

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Eastern District of California

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

# DAY: MONDAY DATE: MAY 12, 2025 CALENDAR: 10:30 A.M. CHAPTER 7 CASES

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 <u>Pre-Hearing Dispositions</u> prior to appearing at the hearing.
- Review the court's <u>Zoom Procedures and Guidelines</u> for these, and additional instructions.
- Parties appearing via CourtCall are encouraged to review the <u>CourtCall Appearance Information</u>.

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.

## 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. <u>25-21001</u>-A-7 **IN RE: MUHAMMAD ALI** KMM-1

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-4-2025 [16]

MUOI CHEA/ATTY. FOR DBT. KIRSTEN MARTINEZ/ATTY. FOR MV. TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORPORATION VS.

# Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required Disposition: Granted Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2022 Toyota Tundra HV
Cause: delinquent installment payments 6 months/\$6,367.98

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.

## 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 post-petition 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 post-petition 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.

Toyota Motor Credit Corporation's motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the wellpleaded 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 2022 Toyota Tundra HV, 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. <u>19-22509</u>-A-7 **IN RE: ULISES MEZA** DNL-11

MOTION TO SELL 4-17-2025 [208]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT. J. CUNNINGHAM/ATTY. FOR MV. DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 01/07/22

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Real Property and Compensate Real Estate Broker Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required Disposition: Granted Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 6325 Requa Way, Sacramento, California
Buyer: Ulises Frank Meza
Sale Price: \$248,000.00
Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity; Interest
sold remains subject to \$348,000.00 deed of trust held by US Bank.

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).

The Chapter 7 Trustee moved for an order approving an agreement with the debtor to purchase the estate's interest in real property know as 6325 Requa Way, Sacramento, California, subject to a \$348,000.00 deed of trust in favor of US Bank. The purchase price will be \$248,000.00 and the sale is subject to overbidding.

Section 363(b)(1) of Title 11 authorizes sales of property of the estate "other than in the ordinary course of business." 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1); see also In re Lionel Corp., 722 F.2d 1063, 1071 (2d Cir. 1983) (requiring business justification). The moving party is the Chapter 7 trustee and liquidation of property of the estate is a proper purpose. See 11 U.S.C. § 704(a)(1). As a result, the court will grant the motion. The stay of the order provided by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 6004(h) will be waived.

Section 330(a) of Title 11 authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by a professional person employed under § 327 and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a). Reasonable compensation is determined by considering all relevant factors. *See id.* § 330(a)(3). The court finds that the compensation sought is reasonable and will approve the application.

3. <u>23-24309</u>-A-7 **IN RE: BHUPINDER KOONER** KMM-1

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-10-2025 [67]

SETH HANSON/ATTY. FOR DBT. KIRSTEN MARTINEZ/ATTY. FOR MV. DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 03/15/24 FIFTH THIRD BANK 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: 2022 COBALT A29, 2022 Sportboat A29/2022, Volvo Penta V8-430CE Value of Collateral: \$131,525.00 (Boat \$126,400.00; Trailer \$5,125.00) Aggregate of Liens: \$188,298.37 Discharge: March 15, 2024

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.

## 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 on 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.

Fifth Third Bank'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 2022 COBALT A29, 2022 Sportboat A29/2022, Volvo Penta V8-430CE. 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.

# 4. <u>23-24511</u>-A-7 **IN RE: JASPREET KAUR** DWE-1

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-8-2025 [42]

SETH HANSON/ATTY. FOR DBT. DANE EXNOWSKI/ATTY. FOR MV. DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 04/26/24 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION VS. TRUSTEE NON-OPPOSITION

#### 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: 2020 MAC 48' Flatbed
Cause: delinquent installment payments 21 months/\$21,124.32

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.

#### 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).

#### 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

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. Further, the debtor has stated that it is their intention to surrender the property, Statement of Intention, ECF No. 1.

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.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted in part and denied as moot in part. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the interest of the trustee in the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2020 MAC 48' Flatbed. 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 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.

