

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

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



JUDGE MARTIN R. BARASH APPOINTED TO THE NINTH CIRCUIT BANKRUPTCY APPELLATE PANEL

Judge Martin R. Barash has been appointed to serve on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, or BAP, which hears appeals of decisions made by federal bankruptcy courts in the western states.

Judge Barash will commence his seven-year term on the BAP on August 1. He will succeed Bankruptcy Judge William J. Lafferty III, of the Northern District of California, who has served on the BAP since 2016 and served as its chief judge from 2024 to 2025.

Judge Barash, who maintains chambers in Woodland Hills, California, was appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California in 2015. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Barash was an associate then a partner at Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP in Los Angeles, from 1999 to 2001 and from 2001 to 2015, respectively.



Earlier in his career, Judge Barash worked as an associate at Stutman, Treister & Glatt P.C. in Los Angeles from 1994 to 1998. He was an adjunct professor of law at California State University, Northridge, from 1998 to 1999. He currently teaches at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, as a member of its part-time faculty.

Born in Los Angeles, Judge Barash earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1989 from Princeton University, where he graduated magna cum laude, and his Juris Doctor in 1992 from the UCLA School of Law, where he served as member, business manager, symposium editor and editor of the UCLA Law Review. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Procter R. Hug Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, from 1992 to 1993.

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit—the governing body for federal courts in the western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions—established the BAP in 1979 as an alternative forum for hearing bankruptcy appeals. The council is responsible for the appointments of judges to the BAP, which is authorized seven bankruptcy judges who serve seven-year terms and may be reappointed for an additional three years. BAP judges are precluded from hearing matters arising from their respective districts.

Headquartered in the Richard H. Chambers U.S. Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, California, the BAP has historically handled between 45% and 60% of all bankruptcy appeals in the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder). In fiscal year 2025, 434 new bankruptcy appeals were filed in the circuit, a 9% increase from FY 2024. The BAP disposed of 227 appeals, up 27% from FY 2024, and handled 47% of all bankruptcy appeals, and the district courts handled 53%.

The Ninth Circuit was the first federal circuit to establish a bankruptcy appellate panel. For more information, visit <https://www.bap9.uscourts.gov/>.

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS ON THE RISE, COURT MOVES TO FILL TWO JUDGESHIPS

After several years of decline or little change, bankruptcy filings in the Central District have climbed sharply over the past three years. In 2022, the Court received 17,282 filings. That number rose to 21,048 in 2023, then to 25,911 in 2024, and reached 29,591 in 2025, an increase of more than 70 percent over the four-year period, with the sharpest growth occurring most recently.

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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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During the years when filings were flat or declining, the Court did not seek to fill judgeship vacancies as sitting judges retired, relying instead on its existing bench to manage the caseload. With filings now well above prior levels, the Court requested authorization from the Ninth Circuit to fill two of those vacant judgeships, one in Los Angeles and one in Santa Ana, and the Circuit has approved both positions.

The Circuit will open the application period for these two judgeships in mid-November and interested and qualified applicants are encouraged to apply once the period opens. Chief Judge Julia W. Brand welcomed the news, stating, "We are very excited about the opportunity to add to our bankruptcy bench in both Los Angeles and Orange County." The Court will share additional details on the application process, including timelines and how to apply, as they become available.

HONOR ROLL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DURING NATIONAL PRO BONO CELEBRATION WEEK

The annual National Celebration of Pro Bono week takes place October 25-31. Created by the American Bar Association, the celebration recognizes the volunteers who help those who do not have an attorney, providing pro bono assistance, and promotes training for pro bono volunteers. The National Celebration of Pro Bono launched in 2009 because of the increasing need for pro bono services during harsh economic times and the unprecedented response of attorneys to meet this demand. The Court celebrates National Celebration of Pro Bono Week with the publication of the Honor Roll to its website, listing the names of bankruptcy pro bono volunteers assisting the Central District.



The Honor Roll is published under "Programs and Services" and "For Attorneys," and is based on the names submitted by each of the Court's self-help desks (for the 12 months ending in October) to recognize volunteers for each organization. In previous years, and with funding provided by District Court's Attorney Admission Fund (AAF), the Court has hosted its own Honor Roll receptions or recognized volunteers by partnering with local bar association events.



The San Fernando Valley Division hosted a celebration of pro bono volunteers on the afternoon of October 26, 2026. On Tuesday, May 5, 2026, the Northern Division hosted a Bankruptcy Clinic Pro Bono Celebration in the court patio area. The recognition of pro bono volunteers in Riverside is traditionally celebrated at the Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum (IEBF)'s annual Judges' Night.



For volunteers named on the Honor Roll who served at Help Desks in the Northern, San Fernando Valley, Santa Ana, Riverside and Los Angeles divisions, certificates of appreciation will be available for pick up at the division hosting the Help Desk where each volunteer has served. The Court greatly appreciates the services and meaningful work of pro bono volunteers in assisting the public.

