



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Eastern District of California**

Chief Judge Fredrick E. Clement
Sacramento Federal Courthouse
501 I Street, 7th Floor
Courtroom 28, Department A
Sacramento, California

DAY: TUESDAY
DATE: JANUARY 2, 2024
CALENDAR: 10:30 A.M. CHAPTER 7 CASES

Unless otherwise ordered, all matters before Chief Judge Fredrick E. Clement shall be heard simultaneously: (1) **IN PERSON** in Courtroom 28, (2) via **ZOOMGOV VIDEO**, (3) via **ZOOMGOV TELEPHONE**, and (4) via **COURTCALL**.

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1. Review the [Pre-Hearing Dispositions](#) prior to appearing at the hearing.
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PRE-HEARING DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS

RULINGS

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

"No Ruling" means the likely disposition of the matter will not be disclosed in advance of the hearing. The matter will be called; parties wishing to be heard should rise and be heard.

"Tentative Ruling" means the likely disposition, and the reasons therefor, are set forth herein. The matter will be called. Aggrieved parties or parties for whom written opposition was not required should rise and be heard. Parties favored by the tentative ruling need not appear. However, non-appearing parties are advised that the court may adopt a ruling other than that set forth herein without further hearing or notice.

"Final Ruling" means that the matter will be resolved in the manner, and for the reasons, indicated below. The matter will not be called; parties and/or counsel need not appear and will not be heard on the matter.

CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED RULINGS

On occasion, the court will change its intended ruling on some of the matters to be called and will republish its rulings. The parties and counsel are advised to recheck the posted rulings after 3:00 p.m. on the next business day prior to the hearing. Any such changed ruling will be preceded by the following bold face text: **"[Since posting its original rulings, the court has changed its intended ruling on this matter]"**.

ERRORS IN RULINGS

Clerical errors of an insignificant nature, e.g., nomenclature ("2017 Honda Accord," rather than "2016 Honda Accord"), amounts, ("\$880," not "\$808"), may be corrected in (1) tentative rulings by appearance at the hearing; or (2) final rulings by appropriate ex parte application. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a) *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9024. All other errors, including those occasioned by mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect, must be corrected by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 60(b), *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9023.

1. [23-23305](#)-A-7 **IN RE: AUDREY AQUINO**
[JCW-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
11-30-2023 [\[30\]](#)

SETH HANSON/ATTY. FOR DBT.
JENNIFER WONG/ATTY. FOR MV.
FIDELIS EQUITY AND REAL ESTATE FUND B, LLC ISAOA/ATIMA VS.

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 6009 Glen Meadow Drive, Austin, Texas

Value of Collateral: \$438,900

Aggregate of Liens: \$614,594.93

These minutes constitute the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 52(a), *incorporated* by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7052, 9014(c). The findings of fact are as set forth above; the conclusions of law are as set forth below.

Fidelis Equity and Real Estate Fund B, LLC ISAOA/ATIMA, seeks an order for relief from the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a).

DEFAULT OF RESPONDENT

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

"[A]fter notice and a hearing," the court may terminate, annul, modify or condition the stay: (1) "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection"; or (2) "with respect to a stay of an act against property [of the estate]" if the debtor lacks "equity" in that property and if that "property is not necessary for an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d); *see also* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(1). The party seeking stay relief bears the burden of proof as to "the debtor's equity in the property" and on the validity and perfection of its security interest, as well as the amount of its debt. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(1); *In re Dahlquist*, 34 B.R. 476, 481 (Bankr. S.D. 1983). The party opposing stay relief, e.g., the debtor or Chapter 7 trustee, bears the burden of proof on all other issues. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2).

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 exceed 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.

Fidelis Equity and Real Estate Fund B, LLC ISAOA/ATIMA'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 6009 Glen Meadow Drive, Austin, Texas, 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. [23-23605](#)-A-7 **IN RE: ERIKA GALVAN**
[SKI-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
12-1-2023 [\[16\]](#)

MICHAEL HAYS/ATTY. FOR DBT.
SHERYL ITH/ATTY. FOR MV.
AMERICREDIT FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC. VS. TRUSTEE
NON-OPPOSITION

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2014 GMC Sierra 1500

Cause: delinquent installment payments 4.5 months/\$3,366.82

These minutes constitute the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 52(a), *incorporated* by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7052, 9014(c). The findings of fact are as set forth above; the conclusions of law are as set forth below.

Americredit Financial Services, Inc., seeks an order for relief from the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a). The Chapter 7 trustee has filed a non-opposition to the motion.