5. <u>16-25431</u>-A-7 IN RE: C./CLAUDIA WRIGHT SLP-1

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF HERITAGE SERVICE CORPORATION 4-7-2025 [46]

STACIE POWER/ATTY. FOR DBT. DEBTORS DISCHARGED: 09/18/17

#### Final Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption Disposition: Denied without prejudice Order: Civil minute order

The court will deny the motion without prejudice on grounds of insufficient service of process on the responding party. A motion to avoid a lien is a contested matter requiring service of the motion in the manner provided by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7004. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4003(d), 9014(b); see also In re Villar, 317 B.R. 88, 92 n.6 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2004). Under Rule 7004, service on corporations and other business entities must be made by mailing a copy of the motion "to the attention of an officer, a managing or general agent, or to any other agent authorized by appointment or by law to receive service of process." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7004(b)(3).

Service of the motion was insufficient. Without a certificate of service, the court will not be able to determine whether the motion was mailed to the attention of an officer, managing or general agent, or other agent authorized to accept service. Because no certificate of service was filed, the court is unable to determine if service complies with Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7004(b)(3), 4003.

# VIOLATION OF LBR 9014-1(c)

The docket control number given for this matter violates the court's Local Rules, LBR 9014-1(c), regarding proper use of docket control numbers. When using a docket control number, a party must use both letters (usually initials of the attorney for the movant) and a number. The numerical portion of the docket control number must be "the number that is one number higher than the number of motions previously filed by said attorney" in that particular case. LBR 9014-1(c)(3). Thus, a party may not use the same docket control number on separate matters filed in the same case.

The docket control number used in this motion was used in a previous motion by the debtor - a motion to avoid lien filed on January 27, 2025, ECF No. 34.

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Debtor's motion to avoid 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.

## 6. 06-22532-A-7 IN RE: RIO MORALES

MOTION FOR PAYMENT OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 2442.05 WITH SYNCHRONY FINANCIAL 2-10-2025 [610]

ROBERT ISELEY/ATTY. FOR DBT. CASE CLOSED: 08/08/16

# Final Ruling

The matter has been resolved by order of this court. No appearance is necessary.

## 7. 25-21432-A-7 IN RE: DEREK CHANCE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR FAILURE TO UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION IN PACER 4-16-2025 [13]

STEPHEN JOHNSON/ATTY. FOR DBT. RESPONSIVE ENTRY: 4/12/2025

# Final Ruling

The Order to Show Cause is discharged. No appearances are required. The court will issue a civil minute order.

8. <u>25-20536</u>-A-7 IN RE: LESLIE/ROBERTO SILVA PGM-1

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF TD BANK USA, N.A. 4-7-2025 [16]

PETER MACALUSO/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

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$1,811.97 (TD Bank USA, N.A.) All Other Liens: -First Deed of Trust- LoanCare, LLC; \$199,397.00 Exemption: \$146,903.00 Value of Property: \$346,300.00

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 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(s) seek an order avoiding the judicial lien of 1,811.97 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).

Here, the responding party's judicial lien, all other liens, and the exemption amount together (\$348,111.97) exceed the property's value (\$346,300) by an amount greater than or equal to the judicial lien

(\$1,881.97). As a result, the responding party's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

# 9. <u>25-21137</u>-A-7 IN RE: KYLE COLLINS AND BERNICE WARD WBD-1

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-10-2025 [33]

GERRIT BLEEKER/ATTY. FOR MV. ED GYLLENHAMMER VS.

#### Tentative Ruling

Motion: Relief from Stay Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required Disposition: Granted Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 604 Over Par Court, Las Vegas, Nevada

The moving party requests relief from stay under § 362(d)(1), for cause, and under § 362(d)(4) on grounds that the subject real property securing its loan was transferred by a third-party borrower to the debtor in this case as part of a scheme to delay, hinder or defraud the moving party. The court will grant the motion.

#### SECTION 362(d)(4)

Section 362(d)(4) authorizes binding, in rem relief from stay with respect to real property "if the court finds that the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, or defraud creditors that involved either-(A) transfer of all or part ownership of, or other interest in, such real property without the consent of the secured creditor or court approval; or (B) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting such real property." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(4).

