ana	1479	41	239	1759	-27.64%
Total	10859	187	2133	13179	-27.73%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2022 YTD	558	145	38	741
2021 YTD	689	202	23	914

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>

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
Elite Aerospace Group, Inc.	SA-21-12231-TA	11	09/13/21	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 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
Alex A. Khadavi	LA-21-14449-BB	11	05/27/21	\$50 - \$100 million	\$50 - \$100 million
Arian Mowlavi	SA-22-10296-ES	11	02/21/22	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$100 million
Plamex Investment, LLC	SA-21-10958-ES	11	04/14/21	\$100 - \$500 million	\$100 - \$500 million
PS On Tap, LLC	SV-21-10757-MB	11	04/28/21	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
TRX Holdco, LLC	SA-22-10948-SC	11	06/08/22	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 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:

USA v. Smith

On July 28, 2022 Jonathan Smith Lee, who managed and owned two Hollywood-based reality TV production companies, was sentenced to 12 months and one day in federal prison for fraudulently obtaining a \$2 million business loan using fabricated documents and misrepresenting his companies' financial circumstances. Smith falsely represented that his companies had accounts receivable of \$3,348,000. He submitted falsified license agreements, other forgeries documents and then created a false record showing a \$100,000 wire payment in an attempt to convince the lender that a payment had been made when, in fact, it had not. Lee then placed both companies into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a further attempt to delay, hinder and defraud his creditors. [Press Release](#)

USA v. Avenatti

On June 16, 2022 suspended attorney Michael Avenatti plead guilty to four counts of wire fraud and one count of endeavoring to obstruct the administration of the Internal Revenue Service. Avenatti still faces a total of 31 counts including wire fraud, tax related charges, bank fraud, aggravated identity theft and four counts of bankruptcy fraud. [Press Release](#)

People of the State of California v. Kim

On March 11, 2022 Chong Yol Kim was convicted after trial on one count of foreclosure fraud, one count of filing false documents, one count of identity theft and one count of forgery. He was sentenced to 36 months in state prison, a \$5,000 fine and 80 hours of community service. Kim used the bankruptcy system to delay mortgage foreclosure and hinder and defraud financial institutions. The scheme involved 25 individual properties and the filing of chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy petitions in the names of "ghost debtors".