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Chief Bankruptcy Judge

United States Bankruptcy Court

Central District of California
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RECOGNITION OF *PRO BONO* VOLUNTEERS IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In honor of National *Pro Bono* Celebration week, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California, recognizes the extraordinary efforts of the attorneys serving self-represented filers. The Central District of California has the largest population of self-represented parties of any bankruptcy court in the nation. Attorneys that volunteer are helping those facing substantial economic hardship (and often language barriers) to navigate through the bankruptcy process. These attorneys serve an area of extreme need, providing vital services, advice, and in some cases legal representation for qualifying individuals. The service provided by these attorney volunteers greatly benefits the Court and all of its litigants, regardless of income level.

The volunteer efforts recognized include *pro bono* service in one or more of the following areas: self-help desks, Reaffirmation Agreement clinics, chapter 7 clinics, consumer debt clinics, bankruptcy seminars concerning filing requirements and the different chapters of bankruptcy, and legal representation for qualifying cases. A brief description of the varied programs forming this network of assistance for self-represented parties with the Central District of California follows the honor roll listing.

The Court thanks each of the following Honor Roll of *Pro Bono* Volunteers for their current and continued support in serving the self-represented parties in our district.

PETER H. CARROLL, CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California

2011 Honor Roll of *Pro Bono* Volunteers



National Pro Bono Celebration
October 23 - 29, 2011

**Debtors Assistance Project *Pro Bono* Volunteers
Chapter 7 & Reaffirmation Hearings**

<i>Faye Barta</i>	<i>Keith Higginbotham</i>	<i>Philomena Nzegge</i>
<i>Ethel Bennett</i>	<i>Gail Higgins</i>	<i>Yvette Ochoa</i>
<i>Nan Blitman</i>	<i>David Jacobs</i>	<i>Shai Oved</i>
<i>Cliff Bordeaux</i>	<i>Travis Kasper</i>	<i>Leonard Pena</i>
<i>Chris Cantore</i>	<i>Jeff Katz</i>	<i>Arsen Pogosov</i>
<i>Corey Carter</i>	<i>Kari Keidser</i>	<i>Todd Roberts</i>
<i>Jason Derman</i>	<i>Jim King</i>	<i>R. Grace Rodriguez</i>
<i>Jeremy Faith</i>	<i>Ilyse Klavir</i>	<i>Daniela Romero</i>
<i>Douglas Flahaut</i>	<i>Nancy Korompis</i>	<i>Lauren Ross</i>
<i>Faith S. Ford</i>	<i>Annie Michelle Krikorian</i>	<i>Natalie Ryan</i>
<i>Michael I. Gottfried</i>	<i>Michael D. Kwasigroch</i>	<i>Allan Sarver</i>
<i>Patrick T. Green</i>	<i>Mary Lenahan</i>	<i>Darren Schlecter</i>
<i>Daniel Greenbaum</i>	<i>Jonathan Leventhal</i>	<i>Salvatore Sciortino</i>
<i>David S. Hagen</i>	<i>Jennifer Li</i>	<i>Tyson Takeuchi</i>
<i>Stella Havkin</i>	<i>Peter Lively</i>	<i>Susana Tolchard</i>
<i>Marisa H. Hawkins</i>	<i>Susan I. Montgomery</i>	<i>Kamal Virk</i>
<i>Jon Hayes</i>	<i>Roksana D. Moradi</i>	<i>Steven Wolvek</i>
<i>Marlene Hemmings</i>	<i>Sandra Nutt</i>	<i>Aleksandra Zimonjic</i>

