

United States Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of California



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Fall 2015

Recent Judicial Transitions in the Eastern District of California

New Chief Judge

On October 1, 2015, Judge Ronald H. Sargis was appointed Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Sargis replaces Judge Christopher M. Klein, who served as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California for seven years.

New Fresno Judge

On September 14, 2015, René Lastreto, II was sworn in as a Bankruptcy Judge in the Fresno Division of the Eastern District of California. Judge Lastreto will hear matters in Department B. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Lastreto was a partner with Lang, Richert and Patch in Fresno.

Judge Lee Retires

Judge W. Richard Lee retired as a Bankruptcy Judge in our Fresno Division on July 15, 2015, and has assumed recall status. He will be maintaining chambers in Fresno, and will be hearing selected matters in Department C.

Upcoming Forms Changes

On December 1, 2015, several new Bankruptcy forms will be required. Among the new forms are petitions, schedules, and proofs of claim.

Court-generated notices are also affected. The new forms are part of an ongoing project conducted by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and are intended to be more user-friendly for pro se parties. Examples of many of the new forms are available on our website at www.caeb.uscourts.gov, under the **Forms Changes Effective December 1, 2015** hyperlink.

E-filers who use forms preparation software are urged to contact their software vendors as soon as possible to verify that their software packages will be updated and supported as of December 1. Any other questions regarding the upcoming forms changes may be directed to the Help Desk via e-mail at Efilers_Helpdesk@caeb.uscourts.gov, or by phone at 855-542-0992.

The E-Filing Help Desk is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday through Friday, except for Federal Holidays.

Holiday Closures

The Bankruptcy Court will be closed on the following days:

- Veteran's Day: November 11, 2015
- Thanksgiving: November 26 and 27, 2015
- Christmas Eve: December 24, 2015 (Open until noon)
- Christmas Day: December 25, 2015
- New Year's Eve: December 31, 2015 (Open until noon)
- New Year's Day: January 1, 2016

Debtors Can Now Receive Electronic Notices through the BNC

Debtors —whether *pro se* or represented by an attorney—are now able to receive e-mail notification of court generated Notices and Orders sent through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). Because notices and orders are e-mailed to debtors the same day they are filed with the court, this may be particularly helpful to debtors who live in remote areas, where mail delivery might take longer than it does in urban areas.

In order to request this service, each debtor will need to file a *Debtor's Electronic Noticing Request (DeBN)* Form (EDC 3-321) with the court that includes a valid e-mail address. The debtor can mail in the form or bring it to the front counter. Debtors that are represented by counsel may have their attorneys e-file the forms.

This is a free service, and does NOT require a PACER account. Additionally, if the debtor decides that it does not meet his or her needs, he or she can deactivate it any time.

For more information, see the DeBN link on the Debtor page of our website.

Did you know?

Do you have a new staff member? Would you like to brush up on your e-Filing skills? The Bankruptcy Court has several online training modules to guide e-Filers of all skill levels through the process of uploading documents to our system. To view the modules, click on the **e-Filing** link in the upper left hand corner of our homepage at www.caeb.uscourts.gov. The Electronic Filing page is organized by subject, and the tabs for **eCalWebFiling** and **CM/ECF** both contain training modules on topics that range from *How to e-File in the eCalWebFiling Website*, which fulfills the training requirement for new e-Filers, to *Error Messages and Solutions*, which may give you the guidance you need to work through some common e-Filing problems. The modules are available 24 hours per day, and may be particularly helpful to e-Filers working after normal business hours.