# UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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

#### PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS

DAY: THURSDAY

DATE: JUNE 15, 2017

CALENDAR: 9:00 A.M. CHAPTER 7 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. <u>16-11904</u>-A-7 GURTEJ SINGH AND RANJIT MOTION TO SELL FRB-3 KAUR 5-16-17 [56]

JEFFREY VETTER/MV
JACOB EATON/Atty. for dbt.
MICHAEL GOMEZ/Atty. for mv.

No tentative ruling.

2. 16-14407-A-7 GARRETT CHOJNACKI

MOTION TO SELL 5-9-17 [35]

RHT-4

ROBERT HAWKINS/MV

THOMAS ARMSTRONG/Atty. for dbt. ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

#### Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 1950 Ford F1 truck

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$4000 cash

Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity

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).

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.

3. 16-14407-A-7 GARRETT CHOJNACKI

RHT-5

ROBERT HAWKINS/MV

THOMAS ARMSTRONG/Atty. for dbt.

ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

# Final Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

**Disposition:** Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 1962 Chevrolet Impala

Sale Type: Public auction

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).

MOTION TO SELL

5-9-17 [40]

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.

4. <u>17-11408</u>-A-7 LAURA CASTILLO

JRL-1

LAURA CASTILLO/MV

MARIO LANGONE/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA) N.A. 5-17-17 [12]

#### 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. § 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.

5. <u>16-12016</u>-A-7 SATWANT VIRK RH-2

MOTION TO SELL 5-10-17 [29]

JAMES SALVEN/MV
JERRY LOWE/Atty. for dbt.
ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

**Disposition:** Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: Various items of personal property described on Exhibit A to

the Notice of Hearing

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$25,000 cash

Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity

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).

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.

6. <u>16-12818</u>-A-7 CATHERINE STEELE SMITH MOTION TO SELL

5-9-17 [28]

RHT-2

ROBERT HAWKINS/MV JEFF REICH/Atty. for dbt.

ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

**Disposition:** Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 2011 Honda Fit

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$7050 (\$4000 cash plus \$3050 exemption credit)
Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity

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).

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.

7. <u>17-10718</u>-A-7 SANDRA PEREZ

PFT-1

OPPOSITION RE: TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SEC. 341(A) MEETING

OF CREDITORS 4-25-17 [20]

DANA DOUGLAS/Atty. for dbt.

#### Tentative Ruling

Motion: Dismiss Case and Extend Trustee's Deadlines

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

dismissed without hearing

Disposition: Conditionally denied in part, granted in part

Order: Civil minute order

#### DISMISSAL

Chapter 7 debtors shall attend the § 341(a) meeting of creditors. 11 U.S.C. § 343. A continuing failure to attend this meeting is cause for dismissal of the case. See 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 343, 707(a); see also In re Nordblad, No. 2:13-bk-14562-RK, 2013 WL 3049227, at \*2 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. June 17, 2013).

The court finds that the debtor has failed to appear at a scheduled meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341. Because the debtor's failure to attend the required § 341 creditors' meeting has occurred only once, the court will not dismiss the case provided the debtor appears at the next continued date of the creditors' meeting. This means that the court's denial of the motion to dismiss is subject to the condition that the debtor attend the next continued creditors' meeting. But if the debtor does not appear at the continued meeting of creditors, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

#### EXTENSION OF DEADLINES

The court will grant the motion in part to the extent it requests extension of the trustee's deadlines to object to discharge and to dismiss the case for abuse, other than presumed abuse. Such deadlines will no longer be set at 60 days following the first date set for the meeting of creditors. The following deadlines are extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under § 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under § 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are stated in the Civil Minutes of the hearing.