DEFAULT OF RESPONDENT

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

"[A]fter notice and a hearing," the court may terminate, annul, modify or condition the stay: (1) "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection"; or (2) "with respect to a stay of an act against property [of the estate]" if the debtor lacks "equity" in that property and if that "property is not necessary for an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d); *see also* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(1). The party seeking stay relief bears the burden of proof as to "the debtor's equity in the property" and on the validity and perfection of its security interest, as well as the amount of its debt. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(1); *In re Dahlquist*, 34 B.R. 476, 481 (Bankr. S.D. 1983). The party opposing stay relief, e.g., the debtor or Chapter 7 trustee, bears the burden of proof on all other issues. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2).

Subsection (d)(1) of § 362 of Title 11 provides for relief from stay for "cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). The debtor bears the burden of proof. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2). Adequate protection may consist of a lump sum cash payment or periodic cash payments to the entity entitled to adequate protection "to the extent that the stay . . . results in a decrease in the value of such entity's interest in property." 11 U.S.C. § 361(1). "An undersecured creditor is entitled to adequate protection only for the decline in the [collateral's] value after the bankruptcy filing." See Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, *California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy* ¶ 8:1065.1 (rev. 2019) (citing *United Sav. Ass'n v. Timbers of Inwood Forest Assocs., Ltd.*, 484 U.S. 365, 370-73 (1988)); see also *In re Weinstein*, 227 BR 284, 296 (9th Cir. BAP 1998) ("Adequate protection is provided to safeguard the creditor against depreciation in the value of its collateral during the reorganization process"); *In re Deico Electronics, Inc.*, 139 BR 945, 947 (9th Cir. BAP 1992) ("Adequate protection payments compensate undersecured creditors for the delay bankruptcy imposes upon the exercise of their state law remedies").

The debtor is obligated to make debt payments to the moving party pursuant to a loan contract that is secured by a security interest in the debtor's vehicle described above. The debtor has defaulted on such loan with the moving party, and postpetition payments are past due. Vehicles depreciate over time and with usage. As a consequence, the moving party's interest in the vehicle is not being adequately protected due to the debtor's ongoing postpetition default.

Cause exists to grant relief under § 362(d)(1). 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.

Americredit Financial Services, Inc.'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 2014 GMC Sierra 1500, 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.

3. [23-21409](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MICHAEL/ERIN CHRISTENSEN**
[BLF-6](#)

MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL SCOTT CHRISTENSEN AND ERIN ORDEEN
CHRISTENSEN
12-12-2023 [[53](#)]

MATTHEW DECAMINADA/ATTY. FOR DBT.
LORIS BAKKEN/ATTY. FOR MV.
DEBTORS DISCHARGED: 10/18/2023

Final Ruling

Motion: Compromise Controversy
Disposition: Denied without prejudice
Order: Civil minute order

The moving party did not provide a sufficient period of notice of the hearing on the motion. The notice of hearing states that the motion is brought pursuant to LBR 9014-1(f)(1). Notice of Hearing, ECF No. 54. As such 28 days' notice is required.

The certificate of service filed in this case indicates that all parties were served with the moving papers on December 12, 2023. Certificate of Service, 58. Only 21 days' notice was provided to all potential respondents.

Accordingly, the court will deny the motion without prejudice.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

The Chapter 7 trustee's Motion to Compromise Controversy has been presented to the court. Given the procedural deficiencies discussed by the court in its ruling,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is denied without prejudice.

4. [23-21409](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MICHAEL/ERIN CHRISTENSEN**
[BLF-7](#)

MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH GOODMAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY/DAIKIN
12-12-2023 [\[59\]](#)

MATTHEW DECAMINADA/ATTY. FOR DBT.
LORIS BAKKEN/ATTY. FOR MV.
DEBTORS DISCHARGED: 10/18/2023

Final Ruling

Motion: Compromise Controversy
Disposition: Denied without prejudice
Order: Civil minute order

The moving party did not provide a sufficient period of notice of the hearing on the motion. The notice of hearing states that the motion is brought pursuant to LBR 9014-1(f)(1). Notice of Hearing, ECF No. 60. As such 28 days' notice is required.

The certificate of service filed in this case indicates that all parties were served with the moving papers on December 12, 2023. Certificate of Service, 64. Only 21 days' notice was provided to all potential respondents.

Accordingly, the court will deny the motion without prejudice.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

The Chapter 7 trustee's Motion to Compromise Controversy has been presented to the court. Given the procedural deficiencies discussed by the court in its ruling,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is denied without prejudice.

