



2017 DISTRICT PROFILE

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California (Court) is the largest bankruptcy court in the United States. With jurisdiction over seven counties, the Central District covers approximately 40,000 square miles. The Central District is comprised of five divisions: Los Angeles, Northern, Riverside, San Fernando Valley, and Santa Ana. The Court serves the residents of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura Counties.

POPULATION 19,520,355

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS 38,700

Chapter 7 28,657

Chapter 13 9,634

Chapter 11 407

Chapter 12 2

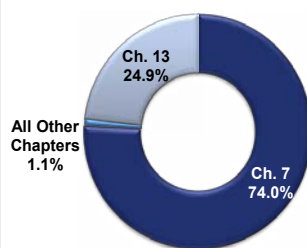
PRO SE FILINGS 7,877

JUDGES 27

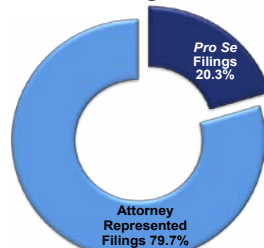
Authorized: 22

Recalled: 5

2017 Chapter Filings

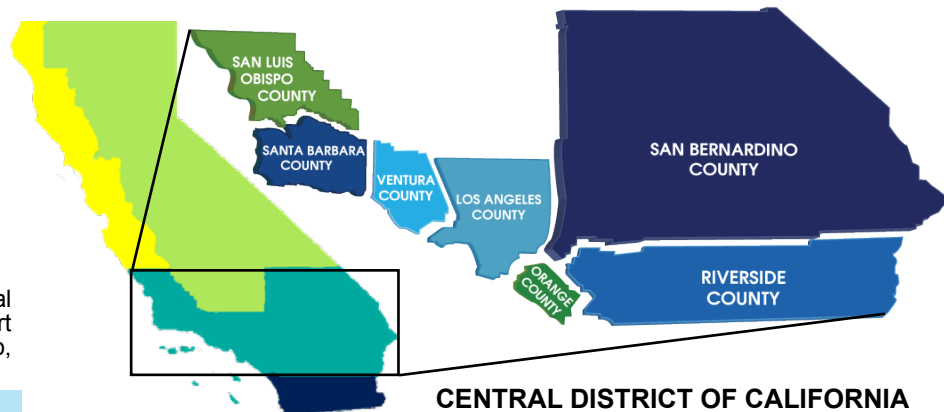


Pro Se Filings in 2017



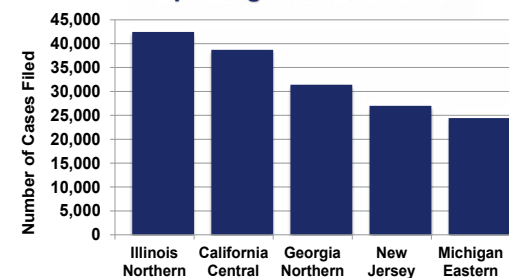
More *pro se* parties filed for bankruptcy in the Central District than anywhere else in the nation. In 2017, the Court took in nearly twice as many *pro se* filings as the runner-up, the Eastern District of New York, which had 4,793.

In 2017, the Court's total number of bankruptcy filings (38,700) was second only to the Northern District of Illinois (42,467), trailed by the Northern District of Georgia (31,419).



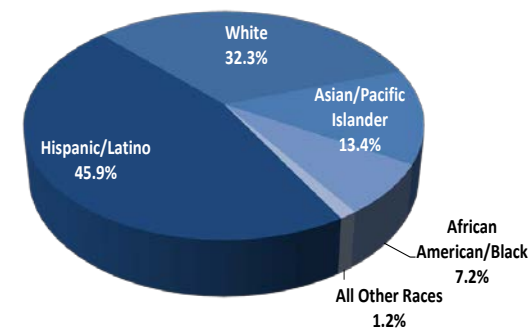
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Top Filing Districts in 2017