The trustee's Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Appear at § 341(a) Meeting of Creditors and Motion to Extend the Deadlines for Filing Objections to Discharge and Motions to Dismiss having been presented to the court, and upon review of the pleadings, evidence, arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss is denied on the condition that the debtor attend the next continued § 341(a) meeting of creditors scheduled for July 10, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. But if the debtor does not appear at this continued meeting, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that following deadlines shall be extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under \$ 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under \$ 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

17-11318-A-7 JAVIER VILLICANA 8. TMT-1TRUDI MANFREDO/MV TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER 5-16-17 [16]

## No tentative ruling.

9. 16-12127-A-7 STUEVE'S MILK TRANSPORT, MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM JP-1 INC. A CALIFORNIA YOLANDA MUNOZ/MV HAGOP BEDOYAN/Atty. for dbt. JOSE PEREZ/Atty. for mv.

AUTOMATIC STAY 5-9-17 [43]

#### Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief to Pursue State-Court Litigation Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted only to the extent specified in this ruling

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: State court litigation in the Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles having the title Mercedez Munoz et al. v. Stueve et al., Case No. BC521445

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

Section 362(d)(1) authorizes stay relief for cause. Cause is determined on a case-by-case basis and may include the existence of litigation pending in a non-bankruptcy forum that should properly be pursued. In re Tucson Estates, Inc., 912 F.2d 1162, 1169 (9th Cir. 1990).

The Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel has "agree[d] that the Curtis factors are appropriate, nonexclusive, factors to consider in deciding whether to grant relief from the automatic stay to allow pending litigation to continue in another forum." In re Kronemyer, 405 B.R. 915, 921 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2009).

These factors include: "(1) whether relief would result in a partial or complete resolution of the issues; (2) lack of any connection with or interference with the bankruptcy case; (3) whether the other proceeding involves the debtor as a fiduciary; (4) whether a specialized tribunal with the necessary expertise has been established to hear the cause of action; (5) whether the debtor's insurer has assumed full responsibility for defending it; (6) whether the action primarily involves third parties; (7) whether litigation in another forum would prejudice the interests of other creditors; (8) whether

the judgment claim arising from the other action is subject to equitable subordination; (9) whether movant's success in the other proceeding would result in a judicial lien avoidable by the debtor; (10) the interests of judicial economy and the expeditious and economical resolution of litigation; (11) whether the parties are ready for trial in the other proceeding; and (12) impact of the stay on the parties and the balance of harms." Sonnax Indus., Inc. v. TRI Component Prods. Corp. (In re Sonnax Indus., Inc.), 907 F.2d 1280, 1286 (2nd Cir. 1990) (citing In re Curtis, 40 B.R. 795, 799-800 (Bankr. D. Utah 1984)).

Courts may consider whichever factors are relevant to the particular case. See id. (applying only four of the factors that were relevant in the case). The decision whether to lift the stay is within the court's discretion. Id.

Having considered the motion's well-pleaded facts, the court finds cause to grant stay relief subject to the limitations described in this ruling.

The moving party shall have relief from stay to pursue the pending state court litigation identified in the motion through judgment. The moving party may also file post-judgment motions, and appeals. But no bill of costs may be filed without leave of this court, no attorney's fees shall be sought or awarded, and no action shall be taken to collect or enforce any judgment, except: (1) from applicable insurance proceeds; or (2) by filing a proof of claim in this court.

The motion will be granted to the extent specified herein, and the stay of the order provided by 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.

Mercedez Munoz'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 to the extent specified in this order. The automatic stay is vacated to allow the movant to pursue through judgment the pending state court litigation described as Mercedez Munoz et al. v. Stueve et al., Case No. BC521445, Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles, California. The movant may also file post-judgment motions and appeals. But the movant shall not take any action to collect or enforce any judgment, or pursue costs or attorney's fees against the debtor, except (1) from applicable insurance proceeds; or (2) by filing a proof of claim in this case. No other relief is awarded.

10. <u>17-11131</u>-A-7 MARIA ANITA LUEVANOS

JDM-1 MARIA ANITA LUEVANOS/MV

JAMES MILLER/Atty. for dbt.