5. [23-21409](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MICHAEL/ERIN CHRISTENSEN**
[BLF-8](#)

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR ANDREA ROSA, SPECIAL COUNSEL(S)
12-12-2023 [\[65\]](#)

MATTHEW DECAMINADA/ATTY. FOR DBT.
DEBTORS DISCHARGED: 10/18/2023

Final Ruling

Motion: Compensation of Special Counsel

Disposition: Denied without prejudice

Order: Civil minute order

The moving party did not provide a sufficient period of notice of the hearing on the motion. The notice of hearing states that the motion is brought pursuant to LBR 9014-1(f)(1). Notice of Hearing, ECF No. 66. As such 28 days' notice is required.

The certificate of service filed in this case indicates that all parties were served with the moving papers on December 12, 2023. Certificate of Service, 70. Only 21 days' notice was provided to all potential respondents.

Accordingly, the court will deny the motion without prejudice.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

The Chapter 7 trustee's Motion to Approve Compensation of Special Counsel has been presented to the court. Given the procedural deficiencies discussed by the court in its ruling,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is denied without prejudice.

6. [23-22917](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MIHAIL/SORINA VANGHELI**
[KPW-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
12-4-2023 [\[35\]](#)

MARK SHMORGON/ATTY. FOR DBT.
KEVIN WHITEFORD/ATTY. FOR MV.
DEBTORS DISCHARGED: 12/07/23
BANC OF AMERICA LEASING & CAPITAL, LLC VS.

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: Two 2023 Mack Anthem 64T Sleeper 70 Inch Truck Tractors

Value of Collateral: \$170,000

Aggregate of Liens: \$442,290.11

Discharge: December 7, 2023

These minutes constitute the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 52(a), *incorporated* by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7052, 9014(c). The findings of fact are as set forth above; the conclusions of law are as set forth below.

Banc of America Leasing and Capital, LLC, seeks an order for relief from the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a).

DEFAULT OF RESPONDENT

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). 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

"[A]fter notice and a hearing," the court may terminate, annul, modify or condition the stay: (1) "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection"; or (2) "with respect to a stay of an act against property [of the estate]" if the debtor lacks "equity" in that property and if that "property is not necessary for an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d); *see also* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(1). The party seeking stay relief bears the burden of proof as to "the debtor's equity in the property" and on the validity and perfection of its security interest, as well as the amount of its debt. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(1); *In re Dahlquist*, 34 B.R. 476, 481 (Bankr. S.D. 1983). The party opposing stay relief, e.g., the debtor or Chapter 7 trustee, bears the burden of proof on all other issues. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2).

As to the 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 as moot as to the debtor.

As to the Estate

"[A]fter notice and a hearing," the court may terminate, annual, modify or condition the stay: (1) "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection"; or (2) "with respect to a stay of an act against property [of the estate]" if the debtor lacks "equity" in that property and if that "property is not necessary for an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d); see also Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(1). The party seeking stay relief bears the burden of proof as to "the debtor's equity in the property" and on the validity and perfection of its security interest, as well as the amount of its debt. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(1); *In re Dahlquist*, 34 B.R. 476, 481 (Bankr. S.D. 1983). The party opposing stay relief, e.g., the debtor or Chapter 7 trustee, bears the burden of proof on all other issues. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2).

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.

Banc of America Leasing and Capital, LLC'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 Two 2023 Mack Anthem 64T Sleeper 70 Inch Truck Tractors. 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.

7. [22-21669](#)-A-7 **IN RE: LINDSAY/LISA BRAKEL**
[MWB-5](#)

CONTINUED OBJECTION TO CLAIM OF NICOLAS LOPER, CLAIM NUMBER
10
1-4-2023 [[143](#)]

BYRON FARLEY/ATTY. FOR DBT.
MARK BRIDEN/ATTY. FOR MV.

No Ruling

8. [23-24276](#)-A-7 **IN RE: GOOD GROUND INVESTMENTS LLC**

AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - FAILURE TO PAY FEES
12-15-2023 [[19](#)]

Final Ruling

The case was dismissed on December 18, 2023, the order to show cause is discharged as moot.

9. [21-24284](#)-A-7 **IN RE: RICHARD/CYNTHIA SPICKLER**
[BLG-3](#)

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR CHAD M. JOHNSON, DEBTORS
ATTORNEY(S)
11-17-2023 [\[76\]](#)

CHAD JOHNSON/ATTY. FOR DBT.

