UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Honorable Fredrick E. Clement Fresno Federal Courthouse 2500 Tulare Street, 5th Floor Courtroom 11, Department A Fresno, California

PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS

DAY: THURSDAY

DATE: MARCH 10, 2016

CALENDAR: 9:00 A.M. CHAPTERS 13 AND 12 CASES

GENERAL DESIGNATIONS

Each pre-hearing disposition is prefaced by the words "Final Ruling," "Tentative Ruling" or "No Tentative Ruling." Except as indicated below, matters designated "Final Ruling" will not be called and counsel need not appear at the hearing on such matters. Matters designated "Tentative Ruling" or "No Tentative Ruling" will be called.

ORAL ARGUMENT

For matters that are called, the court may determine in its discretion whether the resolution of such matter requires oral argument. See Morrow v. Topping, 437 F.2d 1155, 1156-57 (9th Cir. 1971); accord LBR 9014-1(h). When the court has published a tentative ruling for a matter that is called, the court shall not accept oral argument from any attorney appearing on such matter who is unfamiliar with such tentative ruling or its grounds.

COURT'S ERRORS IN FINAL RULINGS

If a party believes that a final ruling contains an error that would, if reflected in the order or judgment, warrant a motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(a), as incorporated by Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 9024, then the party affected by such error shall, not later than 4:00 p.m. (PST) on the day before the hearing, inform the following persons by telephone that they wish the matter either to be called or dropped from calendar, as appropriate, notwithstanding the court's ruling: (1) all other parties directly affected by the motion; and (2) Kathy Torres, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Fredrick E. Clement, at (559) 499-5860. Absent such a timely request, a matter designated "Final Ruling" will not be called.

1. $\frac{15-15000}{-1}$ -A-13 JORGE/CHRISTA RAMIREZ

PBB-1

JORGE RAMIREZ/MV

PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF LOGIX FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 2-5-16 [12]

Final Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Personal Property; Motor Vehicle]

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 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

Chapter 13 debtors may value collateral by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. Section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, "An allowed claim of a creditor secured by a lien on property in which the estate has an interest . . . is a secured claim to the extent of the value of such creditor's interest in the estate's interest in such property" and is unsecured as to the remainder. 11 U.S.C. § 506(a). For personal property, value is defined as "replacement value" on the date of the petition. Id. § 506(a)(2). For "property acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind considering the age and condition of the property at the time value is determined." Id. The costs of sale or marketing may not be deducted. Id.

A debtor's ability to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle is limited by the terms of the hanging paragraph of § 1325(a). See 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). Under this statute, a lien secured by a motor vehicle cannot be stripped down to the collateral's value if: (i) the lien securing the claim is a purchase money security interest, (ii) the debt was incurred within the 910-day period preceding the date of the petition, and (iii) the motor vehicle was acquired for the debtor's personal use. 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph).

In this case, the debtor seeks to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle described as a 2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring Minivan 4D. The debt owed to the respondent is not secured by a purchase money security interest. See 11 U.S.C. \S 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). The court values the vehicle at \$7558.

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 collateral consisting of a motor vehicle 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 a 2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring Minivan 4D has a value of \$7558. No senior liens on the collateral have been identified. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$7558 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.

2. <u>15-14711</u>-A-13 ANDREA SOUSA
DRJ-4
ANDREA SOUSA/MV
DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for dbt.
RESPONSIVE PLEADING

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 1-28-16 [41]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Confirm Chapter 13 Plan

Notice: LBR 3015-1(d)(1), 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Pending

Order: Pending

The motion requests confirmation of the Chapter 13 plan in this case. 11 U.S.C. $\S\S$ 1322, 1323, 1325; Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(b); LBR 3015-1(d)(1). The Chapter 13 trustee opposes the motion, objecting to confirmation. But the moving party has not filed a reply to the opposition.

CONFIRMATION

Without the benefit of a reply, the court cannot determine whether the grounds for the trustee's opposition are disputed or undisputed. As a result, the court does not consider the matter to be ripe for a decision in advance of the hearing.