Los Angeles Bankruptcy Self Help Desk & Clinic Volunteers

<i>Francisco Acosta</i>	<i>Ed Figaredo</i>	<i>John Melissinos</i>
<i>Paul Allen</i>	<i>Clemente Franco</i>	<i>Jack Nguyen</i>
<i>Armen Avidissian</i>	<i>Curt Harrington</i>	<i>Sandra Nutt</i>
<i>James Beirne</i>	<i>David Jacob</i>	<i>Robert Reganyan</i>
<i>Nan Blitman</i>	<i>Travis Kasper</i>	<i>Veronica Rojas</i>
<i>Magdalena Bordeaux</i>	<i>Jeffrey Katz</i>	<i>Natalie Ryan</i>
<i>Clifford Bordeaux</i>	<i>Bert Kawahara</i>	<i>Sal Sciortino</i>
<i>Raffy Boulgourjian</i>	<i>Sujin Kim</i>	<i>Armen Shaghzo</i>
<i>Henry Broome</i>	<i>Anna Korte</i>	<i>Elizabeth Sutlian</i>
<i>Nick Brovko</i>	<i>Annie Krikorian</i>	<i>Cameron Totten</i>
<i>Chris Cantore</i>	<i>Mary Lenahan</i>	<i>Joshua Valero</i>
<i>J. Jay Chang</i>	<i>Jennifer Li</i>	<i>Stephen Vokshori</i>
<i>Joseph Collier</i>	<i>Jeff Love</i>	<i>Justin Wilson</i>
<i>Jason Derman</i>	<i>Erika Luna</i>	<i>Ime Wolin</i>
<i>Sheldon Eskin</i>	<i>Mando Macayaon</i>	<i>Nathanial Wood</i>
<i>Charles Evans</i>	<i>John Manley</i>	
<i>Matt Evans</i>	<i>Kim McReynolds Bell</i>	

San Fernando Valley Division Self-Help Desk Volunteers

<i>Anil Bhartia</i>	<i>Marlene Hemmings</i>	<i>Jennifer Phan</i>
<i>Nan Bitman</i>	<i>Gail Higgins</i>	<i>Natalie Ryan</i>
<i>Mark Brenner</i>	<i>James King</i>	<i>Pat Said</i>
<i>Daniel Greenbaum</i>	<i>Ilyse Klavir</i>	<i>Larry Webb</i>
<i>David Handel</i>	<i>Jonathan Leventhal</i>	<i>Joel Wilde</i>
<i>Jonathan Hayes</i>	<i>Rosksana Moradi</i>	

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County

<i>Carissa Horowitz</i>	<i>Monica Robles</i>	<i>Randy Sutter</i>
<i>Casey B. Nelson</i>		

Orange County Bar and Public Law Center

<i>Anerio Altman</i>	<i>Halli Heston</i>	<i>Paul Nash</i>
<i>Michael Bartlett</i>	<i>Richard Heston</i>	<i>Barbara Su-Yin Ngo</i>
<i>Lewis Belfer</i>	<i>Christina Ho</i>	<i>Hieu-Tony Ngo</i>
<i>Shilpa Bhalan</i>	<i>Tina Hoover</i>	<i>Michelle Prescott</i>
<i>Sergio Chaidez</i>	<i>Jeffrey Hsu</i>	<i>Peter Rasla</i>
<i>Randy Chang</i>	<i>Xipeng Huang</i>	<i>Peter Recchia</i>
<i>Lee Wei Chen</i>	<i>Jeffrey Jackson</i>	<i>David Revolinksy</i>
<i>Joan Chyun</i>	<i>Michael Jones</i>	<i>Sinae Han Robbins</i>
<i>Robert Driessen</i>	<i>Bridget Kelly</i>	<i>Celia Robles</i>
<i>Doug Ecks</i>	<i>Jai Kim</i>	<i>Veronica Rojas Munoz</i>
<i>Henry Ezzati</i>	<i>Andrew Klimkowski</i>	<i>Paula Schaefer</i>
<i>Michael Feeney</i>	<i>Uliana Kozeychuk</i>	<i>Mary Schewatz</i>
<i>Julia Fendorff</i>	<i>Christopher Langley</i>	<i>Link Schrader</i>
<i>Parisa Fishback</i>	<i>Jessica Lee</i>	<i>Bethany Schramm</i>
<i>Ian Flatley</i>	<i>Ed Malpass</i>	<i>Kristin Smith</i>
<i>Wayne Fong</i>	<i>Keith Maneet</i>	<i>Christian Spaulding</i>
<i>Bernard Frimond</i>	<i>Jame Mascaro</i>	<i>Bill Steele</i>
<i>Selene Geoppo</i>	<i>Craig McLaughlin</i>	<i>Arthur Stockton</i>
<i>Rob Goe</i>	<i>Harlene Miller</i>	<i>Michael Stoltzman</i>
<i>Kathleen Goldberg</i>	<i>Neda Mobassery</i>	<i>Fermin Valencia</i>
<i>Erik Graeff</i>	<i>Erin Moriarty</i>	<i>Hieu Vu</i>
<i>Richard Green</i>	<i>Jeffrey Mulford</i>	<i>Peter Vu</i>
<i>John Grieffendorf</i>	<i>Anthony Patrick Munoz</i>	<i>William John Wall</i>
<i>Mark Hamilton</i>	<i>Alison Murdock</i>	<i>Kerry Zeiler</i>
<i>Kate Heidbrink</i>	<i>Rami Nabi</i>	<i>Pamela Zylstra</i>