Final Ruling

Application: Allowance of Final Compensation and Expense
Reimbursement

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

Disposition: Approved

Order: Prepared by moving party

Compensation: \$5,284.00

Reimbursement of Expenses: \$60.59

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

Chad Johnson has applied for an allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The applicant requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$5,284.00, and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$60.59. The applicant also asks that the court allow on a final basis all prior applications for fees and costs that the court has previously allowed on an interim basis.

This case was converted from Chapter 13 on September 12, 2023. Prior to the conversion of the case the court allowed the requested compensation and reimbursement of expenses in an interim order. Order, ECF No. 47. This application seeks a final order of the compensation and reimbursement of expenses allowed in the interim order and does not seek any further allowance of compensation or expenses.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by a debtor's attorney in a Chapter 13 case and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1), (4)(B). 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. The court also approves on a final basis all prior

applications for interim fees and costs that the court has allowed under § 331 on an interim basis.

The applicant shall prepare an order consistent with this ruling.

10. [23-22886](#)-A-7 **IN RE: JILL MITCHELL**
[MOH-1](#)

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A.
12-4-2023 [\[20\]](#)

MICHAEL HAYS/ATTY. FOR DBT.

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Subject Property: 123 Henshaw Avenue #309, Chico, California

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$22,560.42 - Capital One Bank, USA, N.A.

All Other Liens: none

Exemption: \$29,665

Value of Property: \$25,000

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).

The debtor seeks an order avoiding the judicial lien of Capital One Bank, USA, N.A., under 11 U.S.C. § 522(f).

LIEN AVOIDANCE

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.

11. [22-23192](#)-A-7 **IN RE: IVAN EVANCHENKO AND SVETLANA**
IVANCHENKO
[JWC-1](#)

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY
12-12-2023 [\[37\]](#)

MARK SHMORGON/ATTY. FOR DBT.
JENNIFER CRASTZ/ATTY. FOR MV.
VFS US LLC VS.

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2020 Volvo

Cause: delinquent installment payments 4 months/\$12,425.64

These minutes constitute the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 52(a), *incorporated* by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7052, 9014(c). The findings of fact are as set forth above; the conclusions of law are as set forth below.

VFS US, LLC, seeks an order for relief from the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362(a). The Chapter 7 trustee has filed a non-opposition to the motion. This case was converted from a Chapter 13 on November 15, 2023.

DEFAULT OF RESPONDENT

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

"[A]fter notice and a hearing," the court may terminate, annul, modify or condition the stay: (1) "for cause, including the lack of adequate protection"; or (2) "with respect to a stay of an act against property [of the estate]" if the debtor lacks "equity" in that property and if that "property is not necessary for an effective reorganization." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d); see also Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(1). The party seeking stay relief bears the burden of proof as to "the debtor's equity in the property" and on the validity and perfection of its security interest, as well as the amount of its debt. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(1); *In re Dahlquist*, 34 B.R. 476, 481 (Bankr. S.D. 1983). The party opposing stay relief, e.g., the debtor or Chapter 7 trustee, bears the burden of proof on all other issues. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2).

Subsection (d)(1) of § 362 of Title 11 provides for relief from stay for "cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). The debtor bears the burden of proof. 11 U.S.C. § 362(g)(2). Adequate protection may consist of a lump sum cash payment or periodic cash payments to the entity entitled to adequate protection "to the extent that the stay . . . results in a decrease in the value of such entity's interest in property." 11 U.S.C. § 361(1). "An undersecured creditor is entitled to adequate protection only for the decline in the [collateral's] value after the bankruptcy filing." See Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, *California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy* ¶ 8:1065.1 (rev. 2019) (citing *United Sav. Ass'n v. Timbers of Inwood Forest Assocs., Ltd.*, 484 U.S. 365, 370-73 (1988)); see also *In re Weinstein*, 227 BR 284, 296 (9th Cir. BAP 1998) ("Adequate protection is provided to safeguard the creditor against depreciation in the value of its collateral during the reorganization process"); *In re Deico Electronics, Inc.*, 139 BR 945, 947 (9th Cir. BAP 1992) ("Adequate protection payments compensate undersecured creditors for the delay bankruptcy imposes upon the exercise of their state law remedies").

The debtor is obligated to make debt payments to the moving party pursuant to a loan contract that is secured by a security interest in the debtor's vehicle described above. The debtor has defaulted on such loan with the moving party, and postpetition payments are past due. Vehicles depreciate over time and with usage. As a consequence, the moving party's interest in the vehicle is not being adequately protected due to the debtor's ongoing postpetition default.

Cause exists to grant relief under § 362(d)(1). 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.

