

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

Honorable Fredrick E. Clement
Fresno Federal Courthouse
510 19th Street, Second Floor
Bakersfield, California

PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS

DAY: WEDNESDAY
DATE: APRIL 4, 2018
CALENDAR: 10:00 A.M. CHAPTER 7 CASES

Each matter on this calendar will have one of three possible designations: No Ruling, Tentative Ruling, or Final Ruling. These instructions apply to those designations.

No Ruling: All parties will need to appear at the hearing unless otherwise ordered.

Tentative Ruling: If a matter has been designated as a tentative ruling it will be called. The court may continue the hearing on the matter, set a briefing schedule or enter other orders appropriate for efficient and proper resolution of the matter. The original moving or objecting party shall give notice of the continued hearing date and the deadlines. The minutes of the hearing will be the court's findings and conclusions.

Final Ruling: Unless otherwise ordered, there will be no hearing on these matters. The final disposition of the matter is set forth in the ruling and it will appear in the minutes. The final ruling may or may not finally adjudicate the matter. If it is finally adjudicated, the minutes constitute the court's findings and conclusions. If the parties stipulate to continue the hearing on the matter or agree to resolve the matter in a way inconsistent with the final ruling, then the court will consider vacating the final ruling only if the moving party notifies chambers before 4:00 pm at least one business day before the hearing date: Department A-Kathy Torres (559)499-5860; Department B-Jennifer Dauer (559)499-5870. If a party has grounds to contest a final ruling because of the court's error under FRCP 60 (a) (FRBP 9024) ["a clerical mistake (by the court) or a mistake arising from (the court's) oversight or omission"] the party shall notify chambers (contact information above) and any other party affected by the final ruling by 4:00 pm one business day before the hearing.

Orders: Unless the court specifies in the tentative or final ruling that it will issue an order, the prevailing party shall lodge an order within 14 days of the final hearing on the matter.

1. [17-14704](#)-A-7 **IN RE: JUDY IRIBARREN**
[JCW-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
2-28-2018 [[18](#)]

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
AS TRUSTEE/MV
R. BELL
JENNIFER WONG/ATTY. FOR MV.

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 315 Elm Street, Shafter, CA

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P.55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

STAY RELIEF

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. *In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc.*, 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

U.S. Bank National Association's motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as 315 Elm Street, Shafter, CA, as to all parties in interest. The 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

2. [16-14108](#)-A-7 **IN RE: ROGER FRAPPIED**
[PWG-5](#)

MOTION TO SELL AND/OR MOTION TO AUTHORIZE A CARVE OUT WITH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES , MOTION FOR
COMPENSATION FOR GRAPEVINE REALTY, BROKER(S)
3-7-2018 [[164](#)]

JEFFREY VETTER/MV
JAMES CONKEY
PHILLIP GILLET/ATTY. FOR MV.

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Real Property, Authorize a Carveout, and Compensate Broker

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Continued to April 25, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Order: Civil minute order

The trustee moves to sell real property located at 905 Louise Way, Lebec, California ("real property"). The proposed sale price is \$39,900. The motion also requests compensation of 6% for the real estate broker and authorization for a carve-out for a secured creditor Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department, whose lien exceeds the real property's value.

The debtor opposes the motion, arguing that the property should be abandoned by the estate instead of sold. The debtor contends that the carve-out is impermissible because it will not benefit unsecured creditors with claims of about \$5,102.09. The debtor argues, without evidence, that the total administrative expenses in this case will exceed the net proceeds of this sale.

CARVE-OUT AGREEMENTS

"A carve-out agreement is generally understood to be an agreement by a party secured by all or some of the assets of the estate to allow some portion of its lien proceeds to be paid to others, i.e., to carve out its lien position." *In re KVN Corp., Inc.*, 514 B.R. 1, 6

(B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2014) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting and citing cases). In deciding *In re KVN Corp*, The bankruptcy appellate panel in this circuit presented an analytical framework for a court's analysis of a trustee's sale of fully encumbered collateral that is made subject to a carve-out agreement between the trustee and a lienholder. *Id.* at 3-6.

The starting point is the rule that "[a] sale of a fully encumbered asset is generally prohibited." *Id.* at 5. But this is not a per se rule. *Id.* at 6. "[T]rustees may seek to justify the sale through a negotiated carve-out agreement with the secured creditor." *Id.*

"To rebut the presumption [of impropriety arising from a sale of a fully encumbered asset], the case law directs the following inquiry: [1] Has the trustee fulfilled his or her basic duties? [2] Is there a benefit to the estate; i.e., prospects for a meaningful distribution to unsecured creditors? [3] Have the terms of the carve-out agreement been fully disclosed to the bankruptcy court? If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative, then the presumption of impropriety can be overcome." *Id.* at 8.

CONTINUANCE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATIONS

The motion is unsupported by evidence addressing the factors under *In re KVN Corp., Inc.*, 514 B.R. 1, 6 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2014). The court therefore has no basis to decide whether the carve-out is permissible here.

The court will continue the hearing to April 25, 2018, at 9:00. Supplemental declarations addressing the *In re KVN Corp., Inc.* factors may be filed no later than April 11, 2018.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

IT IS ORDERED that the hearing on the present motion is continued to April 25, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. The movant shall file a notice of continued hearing under LBR 9014-1(f)(2). Supplemental declarations addressing the *In re KVN Corp., Inc.* factors may be filed no later than April 11, 2018.