The B.A.P. has specified the elements for relief under this subsection of § 362. "To obtain relief under § 362(d)(4), the court must find three elements to be present. [1] First, debtor's bankruptcy filing must have been part of a scheme. [2] Second, the object of the scheme must be to delay, hinder, or defraud creditors. [3] Third, the scheme must involve either (a) the transfer of some interest in the real property without the secured creditor's consent or court approval, or (b) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting the property." In re First Yorkshire Holdings, Inc., 470 B.R. 864, 870-71 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2012) (footnote omitted). [4] Fourth, the movant creditor must be a creditor whose claim is secured by real property. In re Ellis, 523 B.R. 673, 678 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2014) ("Applying its plain meaning, this provision of the Code authorizes a bankruptcy court to grant the extraordinary remedy of in rem stay relief only upon the request of a creditor whose claim is secured by an interest in the subject property.").

An order entered under this subsection must be recorded in compliance with state law to "be binding in any other case under this title purporting to affect such real property filed not later than 2 years after the date of the entry of such order." § 362(d)(4).

#### APPLICATION

Borrower Elite Vision Enterprises Inc. entered into a straight note secured by deed of trust in the amount of \$553,500.00 in favor of Movants Ed and Janet L. Gyllenhammer on September 20, 2021. The borrower defaulted and failed to pay the note in full before the maturity date as required by the note. Declaration of Ed Gyllenhammer, ECF No. 39, 3:20-22, 3: 24-26. On March 6, 2025, without consent of the lenders, the borrower signed a Grant, Bargain, Sale Deed, transferring the property to Debtor Kyle Collins and another party for \$10.00 in consideration. *Id.* at 4:8-10. On the same day as the Trustee sale, a fax was sent to the Nevada Trust Deed Services containing a notice of this bankruptcy matter and the copy of the Grant, Bargain, Sale Deed claiming transfer from Elite Vision Enterprises to Debtor and the owner of borrower entity. *Id.* at 4:11-15. This deed was found to be fraudulent. *Id.* At 5:11-16.

Debtors initially listed the property on their Schedule A, ECF No. 9, stating an ownership in 10% of the property, of which the court takes judicial notice. Fed. R. Evid. 201. The debtors have since amended their Schedules A/B and no longer list the property, ECF No. 17. All the facts in this instant case are sufficient to show that the filing of the bankruptcy petition was part of a scheme to hinder, delay, or defraud creditors through the transfer of part of the ownership in real property without the consent of the secured creditor. As such, relief from the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. 362(d) (4) should be granted.

#### SECTION 362(d)(1) RELIEF

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 court grants stay relief for cause under § 362(d)(1) because the property's transfer was unauthorized.

#### 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.

Creditor'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 as to relief under 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). The automatic stay is vacated for cause under § 362(d)(1) with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as 604 Over Par Court, Las Vegas, Nevada, 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, under 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(4), that the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, or defraud creditors that involved either transfer of all or part ownership of, or other interest in, the aforesaid real property without the consent of the secured creditor or court approval; or multiple bankruptcy filing affecting such real property. No other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs against the debtor for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

# 10. $\frac{24-25744}{FW-1}$ -A-7 IN RE: LAURA ARDEN

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-4-2025 [20]

NIKKI FARRIS/ATTY. FOR DBT. FANNY WAN/ATTY. FOR MV. NEWREZ LLC 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: 4620 Wendlis Road, Forest Ranch, California

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

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). 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).

"Where the property is declining in value or accruing interest and taxes eat up the equity cushion to the point where the cushion no longer provides adequate protection, the court may either grant the motion to lift the stay or order the debtor to provide some other form of adequate protection." Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy ¶ 8:1096 (rev. 2018). Further, "[a]n undersecured creditor is entitled to adequate protection only for the decline in the [collateral's] value after the bankruptcy filing." Id. ¶ 8:1065.1 (citing United Sav. Ass'n v. Timbers of Inwood Forest Assocs., Ltd., 484 U.S. 365, 370-73 (1988)). When a creditor is oversecured, however, an existing equity cushion may provide adequate protection of its security interest while the stay remains in effect. See id. ¶ 8:1072 (citing cases). In calculating the amount of the movant creditor's equity cushion, the court ignores the debt secured by junior liens. In re Mellor, 734 F.2d 1396, 1400-01 (9th Cir. 1984). The Ninth Circuit has held that a 20% equity cushion adequately protects a creditor's security interest." Id. at 1401.

"[U]nder section 362(d)(1), the stay must be terminated for 'cause.' Lack of adequate protection is but one example of "cause" for relief from stay." In re Ellis, 60 B.R. 432, 435 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1985). The panel in the Ellis case rejected the argument that under § 362(d)(1) "the stay can only be terminated if [the movantcreditors] show a lack of adequate protection." Id.

