

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

BATCHING OF CHAPTER 7 CASES FOR ASSIGNMENT TO THE SAME INTERIM TRUSTEE

The Eastern District of California randomly assigns interim trustees in chapter 7 cases using various trustee assignment "pools." The pool used to assign the interim trustee in a particular case is determined by the county of the debtor's residence or principal place of business. The counties falling within each chapter 7 trustee assignment pool are as follows:

Pool	Counties
East Pool	Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra, and Yuba
West Pool	Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, and Yolo
North Pool	Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity
South Pool	San Joaquin
Modesto Pool	Calaveras, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne
Fresno Pool	Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Tulare
Bakersfield Pool	Kern and Inyo

Attorneys who are registered e-Filers may request that up to five (5) new chapter 7 cases from the same trustee assignment pool be "batched" for assignment to the same interim trustee. The guidelines applicable to this procedure are as follows:

1. The petitions and related documents for all cases in a batch shall be submitted electronically in a single ".zip" file created and uploaded according to the Electronic Filing System's *Chapter 7 Petitions Batched for Trustee Assignment Batch Upload* instructions.
2. To avoid potential "trustee shopping" or the appearance of "trustee shopping," an interim trustee shall be randomly assigned to the first case entered in the court's automated case intake/financial transaction processing system. The same interim trustee shall then be manually assigned by the cashier to all remaining cases in the batch. For each remaining case, the cashier shall indicate that "batching" required manual selection of a trustee, and reference the number of the case in the batch to which the trustee was randomly assigned.
3. The same (or consecutive) 341(a) meeting and time will be assigned by the automated system to batched chapter 7 cases *when possible*, but is **not** guaranteed.
4. Payment for all cases in a batch shall be made by credit card.
5. If the trustee has previously notified the court in writing of a conflict of interest with certain parties (e.g., family relationships) and that conflict arises in any case in the batch, that case will be assigned to a non-conflicted trustee and not processed as part of the batch.
6. The batch limit of five cases **will be strictly enforced**. Batches submitted for filing containing more than five new chapter 7 cases will have each case therein assigned randomly, on an individual case basis.
7. Effective August 2008, cases filed during the last five (5) court days of each month will **not** be eligible for batching for purposes of assignment to the same interim trustee and 341(a) meeting date. Batches of new chapter 7 cases submitted for filing on the last five court days of the month will have each case therein assigned on an individual case-by-case, random basis.
8. Questions concerning the batching of chapter 7 cases for assignment to the same interim trustee shall be directed as follows to the appropriate Operations Coordinator:

Sacramento Division Beverly Door (916) 930-4446	Modesto Division Debby Martin (209) 521-8607	Fresno Division Mary Wellington (559) 499-5856
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