If such grounds are undisputed, the moving party may appear at the hearing and affirm that they are undisputed. The moving party may opt not to appear at the hearing, and such nonappearance will be deemed by the court as a concession that the trustee's grounds for opposition are undisputed and meritorious.

If such grounds are disputed, the moving party shall appear at the hearing. The court may either (1) rule on the merits and resolve any disputed issues appropriate for resolution at the initial hearing, or (2) treat the initial hearing as a status conference and schedule an evidentiary hearing to resolve disputed, material factual issues or schedule a further hearing after additional briefing on any disputed legal issues.

75 DAY ORDER

A Chapter 13 plan must be confirmed no later than the first hearing date available after the 75-day period that commences on the date of this hearing. If a Chapter 13 plan has not been confirmed by such date, the court may dismiss the case on the trustee's motion. See 11 U.S.C. \$ 1307(c)(1).

3. <u>15-14516</u>-A-7 ROSEANN CASTANEDA
MHM-1
MICHAEL MEYER/MV
TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.
CONVERTED 2/18/16

MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 2-11-16 [17]

Final Ruling

The case converted to chapter 7, the matter is dropped as moot.

4. <u>13-12917</u>-A-13 JAMIE/MARY JANE GALVAN MOTION TO INCUR DEBT FW-3 2-4-16 [<u>61</u>]

JAMIE GALVAN/MV

PETER FEAR/Atty. for dbt.

Final Ruling

Motion: Approve Debtor's Incurring New Debt [Vehicle Loan] 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).

The debtor seeks to incur new debt to finance the purchase of a vehicle. The new loan will allow the debtors to purchase a 2010 Nissan Armada that they have been leasing since the petition date. The lease expires in June 2016. The debtors have attested that it is necessary for them to replace this vehicle because both debtors work at different locations and require two operable vehicles to maintain their employments. When the lease expires, the debtors will purchase the residual value of the vehicle for \$14,213.12. The loan terms are \$647.68 per month for 23 months at a 4.74% interest rate, which is only slightly more than the lease payment. The court will grant the motion, and the trustee will approve the order as to form and content.

5. 15-10123-A-13 CURTIS ALLEN AND CHARLOTTE JACKSON MHM-1MICHAEL MEYER/MV VARDUHI PETROSYAN/Atty. for dbt. RESPONSIVE PLEADING

CONTINUED MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 11-5-15 [<u>23</u>]

No tentative ruling.

6. 15-14924-A-13 PATRICIA CARLSON HAR-1 HERBERT A. CARLSON TRUST/MV

> DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for dbt. HILTON RYDER/Atty. for mv. CONTINUED BY STIPULATED ORDER TO 3/31/16

OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN BY KURT W. CARLSON, MARK CARLSON, HERBERT A. CARLSON TRUST 2-2-16 [15]

Final Ruling

This matter is continued to March 31, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

15-13934-A-13 KLASS/BARBARA DENHEYER ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE 7. LAUREN RODE/Atty. for dbt.

2-2-16 [54]

No tentative ruling.

8. 15-13934-A-13 KLASS/BARBARA DENHEYER CONTINUED MOTION FOR RELIEF HAR-1 DONALD R. WATSON TRUST/MV LAUREN RODE/Atty. for dbt. HILTON RYDER/Atty. for mv.

FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 11-24-15 [20]

No tentative ruling.

9. 15-13934-A-13 KLASS/BARBARA DENHEYER CONTINUED OBJECTION TO HAR-2 DONALD R. WATSON TRUST/MV

LAUREN RODE/Atty. for dbt. HILTON RYDER/Atty. for mv.

No tentative ruling.

CONFIRMATION OF PLAN BY DONALD R. WATSON TRUST AND BRENDA K. CARLSON 12-11-15 [42]

10. <u>15-13934</u>-A-13 KLASS/BARBARA DENHEYER
MHM-1
MICHAEL MEYER/MV
LAUREN RODE/Atty. for dbt.

