



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
Eastern District of California

Judge **Fredrick E. Clement**  
Sacramento Federal Courthouse  
501 I Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Courtroom 28, Department A  
Sacramento, California

**DAY: TUESDAY**  
**DATE: JANUARY 20, 2026**  
**CALENDAR: 9:00 A.M. CHAPTER 9 AND 11 CASES**

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Unless otherwise ordered, all matters before Chief Judge Fredrick E. Clement shall be simultaneously: (1) **IN PERSON** at Sacramento Courtroom No. 28, (2) via **ZOOMGOV VIDEO**, (3) via **ZOOMGOV TELEPHONE**, and (4) via **COURTCALL**.

You may choose any of these options unless otherwise ordered or stated below.

All parties who wish to appear at a hearing remotely must sign up by 4:00 p.m. **one business** day prior to the hearing.

Information regarding how to sign up can be found on the **Court Appearances** page of our website at:

<https://www.caeb.uscourts.gov/Calendar/CourtAppearances>

Each party who has signed up will receive a Zoom link or phone number, meeting I.D., and password via e-mail.

If the deadline to sign up has passed, parties who wish to appear remotely must contact the Courtroom Deputy for the Department holding the hearing.

Please also note the following:

- Parties in interest may connect to the video or audio feed free of charge and should select which method they will use to appear when signing up.
- Members of the public and the press appearing by **ZoomGov** may only listen in to the hearing using the zoom telephone number. Video appearances are not permitted.
- Members of the public and the press may not listen in to the trials or evidentiary hearings, though they may appear in person in most instances.

To appear remotely for law and motion or status conference proceedings, you must comply with the following guidelines and procedures:

- Review the [Pre-Hearing Dispositions](#) prior to appearing at the hearing.
- Review the court's [Zoom Procedures and Guidelines](#) for these, and additional instructions.
- Parties appearing via CourtCall are encouraged to review the [CourtCall Appearance Information](#).

If you are appearing by ZoomGov phone or video, please join at least 10 minutes prior to the start of the calendar and wait with your microphone muted until the matter is called.

**Unauthorized Recording is Prohibited:** Any recording of a court proceeding held by video or teleconference, including screen shots or other audio or visual copying of a hearing is prohibited. Violation may result in sanctions, including removal of court-issued media credentials, denial of entry to future hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary by the court. For more information on photographing, recording, or broadcasting Judicial Proceedings, please refer to Local Rule 173(a) of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.

## PRE-HEARING DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS

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### 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.

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1. 25-23639-A-11    **IN RE: MATTHEW CRON**  
JHH-10

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR JUDSON H. HENRY, DEBTORS  
ATTORNEY(S)  
12-29-2025    [123]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

**Tentative Ruling**

**Application:** Allowance of First Interim Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

**Notice:** LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no 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). 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 11 case, Judson Henry, counsel for the debtor in possession, has applied for an allowance of first interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The application requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$7,775.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$199.00.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by counsel for the debtor in possession in a Chapter 11 case 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 an interim basis. Such amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for compensation and expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

**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.

Judson Henry's application for allowance of interim 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 an interim basis. The court allows interim compensation in the amount of \$7,775.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$199.00. The applicant is authorized to draw on any retainer held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the fees and costs are allowed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 331 as interim fees and costs, subject to final review and allowance pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 330. Such allowed amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the debtor in possession is authorized to pay the fees allowed by this order from available funds only if the estate is administratively solvent and such payment will be consistent with the priorities of the Bankruptcy Code.

2. 25-23639-A-11    **IN RE: MATTHEW CRON**  
JHH-8

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF CADENCE BANK N.A.  
12-22-2025    [115]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

\*[Since posting its original rulings, the court has changed its intended ruling on this matter].

**Final Ruling**

**Motion:** Value Collateral [Personal Property]  
**Notice:** LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required  
**Disposition:** Granted  
**Order:** Civil minute order

**Re:** 2014 Kenworth T680 Truck  
**Value:** \$14,000.00

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 respondent 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).

## **VALUATION OF COLLATERAL**

To value collateral, the moving party must proceed by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. The motion must be served on the holder of the secured claim. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012, 9014(a); LBR 3015-1(j).

Under § 506 of the Bankruptcy Code, "a secured creditor's claim is to be divided into secured and unsecured portions, with the secured portion of the claim limited to the value of the collateral." *Assocs. Commercial Corp. v. Rash*, 520 U.S. 953, 961 (1997) (citing *United States v. Ron Pair Enters., Inc.*, 489 U.S. 235, 238-39 (1989)); accord *Enewally v. Wash. Mut. Bank (In re Enewally)*, 368 F.3d 1165, 1168-69 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing 11 U.S.C. § 506). "To separate the secured from the unsecured portion of a claim, a court must compare the creditor's claim to the value of 'such property,' i.e., the collateral." *Rash*, 520 U.S. at 961.

"Such value shall be determined in light of the purpose of the valuation and of the proposed disposition or use of such property, and in conjunction with any hearing on such disposition or use or on a plan affecting such creditor's interest." 11 U.S.C. § 506(a)(1). In the lien stripping context, a replacement-value standard is proper when the debtor proposes to retain and use the collateral. *Rash*, 520 U.S. at 962-63.

The moving party must provide factual grounds for the proposed value of the collateral. "In the absence of contrary evidence, an owner's opinion of property value may be conclusive." *Enewally*, 368 F.3d at 1173.

The motion requests that the court value the debtor's personal property collateral. The collateral is described as 2014 Kenworth Truck.