CHIEF JUDGE BRAND PRESENTS COIN TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR; FBA NAMES HIM NATIONAL "UNSUNG HERO"

On September 2, 2026, during a Special Award ceremony in the Los Angeles Division, Chief Judge Julia W. Brand presented a Chief Judge's coin to Office Services Supervisor Anthony Gonzalez in recognition of his service as the Court's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. The award recognized Mr. Gonzalez's steady leadership in coordinating the Court's response to civil unrest and a range of other emergencies affecting Court operations and personnel across the Central District.



Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell also announced that Mr. Gonzalez had been nominated for, and selected to receive, the Federal Bar Association's national Unsung Hero Award — a distinction given each year to a member of the court community whose career contributions or exceptional heroics have helped maintain the safety and functioning of the courts.

The Unsung Hero Award, according to the FBA, "honors a person whose work exemplifies the many individuals who ensure the safety and efficient operation of the Federal Judiciary." As the FBA describes it, "the courts are an important part of our social fabric and the cornerstone of our democracy, ensuring a safe and equitable venue for civil disputes and a dignified and respectful

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venue for criminal matters," and "the safety of these proceedings and all who participate in them serves a vital need to keep them public, open, and engaged." That safety, the FBA notes, is the work of thousands of people nationwide, "many of whom are never seen or heard."

To be considered, nominees must have at least five years of service to the judiciary or court system in a non-lawyer or non-judicial role, and the nomination must be jointly submitted by the local FBA chapter president and the head of the nominee's agency — in this case, the Court. The nomination package included a biography of Mr. Gonzalez, a description of his work and the events that prompted the nomination, and supporting letters of recommendation.

Mr. Gonzalez's selection reflects years of behind-the-scenes work ensuring that judges, staff, attorneys, and the public could safely carry out the Court's business even amid unpredictable and sometimes volatile circumstances. His colleagues note that his preparation, calm under pressure, and attention to detail have become a model for emergency response planning across the Court's divisions.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED NATIONAL RULES AMENDMENTS

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee) has proposed amendments to their respective rules and requested that the proposals be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment. The public comment period ends February 15, 2027.

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 this [link](#).

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE AND COURT CLOSURES

Monday, October 12 - Columbus Day

Wednesday, November 11 - Veterans Day

Thursday, November 26 - Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 27 - Day after Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 24 - Admin leave day

Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Thursday, December 31 - Admin leave day

Friday, January 1 - New Year's 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:

Summary Judgment Prevents Discharge of \$2,995,755.43 - On March 10, 2026, the court entered summary judgment in favor of the United States Trustee and against debtor. In an effort to hide the equity in her home, debtor entered into a series of transactions, including the creation of a land trust, the incorporation of an LLC, the transfer of title to her home, taking a substantial mortgage on her home, the transfer of the loan proceeds to other entities, and use of the loan proceeds to purchase investment properties. The transfer of the loan proceeds and the purchase of the investment properties occurred within 1 year of the petition date. Debtor failed to disclose the transfers in her statement of financial affairs. In the complaint objecting to discharge, the United States Trustee asserted that debtor transferred the property with the intent to hinder, delay, or defraud her creditors and that she made false oaths about the property.

Judgment Denies Discharge of \$10,750,000 - On May 6, 2026, the court entered a default judgment in favor of the United States Trustee on two counts against debtor. In his schedules, the debtor listed approximately 84 unsecured creditors. Most of the creditors were individuals, who allegedly, at separate times, invested in business opportunities led by the debtor across multiple corporate entities. The United States Trustee obtained an order compelling the debtor to produce documents and to appear at an examination. After the debtor failed to produce documents or appear at the examination in response to the court order, the United States Trustee filed a complaint to deny discharge. The debtor did not defend, and the court entered a default judgment under 11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(3) for concealing records and 11 U.S.C. § 727 (a)(6) for failing to obey a court order.

TOP 10 CASES OF INTEREST*

Debtor	Case Number	Chapter	Filed	Assets	Liabilities
AvantGarde Senior Living	SV-26-11397-MB	11	06/29/26	\$10 - \$50 million	\$10 - \$50 million
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
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	9	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.

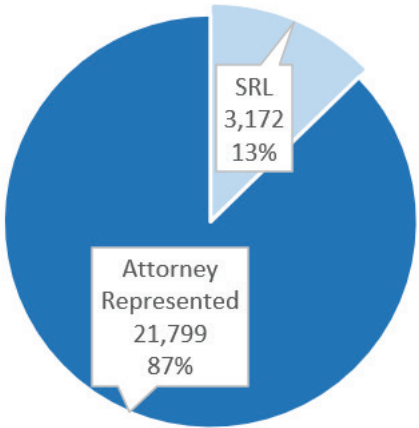
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

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

Divisional Filings YTD	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total	% change from previous YTD
Los Angeles	8,315	160	1,507	9,982	13.72%
Northern	1,264	20	173	1,457	8.65%
Riverside	7,061	54	1,167	8,282	16.76%
San Fernando Valley	1,729	68	383	2,180	18.48%
Santa Ana	2,628	73	365	3,066	9.46%
Total	20,997	375	3,595	24,967	14.25%

Business Filings	Ch 7	Ch 11	Ch 13	Total
2026 YTD	1,124	322	48	1,494
2025 YTD	1,005	269	50	1,324

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>