CONTINUED MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 12-1-15 [34]

No tentative ruling.

11. 16-10434-A-13 JOSE ANGULO SL-1 JOSE ANGULO/MV SCOTT LYONS/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO EXTEND AUTOMATIC STAY 2-25-16 [11]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Extend the Automatic Stay

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

Disposition: Granted except as to any creditor without proper notice

of this motion

Order: Prepared by moving party pursuant to the instructions below

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).

Upon request of a party in interest, the court may extend the automatic stay where the debtor has had one previous bankruptcy case that was pending within the 1-year period prior to the filing of the current bankruptcy case but was dismissed. See 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(3)(B). Procedurally, the automatic stay may be extended only "after notice and a hearing completed before the expiration of the 30-day period" after the filing of the petition in the later case. Id. (emphasis added). To extend the stay, the court must find that the filing of the later case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed, and the extension of the stay may be made subject to conditions or limitations the court may impose. Id.

For the reasons stated in the motion and supporting papers, the court finds that the filing of the current case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed. The motion will be granted except as to any creditor without proper notice of this motion.

12. 15-13935-A-13 RANDALL/SHARI WARKENTIN

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - FAILURE TO PAY FEES 2-10-16 [52]

JERRY LOWE/Atty. for dbt.

Final Ruling

The fee paid in full, the order to show cause is discharged and the case shall remain pending.

15-14936-A-13 CHARLES/KATRINA ROCHA 13.

JHW-1

TD AUTO FINANCE LLC/MV RICHARD STURDEVANT/Atty. for dbt.

JENNIFER WANG/Atty. for mv.

OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN BY TD AUTO FINANCE LLC 1-21-16 [17]

Final Ruling

Matter: Objection to Chapter 13 Plan

Notice: LBR 3015-1(c)(4); no written opposition required

Disposition: Overruled as moot

Order: Civil minute order

Creditors and the trustee may file an objection to confirmation of the Chapter 13 plan within 7 days after the first date set for the creditors' meeting held under § 341 of the Bankruptcy Code. LBR 3015-1(c)(4). But if the debtor withdraws the plan or files a modification of the plan under § 1323, the modified plan becomes the plan. 11 U.S.C. § 1323(b). Modifying the plan renders moot any pending objection to confirmation of the previously filed plan.

14. 15-14544-A-13 LINDI ELLIS CONTINUED HEARING RE: PLAN

11-23-15 [5]

SCOTT LYONS/Atty. for dbt.

No tentative ruling.

15. 15-14544-A-13 LINDI ELLIS SL-1

LINDI ELLIS/MV

SCOTT LYONS/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF SPRINGLEAF FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

2-19-16 [16]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Personal Property; Motor Vehicle] Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no 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). 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

Chapter 13 debtors may value collateral by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. Section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, "An allowed claim of a creditor secured by a lien on property in which the estate has an interest . . . is a secured claim to the extent of the

value of such creditor's interest in the estate's interest in such property" and is unsecured as to the remainder. 11 U.S.C. \S 506(a). For personal property, value is defined as "replacement value" on the date of the petition. Id. \S 506(a)(2). For "property acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind considering the age and condition of the property at the time value is determined." Id. The costs of sale or marketing may not be deducted.

A debtor's ability to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle is limited by the terms of the hanging paragraph of § 1325(a). See 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). Under this statute, a lien secured by a motor vehicle cannot be stripped down to the collateral's value if: (i) the lien securing the claim is a purchase money security interest, (ii) the debt was incurred within the 910-day period preceding the date of the petition, and (iii) the motor vehicle was acquired for the debtor's personal use. 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph).

In this case, the debtor seeks to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle described as a 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier-L. The debt owed to the respondent is not secured by a purchase money security interest. See 11 U.S.C. \S 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). The court values the vehicle at \$1773.

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 collateral consisting of a motor vehicle 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 a 2004 Chevrolet Cavalier-L has a value of \$1773. No senior liens on the collateral have been identified. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$1773 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.