VFS US, LLC'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 2020 Volvo, 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.

12. [11-40121](#)-A-7 **IN RE: MAXINE HURLEY**

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF PNC BANK
11-28-2023 [\[24\]](#)

SCOTT PAUL/ATTY. FOR DBT.
DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 12/05/11

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Judicial Lien

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Denied without prejudice

Order: Civil minute order

The debtor seeks an order avoiding the judicial lien of PNC Bank.

The motion will be denied for the following reason.

SERVICE

- 1) Service of all pleadings and documents filed in support of, or in opposition to, a motion shall be made on or before the date they are filed with the Court.
- 2) A proof of service, in the form of a certificate of service, shall be filed with the Clerk concurrently with the pleadings or documents served, or not more than three (3) days after they are filed.

LBR 9014-1(e)(1), (2).

The motion was not properly served as required by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014, LBR 9014-1(e)(1), (2). There is no

certificate of service filed in this matter. The motion will be denied without prejudice.

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.

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

The debtor's Motion to Avoid Judicial Lien has been presented to the court. Given the procedural deficiencies discussed by the court in its ruling,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is denied without prejudice.

13. [23-24072](#)-A-7 **IN RE: DEBRA HOLMAN**
[BSH-4](#)

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF COLLECT ACCESS, LLC.
12-19-2023 [\[26\]](#)

BRIAN HADDIX/ATTY. FOR DBT.

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Subject: 1242 School St, Stockton, California

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$6,356.38 Collect Access, LLC

Additional Judicial Liens: \$19,383.64, C B Merchant Services, LLC

Exemption: \$520,778

Value of Property: \$150,000

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).

The debtor seeks an order avoiding the judicial lien of Collect Access, LLC, under 11 U.S.C. § 522(f).

LIEN-AVOIDANCE STANDARDS

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).

REVERSE-PRIORITY ANALYSIS

In cases in which there are multiple liens to be avoided, the liens must be avoided in the reverse order of their priority. See *In re Meyer*, 373 B.R. 84, 87-88 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2007). "[L]iens already avoided are excluded from the exemption-impairment calculation with respect to other liens." *Id.*; 11 U.S.C § 522(f)(2)(B).

The liens against the subject real property, listed in the reverse order of their priority are: (i) \$6,356.38 Collect Access, LLC, (ii) \$19,383.64, C B Merchant Services, LLC. The court takes judicial notice of other motions on this calendar that request avoidance of other judicial liens against the subject real property in this matter. Fed. R. Evid. 201. The debtor has claimed a \$520,778 exemption in the property.

Excluding all liens against the subject real property that are lower in priority than respondent's lien, the moving party is entitled to relief. The total of the judicial lien, all other liens except junior judicial liens, plus the exemption amount equals approximately \$546,518.02. The value of the property is \$150,000. The respondent's judicial lien, all other liens (except junior judicial 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 respondent's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

14. [23-24072](#)-A-7 **IN RE: DEBRA HOLMAN**
[BSH-3](#)

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF C B MERCHANTS, LLC
12-19-2023 [\[32\]](#)

BRIAN HADDIX/ATTY. FOR DBT.

Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Subject: 1242 School St, Stockton, California

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$19,383.64, C B Merchant Services, LLC

Exemption: \$520,778

Value of Property: \$150,000

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).

The debtor seeks an order avoiding the judicial lien of C B Merchant Services, LLC, under 11 U.S.C. § 522(f).

LIEN-AVOIDANCE STANDARDS

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).

REVERSE-PRIORITY ANALYSIS

In cases in which there are multiple liens to be avoided, the liens must be avoided in the reverse order of their priority. See *In re Meyer*, 373 B.R. 84, 87-88 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2007). “[L]iens already avoided are excluded from the exemption-impairment calculation with respect to other liens.” *Id.*; 11 U.S.C § 522(f)(2)(B).

The liens against the subject real property, listed in the reverse order of their priority are: (i) \$6,356.38 Collect Access, LLC, (ii) \$19,383.64, C B Merchant Services. The court takes judicial notice of other motions on this calendar that request avoidance of other judicial liens against the subject real property in this matter. Fed. R. Evid. 201. The debtor has claimed a \$520,778 exemption in the property.

Excluding all liens against the subject real property that are lower in priority than respondent’s lien, the moving party is entitled to relief. The total of the judicial lien, all other liens except junior judicial liens, plus the exemption amount equals approximately \$540,161.64. The value of the property is \$150,000. The respondent’s judicial lien, all other liens (except junior judicial 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 respondent’s judicial lien will be avoided entirely.