Public Service Law Corporation (Riverside)

<i>Jacqueline Carey-Wilson</i>	<i>Jennifer Loflin</i>	<i>Dennis Wagner</i>
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Programs for Self-Represented Parties at the Central District of California Bankruptcy Court

Los Angeles Division:

The Debtor Assistance Project (DAP) began as the Court's first effort to make *pro bono* programs available to the public within its geographic area. In the Los Angeles Division alone, the DAP places between 75-100 chapter 7 cases and adversary proceeding with *pro bono* counsel each year. It has become the umbrella committee and resource for projects throughout the district for all self-represented parties. The DAP is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Bar Association Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section and the Public Counsel Law Center. It works closely with a number of other legal clinics throughout the district to provide free legal services to qualifying debtors and self-help support to all parties in the bankruptcy court. The DAP holds bi-monthly meetings at the Court, bringing together representatives from public interest law firms, volunteer attorneys, chapter 7 and 13 trustee representatives, bankruptcy judges, Clerk's Office, and members of the office of the U.S. trustee. The DAP raises funds and awareness for its programs, provides training for *pro bono* attorneys, and exchanges information on trends and issues related to providing *pro bono* and self-help assistance as well as best practices.

Non-Dischargeability Representation

Public Counsel locates *pro bono* attorneys for self-represented debtors in non-dischargeability adversary proceedings. A notice is sent by the court advising the debtor to contact Public Counsel if they need assistance. Income screening is then done by Public Counsel before a volunteer attorney is assigned. The attorneys then represent *pro se* debtors in non-dischargeability proceedings.

Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic

This program provides *pro bono* assistance at Reaffirmation Agreement hearings. Reaffirmation Agreement hearings for participating judges at a particular division are bundled together, usually twice each month. This enables *pro bono* attorneys, coordinated by Public Counsel, to offer debtors information about their rights in a consultation that takes place outside the courtroom before the hearing. Public Counsel has also made arrangements with students from the California State University Los Angeles Interpreter Program to provide Spanish translation services for the Reaffirmation Agreement clinic, both during the attorney consultation and in court.

Self Help Desk

The Los Angeles Division launched an onsite self-help desk in 2009 that serves the public two days each week. The self-help desk provides self-represented debtors and creditors with chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy information, forms, access to reference material, and provides referrals for additional legal assistance. Income eligible individuals can also attend a chapter 7 self-help clinic. The Los Angeles Division self-help desk is sponsored by Public Counsel, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Association (CDCBAA), and the Los Angeles County Bar Association - Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Subcommittee's Debtor Assistance Project.