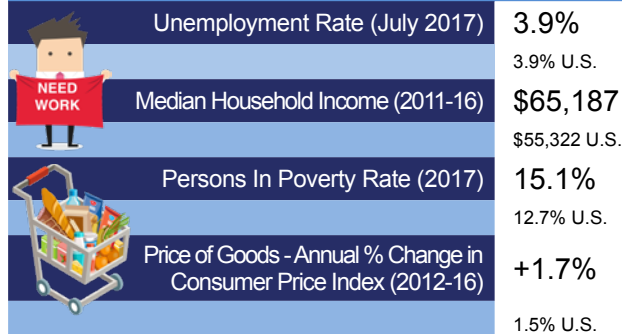


Race & Ethnicity Demographics

July 1, 2017 estimates

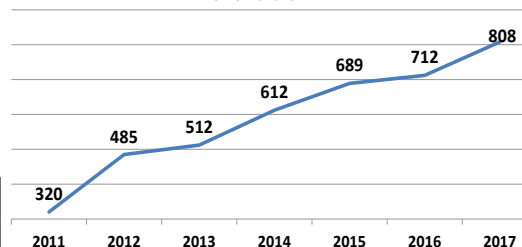


INCOME & POVERTY (DISTRICT AVERAGES)



Providing access to justice and service to the public is one of the key issues highlighted by the Court's Strategic Plan. To this end, the Central District has adopted a number of programs aimed at expanding outreach, improving access to bankruptcy services, and informing the public of the Court's rules and procedures.

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Cumulative Number of Followers
CY 2011 thru 2017



Chat Live! 9am-4pm PST
[Online](#)

Live Chat: Representatives answer procedural questions by live chat from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at www.cacb.uscourts.gov. Nearly 3,000 chat sessions were initiated during 2017.



Twitter: The Court has been tweeting news, announcements, tips, and estate sale information since 2011. Follow us @cabcnews.

Call Center: The Call Center handles a high volume of inquiries about e-filing and bankruptcy. On an average business day in 2017, the Court answered 127 calls. Reach us at (855) 460-9641.

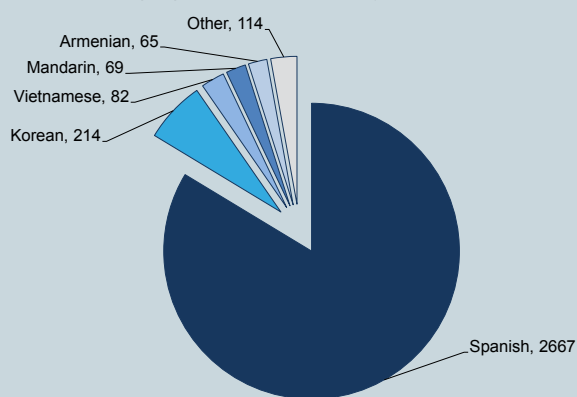
DeBN: The Court uses an electronic noticing program to improve communication with debtors, save money, and reduce paper waste. Join over 4,700 residents of the Central District who have signed up for paperless noticing by [filing out the DeBN form](#).