16. <u>15-14945</u>-A-12 GREGER BRANNSTROM

AFW-1

FRANCESCHI TRUST/MV

NOEL KNIGHT/Atty. for dbt.

ANNA WELLS/Atty. for mv.

CONTINUED MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 1-4-16 [10]

No tentative ruling.

15-14945-A-12 GREGER BRANNSTROM 17. AFW-1 GREGER BRANNSTROM/MV NOEL KNIGHT/Atty. for dbt. RESPONSIVE PLEADING

CONTINUED COUNTER MOTION TO ASSUME UNEXPIRED LEASE 1-20-16 [<u>36</u>]

No tentative ruling.

18. 12-16046-A-13 ERNEST/KATHERINE SHELTON MHM-2

MICHAEL MEYER/MV TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt. WITHDRAWN

CONTINUED MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 12-4-15 [129]

Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

12-16046-A-13 ERNEST/KATHERINE SHELTON MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN 19. TCS-7

ERNEST SHELTON/MV TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt. 1-28-16 [136]

Final Ruling

Motion: Modify Chapter 13 Plan

Notice: LBR 3015-1(d)(2), 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by the trustee, approved by debtor's counsel

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 3015-1(d)(2), 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).

Chapter 13 plan confirmation is governed by 11 U.S.C. §§ 1322, 1323, 1325, 1329 and by Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 2002(a)(5) and 3015(g) and Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1. The debtor bears the burden of proof as to each element. In re Barnes, 32 F.3d 405, 407 (9th Cir. 1994). The court finds that the debtor has sustained that burden. The court will grant the motion and approve the modification of the plan.

20. <u>12-18353</u>-A-13 LEROY CORDOVA BCS-4

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION BY THE LAW OFFICE OF SHEIN LAW GROUP, PC FOR BENJAMIN C. SHEIN, DEBTORS ATTORNEY(S)
2-3-16 [54]

No tentative ruling.

21. <u>15-14153</u>-A-13 KEVIN/MACKENZIE FERREIRA MHM-3

MICHAEL MEYER/MV C. HUGHES/Atty. for dbt. OBJECTION TO DEBTOR'S CLAIM OF EXEMPTIONS 2-5-16 [47]

Final Ruling

Objection: Objection to Claim of Exemptions

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

Disposition: Sustained
Order: Civil Minute Order

Unopposed objections are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c); LBR 9001-1(d), (n) (contested matters include objections). Written opposition to the sustaining of this objection was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. 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).

CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE § 704.070(b)

Debtors contend that three bank accounts holding \$4,445.00 are wholly exempt under California Code of Civil Procedure 704.070. That section exempts wages, both prior to and after payment. Subdivision (b) "(b) Paid earnings that can be traced into deposit accounts or in the form of cash or its equivalent as provided in Section 703.080 are exempt in the following amounts: (1) All of the paid earnings are exempt if prior to payment to the employee they were subject to an earnings withholding order or an earnings assignment order for support. (2) Seventy-five percent of the paid earnings that are levied upon or otherwise sought to be subjected to the enforcement of a money judgment are exempt if prior to payment to the employee they were not subject to an earnings withholding order or an earnings assignment order for support." The statute defines the words and phrases used. "(a) As used in this section: (1) "Earnings withholding order" means an earnings withholding order under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 706.010) (Wage Garnishment Law).(2) "Paid earnings" means earnings as defined in Section 706.011 that were paid to the employee during the 30-day period ending on the date of the levy. For the purposes of this paragraph, where earnings that have been paid to the employee are sought to be subjected to the enforcement of a money judgment other than by a levy, the date of levy is deemed to be the date the earnings were otherwise subjected to the enforcement of the judgment. (3) "Earnings assignment order for support" means an earnings assignment order for support as defined in Section 706.011." Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. 704.070(a).

Here, though paid, the whole amount is exempted. Moreover, there is no evidence that the amounts exempted were paid within the 30 days of the petition. From the debtor's non-opposition the court infers acquiescence. The objection will be sustained.