The court values the collateral at \$14,000.00. The responding creditor's claim is secured only to the extent of the collateral's value unencumbered by any senior liens. See 11 U.S.C. § 506(a).

## **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 debtor's motion to value personal property collateral 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 personal property collateral described as 2014 Kenworth Truck has a value of \$14,000.00. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$14,000.00 equal to the value of the collateral that is unencumbered

by senior liens. The respondent has a general unsecured claim for the balance of the claim.

3. 25-23639-A-11     **IN RE: MATTHEW CRON**  
JHH-9

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR MICHAEL L. HAUG, ACCOUNTANT(S)  
12-23-2025    [119]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

**Tentative Ruling**

**Application:** Allowance of First Interim Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

**Notice:** LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no 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). 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 11 case, Michel L. Haug has applied for an allowance of interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The application requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$696.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$0.00.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by an employed professional in a Chapter 11 case 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 an interim basis. Such amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for compensation and expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

**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.

Michael L. Haug's application for allowance of interim 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 an interim basis. The court allows interim compensation in the amount of \$696.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$0.00. The applicant is authorized to draw on any retainer held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the fees and costs are allowed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 331 as interim fees and costs, subject to final review and allowance pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 330. Such allowed amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the debtor in possession is authorized to pay the fees allowed by this order from available funds only if the estate is administratively solvent and such payment will be consistent with the priorities of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. 25-26763-A-11    **IN RE: EL DORADO FARM LLC**  
CAE-1

STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION  
12-1-2025    [1]

DAVID SYME/ATTY. FOR DBT.  
DEBTOR DISMISSED: 12/22/25

**Final Ruling**

This case was dismissed on December 22, 2025. Accordingly, The Status Conference is concluded.

5. 25-22194-A-11    **IN RE: JJ PFISTER DISTILLING COMPANY, LLC**  
RLC-18

OBJECTION TO CLAIM OF SAVERGLASS, INC., CLAIM NUMBER 2  
11-30-2025    [130]

STEPHEN REYNOLDS/ATTY. FOR DBT.

**Final Ruling**

The default of the respondent creditor is entered, and the objection is sustained. The court will issue a civil minute order.

6. 25-22194-A-11    **IN RE: JJ PFISTER DISTILLING COMPANY, LLC**  
RLC-19

MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT  
AGREEMENT WITH NEWTEK BANK, N.A., NEWTEK SMALL BUSINESS  
FINANCE, LLC  
12-22-2025    [147]

STEPHEN REYNOLDS/ATTY. FOR DBT.

**Final Ruling**

**Motion:** Approve Compromise of Controversy  
**Notice:** LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required  
**Disposition:** Granted  
**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 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).

**APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE**

In determining whether to approve a compromise under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019, the court determines whether the compromise was negotiated in good faith and whether the party proposing the compromise reasonably believes that the compromise is the best that can be negotiated under the facts. *In re A & C Props.*, 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1986). More than mere good faith negotiation of a compromise is required. The court must also find that the compromise is fair and equitable. *Id.* "Fair and equitable" involves a consideration of four factors: (i) the probability of success in the litigation; (ii) the difficulties to

be encountered in collection; (iii) the complexity of the litigation, and expense, delay and inconvenience necessarily attendant to litigation; and (iv) the paramount interest of creditors and a proper deference to the creditors' expressed wishes, if any. *Id.* The party proposing the compromise bears the burden of persuading the court that the compromise is fair and equitable and should be approved. *Id.*

The movant requests approval of a compromise. The compromise is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as an exhibit. Based on the motion and supporting papers, the court finds that the compromise presented for the court's approval is fair and equitable considering the relevant *A & C Properties* factors. The compromise or settlement will be approved.

#### **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.

JJ Pfister Distilling Company's motion to approve a compromise 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 court hereby approves the compromise that is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as exhibit and filed at docket no. 150.

7. 23-23996-A-11    **IN RE: 9250 BIG HORN HOLDINGS, INC.**  
CAE-1

CONTINUED STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION  
11-7-2023    [1]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT.

#### **Final Ruling**

The status conference continued to March 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Jennifer Niemann in Department A, 2500 Tulare Street Fresno, California. Not later than 14 days prior to the continued hearing, the trustee shall, and other parties may, shall file a joint status report.

8. 23-23996-A-11    **IN RE: 9250 BIG HORN HOLDINGS, INC.**  
DL-5

CONTINUED MOTION TO ABANDON  
11-10-2025    [279]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT.  
WALTER DAHL/ATTY. FOR MV.

**No Ruling**

9. 23-23996-A-11    **IN RE: 9250 BIG HORN HOLDINGS, INC.**  
DL-6

CONTINUED MOTION TO CONVERT CASE FROM CHAPTER 11 TO CHAPTER  
7  
11-10-2025    [283]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT.  
WALTER DAHL/ATTY. FOR MV.

**Final Ruling**

At the suggestion of the trustee, this motion is continued to March 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Jennifer Niemann in Department A, 2500 Tulare Street Fresno, California. Not later than 14 days prior to the continued hearing, the parties shall file a joint status report.

10. 23-23996-A-11    **IN RE: 9250 BIG HORN HOLDINGS, INC.**  
DL-7

CONTINUED MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDED MOTION/APPLICATION  
FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FILED BY  
TRUSTEE WALTER R. DAHL  
11-17-2025    [294]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT.  
WALTER DAHL/ATTY. FOR MV.

**Final Ruling**

At the suggestion of the trustee, this motion is continued to March 25, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. before the Honorable Jennifer Niemann in Department A, 2500 Tulare Street Fresno, California. Not later than

14 days prior to the continued hearing, the parties shall file a joint status report.