

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

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



JUNIOR ATTORNEY WORKSHOP HELD IN SANTA ANA

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, the Central District hosted a workshop for junior attorneys to gain valuable experience in courtroom proceedings. Nine attorneys from throughout the Central District traveled to Santa Ana to foster their courtroom presentation skills. Overseeing the mock hearings were Judges Meredith Jury, Erithe Smith, Mark Wallace, Ronald Clifford III, and Mark Houle. The junior attorneys were tasked to advocate for their client on a relief from stay motion in front of their assigned judge. Each counsel took turns arguing his or her position while fielding questions from the presiding judge. Following the mock hearings, the judges provided feedback to the junior attorneys and answered any questions.



Afterwards, all the judges and junior attorneys descended to the 2nd floor BK Café where a reception was held. Judge Houle expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in the workshop. The Court would like to thank all the judges, Chambers staff, and the Clerk's Office for making the event a wonderful success and providing an invaluable learning experience for the participating junior attorneys.

A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF PRO BONO VOLUNTEERS

On the afternoon of September 27, 2024, the San Fernando Valley division hosted a celebration with refreshments in honor of pro bono volunteers. Judge Kaufman led the effort to provide recognition to volunteers who have assisted the Self-Help Center in Woodland Hills, which is operated by Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles (NLSLA). Judges Kaufman, Barash and Clifford attended the reception, which also was attended by Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, several of the honored pro bono volunteers, staff of NLSLA, law clerks and court staff. Judges Kaufman and Barash made brief remarks to show the volunteers their appreciation. The Court provided the Honor Roll volunteers certificates of appreciation and "court swag" which included canvas tote bags with the "Celebrate Pro Bono" logo, and cell phone charging discs with the

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court seal. The [Honor Roll](#) is published on the Court’s website under “Programs and Services for Attorneys,” and is based on the names submitted on an ongoing basis by each of the Court’s self-help desks to recognize volunteers for each organization. The celebration and swag are each made possible by the District Court’s Attorney Admission Fund.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED FEDERAL RULES AND FORMS AMENDMENTS

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 February 17, 2025.

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 ONLINE

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 8, 2024 | 2:00pm – 3:00pm |
| December 9, 2024 | 2:00pm – 3:00pm |
| Join ZoomGov Meeting: https://cacb.zoomgov.com/j/1603696570 | |
| Meeting ID: 160 369 6570 Password: TCG2024 | |
| Registration not required | |

Did you miss a detail from a previous session that you would like to review, or do you want to revisit one of The Central Guide’s new features? A recorded session of The Central Guide Informational Session is now available. [Click here](#) (link is external to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California) to view the recorded session.

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS UNAVAILABLE DURING ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS AND SECURITY UPGRADE

From Friday, October 11, 2024 to Tuesday, October 15, 2024, the Court will conduct an essential systems and security upgrade that will impact its information systems. As a result, the following Court systems and applications will **not** be available from 5:00 PM PDT on Thursday, October 10, 2024 to 9:00 AM PDT on Tuesday, October 15, 2024:

- CM/ECF (Live)
- ePOC
- eSR
- LOU (Lodged Order Upload)
- PACER
- VCIS (Voice Case Information System)

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CM/ECF account holders should refrain from conducting any transactions during the maintenance window. The Intake section at each divisional office will remain open to accept filings during regular business hours, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Regular service will resume at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Please contact the [ECF Help Desk\(link sends e-mail\)](#) at (213) 894-2365 should you have any questions.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, October 14 - Columbus Day | Monday, November 11 - Veterans Day (Observed) |
| Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving Day | Friday, November 29 - Day after Thanksgiving |
| Tuesday, December 24 - Admin leave day | Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day (Observed) |
| Tuesday, December 31 - Admin leave day | Wednesday, January 1 - New Year's Day |

To view the 2024 Federal Holiday Public Notice on the Court's website click [here](#).

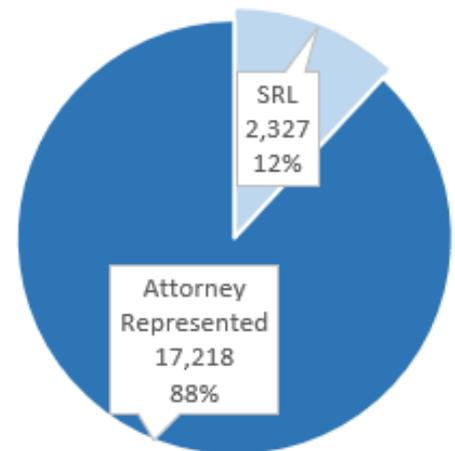
BANKRUPTCY STATISTICS

The data below represents filings year to date thru September 30, 2024. Statistics based on internal filings data.

| Divisional Filings YTD | Ch 7 | Ch 11 | Ch 13 | Total | % change from previous YTD |
|------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|----------------------------|
| Los Angeles | 6,652 | 140 | 1,301 | 8,093 | 23.42% |
| Northern | 951 | 17 | 167 | 1,135 | 26.82% |
| Riverside | 5,042 | 22 | 846 | 5,910 | 28.70% |
| San Fernando Valley | 1,330 | 51 | 302 | 1,683 | 16.15% |
| Santa Ana | 2,116 | 54 | 351 | 2,521 | 21.85% |
| Total | 16,091 | 284 | 2,967 | 19,342 | 24.29% |

| Business Filings | Ch 7 | Ch 11 | Ch 13 | Total |
|------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2024 YTD | 929 | 239 | 42 | 1,210 |
| 2023 YTD | 746 | 248 | 46 | 1,040 |

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 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 |
| Elite Investment Management Group | LA-23-15752-NB | 11 | 09/05/23 | \$10 - \$50 million | \$10 - \$50 million |
| Heycart Inc. | SA-24-10483-TA | 11 | 02/28/24 | \$1 - \$10 million | \$10 - \$50 million |
| Ittella International LLC | LA-23-14154-SK | 11 | 07/02/23 | \$10 - \$50 million | \$10 - \$50 million |
| K3B Enterprises, LLC | SV-24-10406-VK | 11 | 03/14/24 | \$10 - \$50 million | \$1 - \$10 million |
| The Litigation Practice Group P.C. | SA-23-10571-SC | 11 | 03/20/23 | \$1 - \$10 million | \$10 - \$50 million |
| Manning Land Company, LLC | LA:24-16757-VZ | 11 | 08/22/24 | \$10 - \$50 million | \$10 - \$50 million |
| Synapse Financial Technologies, Inc. | SV-24-10646-MB | 11 | 04/22/24 | \$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:

USA v. Girardi

After a 13-day trial, Thomas Girardi, once a well-known personal injury attorney, was found guilty by a jury on four counts of wire fraud (18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1342(a)). Despite claiming that he suffers from cognitive mental decline, Girardi was found to be competent to stand trial. Evidence at the trial proved that Girardi embezzled millions of dollars from his client trust account over many decades. Some of his clients had suffered serious injuries or loss. In December 2020, Thomas Girardi and his law firm Girardi Keese LLP were forced into involuntary bankruptcies. Robert Keese was suspended by the California State Bar in 2021. Thomas Girardi was disbarred in July 2022. [Press Release](#)