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 H. Meyer's objection 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 objection,

IT IS ORDERED that the objection is sustained.

22. <u>15-13361</u>-A-13 ALTON/SUSAN CUMMINGS
PBB-5
ALTON CUMMINGS/MV
PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA), N.A. 1-29-16 [58]

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. \S 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 debt secured by the responding party's lien. As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

23. <u>15-13361</u>-A-13 ALTON/SUSAN CUMMINGS PBB-6 ALTON CUMMINGS/MV

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT 1-29-16 [64]

PETER BUNTING/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

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. \S 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 debt secured by the responding party's lien. As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

24. <u>15-13361</u>-A-13 ALTON/SUSAN CUMMINGS PBB-7 ALTON CUMMINGS/MV

PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CACH, LLC 1-29-16 [70]

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. \S 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 debt secured by the responding party's lien. As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

25. 15-13461-A-13 RAMIRO OCHOA

NRA-3

RAMIRO OCHOA/MV

NELLIE AGUILAR/Atty. for dbt.

RESPONSIVE PLEADING

Final Ruling

Motion: Confirm Chapter 13 Plan

Notice: LBR 3015-1(d)(1), 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Denied
Order: Civil minute order

Debtor Ramiro Ochoa moves to confirm his Chapter 13 plan.

CONFIRMATION

Motions to confirm a Chapter 13 plan must be served on all creditors. LBR 3015-1(d)(1). The docket does not reflect a certificate of service. The motion will be denied.

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.

Debtor Ramiro Ochoa's motion to confirm Chapter 13 plan 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 denied.

26. 12-15162-A-13 LILLY DOMINGUEZ
MHM-1
MICHAEL MEYER/MV
PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.
WITHDRAWN

MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 1-15-16 [30]

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN

1-19-16 [67]

Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

27. <u>15-14062</u>-A-13 JOHN/NANCY ALVA
TCS-2
JOHN ALVA/MV
TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF CONSUMER PORTFOLIO SERVICES 1-29-16 [29]

Final Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Personal Property; Motor Vehicle]

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required Disposition: Continued to April 28, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

Order: Civil minute order

Pursuant to the parties' stipulation, the hearing is continued to April 28, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Written opposition, if any, shall be filed no later than 14 days before the continued hearing date. Further, a joint status report shall also be filed no later than 14 days before the continued hearing date.

28. <u>15-14062</u>-A-13 JOHN/NANCY ALVA
TCS-3
JOHN ALVA/MV
TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF WILSHIRE CONSUMER CREDIT 1-29-16 [33]

Final Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Personal Property; Motor Vehicle]

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 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

Chapter 13 debtors may value collateral by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. Section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, "An allowed claim of a creditor secured by a lien on property in which the estate has an interest . . . is a secured claim to the extent of the value of such creditor's interest in the estate's interest in such property" and is unsecured as to the remainder. 11 U.S.C. § 506(a). For personal property, value is defined as "replacement value" on the date of the petition. Id. § 506(a)(2). For "property acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind considering the age and condition of the property at the time value is determined." Id. The costs of sale or marketing may not be deducted. Id.

A debtor's ability to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle

is limited by the terms of the hanging paragraph of § 1325(a). See 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). Under this statute, a lien secured by a motor vehicle cannot be stripped down to the collateral's value if: (i) the lien securing the claim is a purchase money security interest, (ii) the debt was incurred within the 910-day period preceding the date of the petition, and (iii) the motor vehicle was acquired for the debtor's personal use. 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph).

In this case, the debtor seeks to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle described as a 2001 Ford Escape. The debt owed to the respondent is not secured by a purchase money security interest. See 11 U.S.C. \S 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). The court values the vehicle at \$1074.

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 collateral consisting of a motor vehicle 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 a 2001 Ford Escape has a value of \$1074. No senior liens on the collateral have been identified. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$1074 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.

