

United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California

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



## CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA BANKRUPTCY COURT'S WORKSHOP FOR JUNIOR ATTORNEYS

The Court's mission statement is "to serve the most populous and diverse judicial district in the country by providing bankruptcy relief, fair and impartial justice, and a prompt and efficient resolution of disputes." One way the Court advances this mission is to sponsor, contribute to, and promote programs that are aimed at educating the bar and the public on matters of bankruptcy law and practice.

To this end, on October 26, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the Court will offer an in-person workshop intended to foster the courtroom presentation skills of junior attorneys. The workshop will be held at the Roybal Federal Building, 255 E. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.



The workshop will provide each participant the opportunity to argue a simulated motion before one or more judges of the Court and receive constructive feedback in real time. This is not a competition. The workshop is being offered to provide a safe space for junior attorneys to gain experience in a courtroom setting. The workshop is open to attorneys with less than seven years of full-time equivalent work experience. Participants need not be currently practicing bankruptcy law.

Space for this program is limited. Please register as soon as possible, but only register if you know you are able to attend. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Materials and assigned courtroom information will be distributed no later than one week prior to the workshop. Register by clicking [here](#). Members of the bar who are not assigned to argue a motion may also attend the simulated hearings, as well as the reception afterwards. To view the official flyer for the event, please click [here](#).

---

## JUDICIAL CONFERENCE REVISES POLICY TO EXPAND REMOTE AUDIO ACCESS OVER ITS PRE-COVID POLICY

The Judicial Conference of the United States Courts has revised the policies with respect to video and audio broadcasting of courtroom matters for all civil and bankruptcy proceedings (District Courts and Bankruptcy Courts). The new policy will go into effect on Sept. 22, 2023, immediately after the expiration of the

(continued on page 2)

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>

(continued from page 1)

temporary exception that was put into place by the Judiciary when access to courthouses was restricted for health and safety reasons. The exception allowed judges to permit remote audio access to any civil or bankruptcy proceeding. The revised policy, adopted at the Conference's biennial meeting, will permit judges presiding over civil and bankruptcy cases to provide the public live audio access to non-trial proceedings that do not involve witness testimony. Remote connection details for participants and observers can be found within the posted calendar and tentative ruling. For more information on the policy please click [here](#).

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL RULES AND FORMS

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee) has 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 on February 16, 2024.

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 <http://go.usa.gov/ypeJ>.

## THE CENTRAL GUIDE INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS – ADDITIONAL DATES

In December 2021, the Court announced the release of The Central Guide, a new digital tool to replace the Court Manual. The Central Guide allows users to look up a specific Local Bankruptcy Rule ("LBR") and links to forms and instructions that match that LBR. Pertinent information found on the websites of the U.S. Trustee, U.S. District Court, Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is also linked to The Central Guide. Join us for an informational session on the new features of the Central Guide, how to navigate the new tool, and more. Court staff will be available to answer any questions.

Free Information Sessions: The Central Guide	
October 16, 2023	December 11, 2023
2:00pm-3:00pm	2:00pm-3:0pm
Join ZoomGov Meeting: <a href="https://cacb.zoomgov.com/j/1603696570">https://cacb.zoomgov.com/j/1603696570</a> Meeting ID: 160 369 6570 Password: TCG2023	
Registration not required	

## GENERAL ORDER 23-02 IN RE: COMPLEX CHAPTER 11 CASE DEFINITION AND PRE-FILING PROCEDURE

On July 31, 2023, Chief Judge Theodor C. Albert issued [General Order 23-02](#) which defines a complex chapter 11 case and outlines procedures to be followed prior to filing a complex chapter 11 case. General Order 23-02 was entered for the efficient administration of complex chapter 11 cases and followed a proposed revision to the Court's procedures and subsequent comment period. Please refer to General Order 23-02 for applicability and procedures prior to filing chapter 11 cases.