3. [16-13443](#)-A-7 **IN RE: R.L. SURGENER, INC.**
[RTW-2](#)

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR RATZLAFF, TAMBERI & WONG,
ACCOUNTANT(S)
3-2-2018 [[140](#)]

JANZEN, TAMBERI & WONG/MV
LEONARD WELSH

Final Ruling

Application: Allowance of Final Compensation and Expense
Reimbursement

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Approved

Order: Civil minute order

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this application was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on the application. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, Ratzlaff, Tamberi & Wong, accountant for the trustee, has applied for an allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The applicant requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$4,860.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$86.01.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by a trustee, examiner or professional person employed under § 327 or § 1103 and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1). Reasonable compensation is determined by considering all relevant factors. See *id.* § 330(a)(3).

The court finds that the compensation and expenses sought are reasonable, and the court will approve the application on a final basis.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

Ratzlaff, Tamberi & Wong's application for allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses has been presented to the

court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the application,

IT IS ORDERED that the application is approved on a final basis. The court allows final compensation in the amount of \$4,860.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$86.01.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the trustee is authorized without further order of this court to pay from the estate the aggregate amount allowed by this order in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the distribution priorities of § 726.

4. [17-13748](#)-A-7 **IN RE: XAVIER BOCANEGRA**
[PK-1](#)

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CAPITAL ONE BANK, U.S.A.
2-20-2018 [[35](#)]

XAVIER BOCANEGRA/MV
PATRICK KAVANAGH

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

Section 522(f) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes the court to avoid a lien "on an interest of the debtor in property to the extent that such lien impairs an exemption to which the debtor would have been entitled." 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)(1). There are four elements to avoidance of a lien that impairs an exemption: (1) there must be an exemption to which the debtor would have been entitled; (2) the property must be listed on the schedules and claimed as exempt; (3) the lien must impair the exemption claimed; and (4) the lien must be a judicial lien or nonpossessory, nonpurchase-money security interest in property described in § 522(f)(1)(B). *Goswami v. MTC Distrib. (In re Goswami)*, 304 B.R. 386, 390-91 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003). Impairment is statutorily defined: a lien impairs an exemption "to the extent that the sum of - (i) the lien; (ii) all other liens on the property; and (iii) the amount of the exemption that the debtor could claim if there were no liens on the property;

exceeds the value that the debtor's interest in the property would have in the absence of any liens." 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)(2)(A).

The responding party's judicial lien, all other liens, and the exemption amount together exceed the property's value by an amount greater than or equal to the judicial lien. As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

5. [16-12465](#)-A-7 **IN RE: GURMINDER SINGH**
[DMG-3](#)

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF TRANSPORTATION TRUCK AND TRAILER
SOLUTIONS, LLC
3-7-2018 [[30](#)]

GURMINDER SINGH/MV
D. GARDNER

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

Section 522(f) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes the court to avoid a lien "on an interest of the debtor in property to the extent that such lien impairs an exemption to which the debtor would have been entitled." 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)(1). There are four elements to avoidance of a lien that impairs an exemption: (1) there must be an exemption to which the debtor would have been entitled; (2) the property must be listed on the schedules and claimed as exempt; (3) the lien must impair the exemption claimed; and (4) the lien must be a judicial lien or nonpossessory, nonpurchase-money security interest in property described in § 522(f)(1)(B). *Goswami v. MTC Distrib. (In re Goswami)*, 304 B.R. 386, 390-91 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003). Impairment is statutorily defined: a lien impairs an exemption "to the extent that the sum of - (i) the lien; (ii) all other liens on the property; and (iii) the amount of the exemption that the debtor could claim if there were no liens on the property; exceeds the value that the debtor's interest in the property would have in the absence of any liens." 11 U.S.C. § 522(f)(2)(A).

The responding party's judicial lien, all other liens, and the exemption amount together exceed the property's value by an amount greater than or equal to the judicial lien. As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

6. [17-14868](#)-A-7 **IN RE: KULWANT PAWA**
[APN-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
3-1-2018 [[14](#)]

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A/MV
R. BELL
AUSTIN NAGEL/ATTY. FOR MV.

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2008 BMW X5

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P.55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

STAY RELIEF

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. *In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc.*, 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.'s motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2008 BMW X5, as to all parties in interest. The 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

7. [18-10780](#)-A-7 **IN RE: NICHOLAS ROSAS**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - FAILURE TO PAY FEES
3-19-2018 [[13](#)]

WILLIAM EDWARDS

Tentative Ruling

If the filing fee in the amount of \$335 has not been paid in full by the time of the hearing, the case may be dismissed without further notice or hearing.

8. [17-13988](#)-A-7 **IN RE: EDWARD/CHRISTINE SCHADE**
[APN-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
2-20-2018 [[23](#)]

NISSAN MOTOR ACCEPTANCE
CORPORATION/MV
NEIL SCHWARTZ
AUSTIN NAGEL/ATTY. FOR MV.
DISCHARGED

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted in part, denied in part as moot

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2015 Nissan Altima

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

AS TO DEBTOR

The motion will be denied in part as moot to the extent it seeks stay relief as to the debtor. The stay that protects the debtor terminates at the entry of discharge. 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(2). In this case, discharge has been entered. As a result, the motion will be denied in part as moot as to the debtor.

AS TO ESTATE

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. *In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc.*, 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation's motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted in part and denied as moot in part. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the interest of the trustee in the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2015 Nissan Altima. Relief from the automatic stay as to the interest of the debtor in such property is denied as moot given the entry of the discharge in this case. 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(2)(C).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

9. [17-13329](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MANUEL/SOLEDAD FUENTES**

MOTION TO KEEP CHAPTER 7 CASE REOPENED
3-7-2018 [[39](#)]

MANUEL FUENTES/MV
DISMISSED

No Ruling