The debtor has missed 1 pre-petition payment and 15 post-petition payments totaling \$45,419.17 due on the debt secured by the moving party's lien. This constitutes cause for stay relief.

The court does not address grounds for relief under § 362(d)(2) as relief is warranted 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.

NewRez 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 Wendlis Road, Forest Ranch, California, 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.

# 11. $\frac{25-20747}{JCW-1}$ -A-7 IN RE: JACOB/ANDREA FORD

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY AND/OR MOTION FOR ADEQUATE PROTECTION 4-10-2025 [38]

JENNIFER WONG/ATTY. FOR MV. UTAH HOUSING CORPORATION VS. TRUSTEE NON-OPPOSITION

## Final Ruling

This Case was dismissed on May 7, 2025. The motion is dismissed as moot.

# 12. $\frac{22-21649}{BLL-5}$ -A-7 IN RE: MARY KATTENHORN

MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER 4-25-2025 [189]

RICHARD HALL/ATTY. FOR DBT. DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 10/11/22

# Final Ruling

This matter will be continued to June 9, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. as requested in the Stipulation to Continue, ECF No. 193. A Status Report will be due 14 days prior indicating whether the motion is ready to be heard.

13. <u>24-20964</u>-A-7 **IN RE: FRANK BELL** SD-1

CONTINUED AMENDED MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 12-17-2024 [126]

PETER MACALUSO/ATTY. FOR DBT. SHANNON DOYLE/ATTY. FOR MV. ATHENE ANNUITY AND LIFE COMPANY VS.

# No Ruling

14. <u>24-21966</u>-A-7 IN RE: VILLA MARCHE STOCKTON ACQUISITIONS, LP DNL-2

MOTION TO APPROVE CARVE OUT STIPULATION 4-17-2025 [<u>61</u>]

KYRA ANDRASSY/ATTY. FOR DBT. J. CUNNINGHAM/ATTY. FOR MV.

## Final Ruling

Motion: Approve Compromise or Settlement of Controversy Disposition: Denied without prejudice Order: Civil minute order

All creditors and parties in interest have not received sufficient notice. The hearing on an approval of a compromise or settlement of a controversy must be noticed to all creditors and parties in interest in the debtor's bankruptcy case as required by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2002(a)(3).

(a) 21-Day Notices to the Debtor, Trustee, Creditors, and Indenture Trustees. Except as (h), (i), (l), (p), and (q) provide otherwise, the clerk or the court's designee must give the debtor, the trustee, all creditors, and all indenture trustees at least 21 days' notice by mail of:
(3) a hearing to approve a compromise or settlement other than an agreement under <u>Rule 4001(d)</u>--unless the court, for cause, orders that notice not be given...

FRBP 2002(a)(3) (emphasis added).

#### LOCAL RULE 9014-1(d)(3)(B)(iv)

On the movant's certificate of service, the party checked service to "all creditors and parties in interest (Notice of Hearing only)". Certificate of Service, ECF No. 65. LBR 9014-1(d)(3)(B)(iv) has allowed the limitation of all supporting papers being necessary for service on the motion.

> When notice of a motion is served without the motion or supporting papers, the notice of hearing shall also succinctly and sufficiently describe the nature of the relief being requested and set forth the essential facts necessary for a party to determine whether to oppose the motion. However, the motion and supporting papers shall be served on those parties who have requested special notice and those who are directly affected by the requested relief.

LBR 9014-1(d)(3)(B)(iv)(emphasis added).

However, the notice of hearing in the instant matter does not sufficiently describe the nature of the relief being requested. The notice merely states that the trustee "hereby does move for an order approving her stipulation with STEVEN GIANANDREA, in his capacity as co-trustee of the Steven Gianandrea and Judy Baker Gianandrea Family Trust Dated 10/30/2007, and SUNWEST BANK." See Notice of Hearing, ECF No. 62, 1:25-27, 2:1-3. The notice does not detail sufficiently the essential facts necessary for the interested parties to determine whether to file opposition or not. For this reason, 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: Trustee's motion to approve settlement or 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.