29. <u>15-14863</u>-A-13 GERARDO CISNEROS
TOG-1
GERARDO CISNEROS/MV
THOMAS GILLIS/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF CITIMORTGAGE, INC. 2-4-16 [14]

Final Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Real Property; Principal Residence]

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 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

Chapter 13 debtors may strip off a wholly unsecured junior lien encumbering the debtor's principal residence. 11 U.S.C. §§ 506(a), 1322(b)(2); In re Lam, 211 B.R. 36, 40-42 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1997); In re Zimmer, 313 F.3d 1220, 1222-25 (9th Cir. 2002) (holding that the trial court erred in deciding that a wholly unsecured lien was within the scope of the antimodification clause of § 1322(b)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code). A motion to value the debtor's principal residence should be granted upon a threefold showing by the moving party. First, the moving party must proceed by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. Second, the motion must be served on the holder of the secured claim. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012, 9014(a); LBR 3015-1(j). Third, the moving party must prove by admissible evidence that the debt secured by liens senior to the respondent's claim exceeds the value of the principal residence. 11 U.S.C. § 506(a); Lam, 211 B.R. at 40-42; Zimmer, 313 F.3d at 1222-25. "In the absence of contrary evidence, an owner's opinion of property value may be conclusive." Enewally v. Wash. Mut. Bank (In re Enewally), 368 F.3d 1165, 1173 (9th Cir. 2004).

The debtor requests that the court value real property collateral. The collateral is the debtor's principal residence located at 535 Holt Avenue, Hanford, California.

The court values the collateral at \$142,308.00. The debt secured by liens senior to the respondent's lien exceeds the value of the collateral. Because the amount owed to senior lienholders exceeds the collateral's value, the respondent's claim is wholly unsecured and no portion will be allowed as a secured claim. 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 real 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 real property collateral located at 535 Holt Avenue, Hanford, California has a value of \$142,308.00. The collateral is encumbered by senior liens securing debt that exceeds the collateral's value. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$0.00 and a general unsecured claim for the balance of the claim.

MICHAEL MEYER/MV

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Dismiss Case

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); 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).

CASE DISMISSAL

The debtor has failed to provide the trustee with required or requested documents. See 11 U.S.C. \$ 521(a)(3)-(4). Documents missing include Class 1 Mortgage Checklist; 2012 Federal and State Income Tax Returns and six months proof of income.

The debtor has failed to file a motion to confirm the Chapter 13 Plan. A plan was filed January 27, 2016, and an amended plan was filed January 29, 2016. Neither was noticed for confirmation.

The debtor's credit counseling certificate, ECF # 33, shows credit counseling was taken on February 9, 2016. The petition was filed December 30, 2015. That course must be taken prior to the petition date. 11 U.S.C. \$ 109(h)(1).

For the reasons stated in the motion, cause exists to dismiss the case. $Id. \S 1307(c)(1)$.

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 trustee's motion to dismiss has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of the respondent debtor 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 for unreasonable delay by the debtor that is prejudicial to creditors. The court hereby dismisses this case.

16-10383-A-13 HELEN MITCHELL 31. TCS-1 HELEN MITCHELL/MV TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO EXTEND AUTOMATIC STAY 2-23-16 [8]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Extend the Automatic Stay

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

Disposition: Granted except as to any creditor without proper notice

of this motion

Order: Prepared by moving party pursuant to the instructions below

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).

Upon request of a party in interest, the court may extend the automatic stay where the debtor has had one previous bankruptcy case that was pending within the 1-year period prior to the filing of the current bankruptcy case but was dismissed. See 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(3)(B). Procedurally, the automatic stay may be extended only "after notice and a hearing completed before the expiration of the 30day period" after the filing of the petition in the later case. Id. (emphasis added). To extend the stay, the court must find that the filing of the later case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed, and the extension of the stay may be made subject to conditions or limitations the court may impose. Id.

For the reasons stated in the motion and supporting papers, the court finds that the filing of the current case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed. The motion will be granted except as to any creditor without proper notice of this motion.