## REASSIGNMENT OF JUDGE ERNEST ROBLES' CASELOAD EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15

On September 30, Judge Ernest Robles retired from the bench after serving over thirty years as a bankruptcy judge. Judge Robles presided over several notable bankruptcy cases, including Verity Health System of California, Inc., and Gardens Regional Hospital and Medical Center. On September 15, Judge Robles's pending bankruptcy cases and related bankruptcy proceedings were reassigned to the other judges at the Los Angeles Division, as specified in the table at the following [link](#).

### HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday, October 9 - Columbus Day

Friday, November 10 - Veterans Day (Observed)

Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 24 - Day after Thanksgiving

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day (Observed)

Monday, January 1 - New Year's Day

To view the 2023 Federal Holiday Public Notice on the Court's website click [here](#).

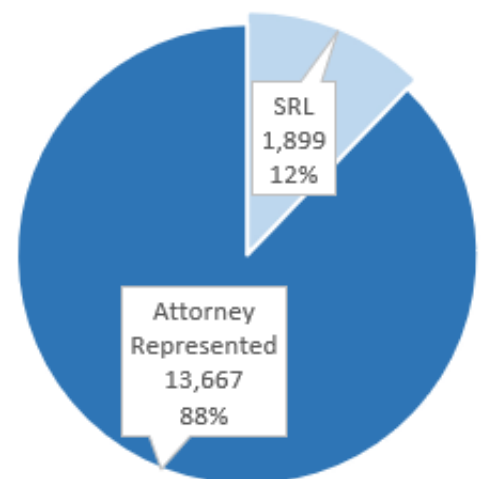
## BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru September 30, 2023. Statistics based on internal filings data.

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	5,177	135	1,245	6,557	18.00%
Northern	766	14	115	895	9.28%
Riverside	3,752	33	807	4,592	19.55%
San Fernando Valley	1,148	53	248	1,449	20.45%
Santa Ana	1,727	39	303	2,069	17.62%
Total	12,570	274	2,718	15,562	18.08%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2023 YTD	746	248	46	1040
2022 YTD	558	145	38	741

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://cacb-ecf.sso.dcn/ecfstatsdash/>

## TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST\*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
AfterShock Comics, LLC	SV-22-11456-MB	11	12/19/22	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Better Nutritionals, LLC.	RS-22-14723-MH	7	12/20/22	\$50 - \$100 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Beverly Community Hospital Asso.	LA-23-12359-SK	11	04/19/23	\$1 - \$10 million	\$100 - \$500 million
Chinecherem Eze LLC	SV-22-10954-MB	11	08/16/22	\$1 - \$10 million	\$1 - \$10 million
Elite Investment Management Group	LA-23-15752-NB	11	09/05/23	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Ittella International LLC	LA-23-14154-SK	11	07/02/23	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
The Litigation Practice Group P.C.	SA-23-10571-SC	11	03/20/23	\$1 - \$10 million	\$10 - \$50 million
Arian Mowlavi	SA-23-10296-ES	11	02/21/22	\$1 - \$10 million	\$100 - \$500 million
TRX Holdco, LLC	SA-22-10948-SC	7	06/08/22	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
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 FRAUD PROSECUTIONS

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

### In Re: Leroy Bishop Austin

The Supreme Court of the State of California issued an order effective March 17, 2023, disbaring Leroy Austin. Austin had been practicing bankruptcy law since 1995. In June of 2021, The State Bar of California suspended his license. Nevertheless, he continued to file bankruptcy petitions in violation of the suspension. The U.S. Trustee's Santa Ana Office identified the violation and brought a motion before the bankruptcy court seeking disciplinary action which resulted in a two-year suspension from practicing before the bankruptcy courts in the Central District of California. Thereafter, the State Bar of California initiated further action seeking permanently to disbar Austin. At the State Bar trial, attorneys from the U.S. Trustee Program's Santa Ana, San Jose and Oakland offices testified about the unauthorized practice of law by Austin. The State Bar judge then issued a decision recommending disbarment to the Supreme Court of California which adopted the recommendation and issued an order of disbarment.