# 15. $\frac{24-24375}{BLL-1}$ -A-7 IN RE: SHELLI CROWDER

MOTION FOR CONTEMPT AND/OR MOTION FOR SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF THE DISCHARGE INJUNCTION 4-10-2025 [20]

RICHARD HALL/ATTY. FOR DBT. DEBTOR DISCHARGED: 01/21/25

No Ruling

16. <u>22-21095</u>-A-7 IN RE: CALIFORNIA HISPANIC COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE, INC. <u>DNL-8</u>

MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE 4-21-2025 [147]

GALEN GENTRY/ATTY. FOR DBT. J. CUNNINGHAM/ATTY. FOR MV.

## Tentative Ruling

Motion: Approve Compromise or Settlement of Controversy Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required Disposition: Granted Order: Civil minute order

**Parties to Compromise:** Trustee Susan Smith; United States Internal Revenue Service

**Dispute Compromised:** Adversary Proceeding

Summary of Material Terms: (a) the IRS shall make a payment to the bankruptcy estate in the amount of \$125,000.00; (b) the IRS will not exercise its right to offset the Settlement Payment with any tax debts of the estate, including the liabilities listed in the IRS Claim; and (c) the Refund Case shall be dismissed with prejudice, with the parties bearing their own attorney fees and costs.

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).

#### 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 that settles the dispute described above. The compromise is reflected in the

settlement agreement attached to the motion as an exhibit. The probability of success in the litigation weighs in favor of the settlement agreement. The trustee has stated that she has knowledge that the IRS has been aggressive in their litigation of the issues which are the subject of the adversary proceeding. Declaration of Susan K. Smith, ECF No. 149, 4:15-17. The complexity, expense, and inconvenience of litigation are also in support of the settlement agreement. The trustee states that it is difficult to determine if the estate will prevail on its legal theories. Declaration, ECF No. 149, 4:9-14. Last, the settlement is in the paramount interest of the creditors. It will resolve the outstanding issues with the IRS without requiring costly litigation.

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.

Trustee Susan Smith's motion to approve a compromise has been presented to the court. Having considered the motion, oppositions, responses and replies, if any, and having heard oral argument presented at the hearing,

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 an exhibit and filed at docket no. 150. 17.  $\frac{25-20699}{AP-1}$  -A-7 IN RE: TIMOTHY CHENEY AND JULIE STINE AP-1

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-3-2025 [23]

GARY FRALEY/ATTY. FOR DBT. WENDY LOCKE/ATTY. FOR MV. NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC VS.

#### Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required Disposition: Granted Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 5021 Salmon Falls Road, Pilot Hill, California

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

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). 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).

"Where the property is declining in value or accruing interest and taxes eat up the equity cushion to the point where the cushion no longer provides adequate protection, the court may either grant the motion to lift the stay or order the debtor to provide some other form of adequate protection." Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy ¶ 8:1096 (rev. 2018). Further, "[a]n undersecured creditor is entitled to adequate protection only for the decline in the [collateral's] value after the bankruptcy filing." Id. ¶ 8:1065.1 (citing United Sav. Ass'n v. Timbers of Inwood Forest Assocs., Ltd., 484 U.S. 365, 370-73 (1988)). When a creditor is oversecured, however, an existing equity cushion may provide adequate protection of its security interest while the stay remains in effect. See id. ¶ 8:1072 (citing cases). In calculating the amount of the movant creditor's equity cushion, the court ignores the debt secured by junior liens. In re Mellor, 734 F.2d 1396, 1400-01 (9th Cir. 1984). The Ninth Circuit

has held that a 20% equity cushion adequately protects a creditor's security interest." Id. at 1401.

"[U]nder section 362(d)(1), the stay must be terminated for 'cause.' Lack of adequate protection is but one example of "cause" for relief from stay." In re Ellis, 60 B.R. 432, 435 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1985). The panel in the Ellis case rejected the argument that under § 362(d)(1) "the stay can only be terminated if [the movantcreditors] show a lack of adequate protection." Id.

The debtor has missed 23 pre-petition payments and 1 post-petition payment totaling \$118,401.12 due on the debt secured by the moving party's lien. This constitutes cause for stay relief.

The court does not address grounds for relief under § 362(d)(2) as relief is warranted 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.

Nationstar Mortgage 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 5021 Salmon Falls Road, Pilot Hill, California, 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.