15-13686-A-13 ROBERTO HINOJOSA, JR. MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 32. DRJ-2 ROBERTO HINOJOSA, JR./MV

1-22-16 [37]

DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for dbt. RESPONSIVE PLEADING

Final Ruling

Motion: Confirm Chapter 13 Plan

Notice: LBR 3015-1(d)(1), 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by the trustee, approved by debtor's counsel

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 3015-1(d)(1), 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).

Chapter 13 plan confirmation is governed by 11 U.S.C. §§ 1322, 1325 and by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2002(b) and Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1. The debtor bears the burden of proof as to each element. *In re Barnes*, 32 F.3d 405, 407 (9th Cir. 1994). The court finds that the debtor has sustained that burden, and the court will approve confirmation of the plan.

33. 15-14989-A-13 PAMELA WILLIAMS
PBB-1
PAMELA WILLIAMS/MV
PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL OF SANTANDER CONSUMER USA 2-5-16 [12]

Final Ruling

Motion: Value Collateral [Personal Property; Motor Vehicle]

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 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

Chapter 13 debtors may value collateral by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012. Section 506(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, "An allowed claim of a creditor secured by a lien on property in which the estate has an interest . . . is a secured claim to the extent of the value of such creditor's interest in the estate's interest in such property" and is unsecured as to the remainder. 11 U.S.C. § 506(a). For personal property, value is defined as "replacement value" on the date of the petition. Id. § 506(a)(2). For "property acquired for personal, family, or household purposes, replacement value shall mean the price a retail merchant would charge for property of that kind considering the age and condition of the property at the time value is determined." Id. The costs of sale or marketing may not be deducted. Id.

A debtor's ability to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle is limited by the terms of the hanging paragraph of § 1325(a). See 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph). Under this statute, a lien secured by a motor vehicle cannot be stripped down to the collateral's value if: (i) the lien securing the claim is a purchase money security interest, (ii) the debt was incurred within the 910-day period preceding the date of the petition, and (iii) the motor vehicle was acquired for the debtor's personal use. 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a) (hanging paragraph).

In this case, the debtor seeks to value collateral consisting of a motor vehicle described as a 2009 Dodge Charger. The debt secured by the vehicle was not incurred within the 910-day period preceding the date of the petition. The court values the vehicle at \$9960.

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 collateral consisting of a motor vehicle 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 a 2009 Dodge Charger has a value of \$9960. No senior liens on the collateral have been identified. The respondent has a secured claim in the amount of \$9960 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.

34. <u>15-14694</u>-A-13 DAVID PENA MHM-1 MICHAEL MEYER/MV SCOTT LYONS/Atty. for dbt. OBJECTION TO DEBTOR'S CLAIM OF EXEMPTIONS 2-5-16 [32]

Final Ruling

Objection: Objection to Claim of Exemptions

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

Disposition: Sustained
Order: Civil Minute Order

Unopposed objections are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c); LBR 9001-1(d), (n) (contested matters include objections). Written opposition to the sustaining of this objection was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. 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).

CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE § 704.060

The debtor claims an exemption in a 2008 Ford F250 for \$6,625. The trustee contends that the debtor testified at the meeting of creditors that the vehicle is a commercial vehicle.

California Code of Civil Procedure § 704.060(d)(1) provides, "Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b):(1) The amount of the exemption for a commercial motor vehicle under paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) is limited to four thousand eight hundred fifty

dollars (\$4,850)." Debtor has claimed \$6,625.00 and the objection will be sustained as to any amount over \$4,850.00.

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 H. Meyer's objection 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 objection,

IT IS ORDERED that the objection is sustained as to any amount claimed in excess of \$4,850.00.

35. 16-10139-A-13 DAVID HYATT

LRL-43

DAVID HYATT/MV

LESLIE RICHARDS/Atty. for dbt.

DISMISSED: 2/29/16

OST

No tentative ruling.

MOTION TO VACATE DISMISSAL OF CASE 3-3-16 [44]