Chapter 7 Representation

Income qualified debtors may receive *pro bono* representation from Public Counsel where volunteer attorneys can be found. As the demand for representation is greater than the availability of volunteers, the self help programs are designed to assist those debtors with simple cases and the ability to represent themselves more effectively. Public Counsel locates attorney volunteers through the CDCBAA, the Los Angeles and San Fernando County Bar Associations, and the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum. Bet Tzedek Legal Services also provides a chapter 7 instruction clinic once a month with priority given to those who are disabled or 55 years of age or older, followed by individual representation where needed. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles also holds regular clinics and assists debtors in preparing their cases for filing on their own.

Riverside Division:

The Public Service Law Corporation of the Riverside County Bar Association offers limited free legal services and bankruptcy seminars for *pro se* debtors located in the area served by the Riverside Division. The Court made space available at the Riverside Division for the Public Service Law Corporation to provide *pro bono* and self-help services. In a joint effort, the District Court and the Bankruptcy Court plan to open a self-help desk in November of 2011.

Non-Dischargeability Defense

The Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum has provided non-dischargeability defense on a limited *ad hoc* basis when it can locate volunteer attorneys.

Santa Ana Division

Legal Clinic

The Santa Ana Division has a weekly onsite legal clinic operated by Public Law Center that provides free legal advice for self-represented parties in chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Public Law Center also provides *pro bono* representation in chapter 7 cases with attorneys from the local bar, when available. The legal clinic is co-sponsored by the Orange County Bar Association, Orange County Bar Association – Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, and the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum. Orange County Legal Aid also holds a weekly chapter 7 clinic and assists debtors in filing on their own if it is a no asset case.

Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic

The Santa Ana Division has a Reaffirmation Agreement clinic similar to the one in Los Angeles. The clinic is operated by the Public Law Center with volunteers from the local bar.

Non-Dischargeability Defense

The Public Law Center has provided non-dischargeability defense on an *ad hoc* basis when it can locate volunteer attorneys.

Northern Division

Consumer Debt Clinic

Serving Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties, a consumer debt clinic was formed and began operation in 2009 in Lompoc before moving to the Northern Division in 2010. The clinic is operated by the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County (LAFSBC). Volunteer staff attorneys are available twice each month to answer questions about individual consumer debt issues. Volunteer staff attorneys also answer questions by parties who attend the self-help clinic.

Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic

The Santa Barbara County Bar Association arranges for volunteer attorneys to meet with self-represented debtors before each Reaffirmation Agreement hearing.

San Fernando Valley Division

Self Help Desk

The San Fernando Valley Division opened the Court's first onsite self-help desk in 2007. The self-help desk is operated by Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, the Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Association, and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Self-represented debtors and creditors are assisted two days a week. *Pro bono* attorneys from the two bar associations hold weekly seminars and provide free legal information on bankruptcy. Topics commonly covered include bankruptcy filing requirements, the difference between chapter 7 and chapter 13, and where to find a bankruptcy attorney. The self-help desk also provides computers for debtors to view "Bankruptcy Basics" videos in addition to other videos regarding key principles of bankruptcy.

Reaffirmation Agreement Clinic

The San Fernando Valley Division judges also participate in the Reaffirmation Agreement program operated by Public Counsel (see Los Angeles Division for more details). More recently, the San Fernando Valley Division has partnered with California State University Los Angeles and California State University Northridge to make Spanish translation services available at Reaffirmation Agreement hearings at no cost.

Non-Dischargeability Representation

Public Counsel locates *pro bono* attorneys for self-represented debtors in non-dischargeability adversary proceedings in the same manner as that done in Los Angeles.

Chapter 7 Representation

Income qualified debtors may receive *pro bono* representation from Public Counsel where volunteer attorneys can be found as part of the same program serving the Los Angeles Division. Bet Tzedek Legal Services also provides representation to individuals with a priority to those who are disabled or 55 years of age or older.