2017 *Pro Se* Filers

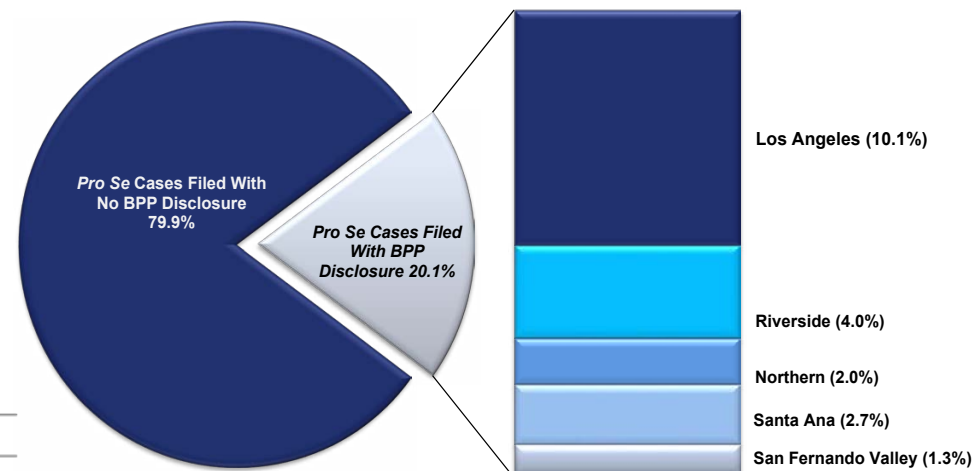
The Central District of California's high volume of self-represented (*pro se*) bankruptcy proceedings places exceptional demands on the Court. Of the 67,068 *pro se* bankruptcy petitions filed nationally, more than 11 percent of these petitions were filed in the densely populated counties of the Central District. Attorney-represented debtors have a clear advantage: over half of the district's *pro se* cases were dismissed last year, compared to an 8 percent dismissal rate for debtors with legal representation.

U.S. Trustee Program
Language Assistance Summary Statistics for 2017



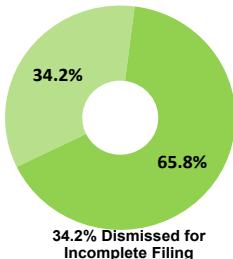
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a large number of residents of the Central District's population do not speak English in the home. Language barriers can limit access to justice for *pro se* debtors, many of whom require assistance with translation. For meetings of creditors during 2017, debtors requested interpretation services for 25 different languages, Spanish chief among them.

Bankruptcy Petition Preparers (BPPs) Disclosed
in *Pro Se* Bankruptcy Cases Filed in 2017

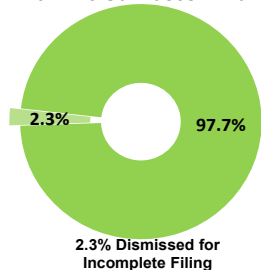


Some *pro se* debtors file bankruptcy with the assistance of non-attorneys called Bankruptcy Petition Preparers (BPPs), whose fees for preparing documents are limited by statute. Criminal instances of BPPs practicing law without a license, failing to disclose their involvement in the petition, and overcharging clients are all too common, to the detriment of many clients and their cases.

Pro Se Cases in 2017

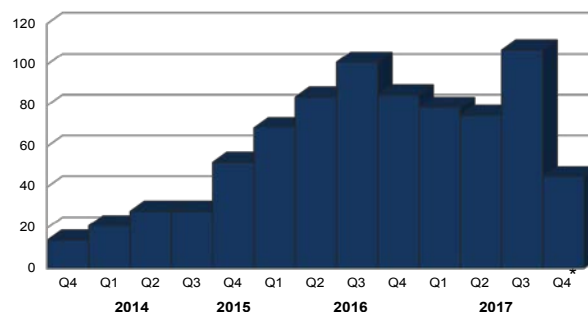


Non-*Pro Se* Cases in 2017



Pro se debtors face a higher risk of dismissal due to filing deficiencies. Based on the Court's internal data for 2017, 34.2 percent of *pro se* debtors' cases were dismissed for incomplete filing, as against 2.3 percent of attorney-represented debtors' cases.

Number of Cases Filed Using eSR



*System upgrade suspended eSR this quarter.

eSR: [Electronic Self-Representation](#), or eSR, enables users to prepare and submit chapter 7 petitions through the Court's website. It is a guided, step-by-step process designed to produce complete filings. Over 300 *pro se* debtors used eSR to file bankruptcy in 2017.

Self-Help Desks: To assist the large number of low-income, self-represented parties in the Central District, self-help desks staffed by *pro bono* volunteers have been established at each division. In 2017, the district's self-help desks reported nearly 4,000 visits from people considering bankruptcy and seeking legal advice.

Individuals Assisted by Help Desk in 2017