RESPONSIVE PLEADING

# Final Ruling

Motion: Compel Abandonment of Property of the Estate Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted only as to the business and such business assets

MOTION TO COMPEL ABANDONMENT

5-10-17 [14]

described in the motion

Order: Prepared by moving party pursuant to the instructions below

Business Description: a tarp manufacturing business, a sole proprietorship

Property of the estate may be abandoned under § 554 of the Bankruptcy Code if property of the estate is "burdensome to the estate or of inconsequential value and benefit to the estate." See 11 U.S.C. § 554(a)-(b); Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6007(b). Upon request of a party in interest, the court may issue an order that the trustee abandon property of the estate if the statutory standards for abandonment are fulfilled.

#### LIMITED OPPOSITION

The trustee opposes on a limited basis. The trustee is unable to determine if the motion abandons the sole proprietorship. The trustee supports the abandonment of this business so long as only the sole proprietorship assets listed are abandoned.

The court will construe the motion as requesting abandonment of both the sole proprietorship and the assets described in the motion.

#### ABANDONMENT

The business described above is either burdensome to the estate or of inconsequential value to the estate. An order compelling abandonment of such business is warranted.

The order will compel abandonment of the business and the assets of such business only to the extent described in the motion. The order shall state that any exemptions claimed in the abandoned business or the assets of such business may not be amended without leave of court given upon request made by motion noticed under Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1).

11. <u>17-10240</u>-A-7 DENISE DARBY
SL-1
DENISE DARBY/MV
STEPHEN LABIAK/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF DISCOVER BANK 5-4-17 [18]

# 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).

12. <u>17-10240</u>-A-7 DENISE DARBY
SL-2
DENISE DARBY/MV
STEPHEN LABIAK/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA) N.A. 5-4-17 [23]

# 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).

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13. <u>17-10240</u>-A-7 DENISE DARBY
SL-3
DENISE DARBY/MV
STEPHEN LABIAK/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF DISCOVER BANK 5-4-17 [28]

# 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).

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14. <u>17-10240</u>-A-7 DENISE DARBY SL-4 DENISE DARBY/MV

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM 5-4-17 [33]

STEPHEN LABIAK/Atty. for dbt. RESPONSIVE PLEADING

# 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).

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15. <u>17-10240</u>-A-7 DENISE DARBY
SL-5
DENISE DARBY/MV
STEPHEN LABIAK/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF DISCOVER BANK 5-4-17 [37]

# 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).

16. <u>13-17444</u>-A-7 A & A TRANSPORT, CO., TMT-3 INC.

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR TRUDI G. MANFREDO, CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE(S) 5-16-17 [360]

HILTON RYDER/Atty. for dbt. DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for mv.

# Final Ruling

Application: Allowance of Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

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

Disposition: Approved
Order: Civil minute order

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this application was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on the application. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

#### COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, the chapter 7 trustee has applied for an allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. A trustee's compensation is considered in accordance with \$ 326(a) and \$ 330(a)(1), (7). Section 326(a) provides a formula for determining the maximum compensation a trustee may receive in a chapter 7 case. In re Ruiz, 541 B.R. 892, 896 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2015).

"[A] trustee's request for compensation should be presumed reasonable as long as the amount requested does not exceed the statutory maximum calculated pursuant to § 326. [A]bsent extraordinary circumstances, bankruptcy courts should approve chapter 7, 12 and 13 trustee fees without any significant additional review. If the court has found that extraordinary circumstances are present, only then does it become appropriate to conduct a further inquiry to determine whether there exists a rational relationship between the compensation requested and the services rendered." *Id.* at 896 (second alteration in original) (citations omitted) (internal quotation marks omitted).

In short, Congress intended to establish trustee's compensation for the "vast majority of cases" at the commission rates set forth in § 326. *Id.* at 897.

In this Chapter 7 case, the trustee has applied for an allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The court finds (1) that the compensation requested by the trustee is consistent with 11 U.S.C. \$ 326(a); (2) that no extraordinary circumstances are present in this case, see In re Salgado-Nava, 473 B.R. 911 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2012); and (3) that expenses for which reimbursement is sought are actual and necessary.

# 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 chapter 7 trustee's application for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the application,

IT IS ORDERED that the application is approved on a final basis. The court allows to the trustee compensation in the amount of \$4458.04 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$1750.85.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the trustee is authorized without further order of this court to pay from the estate the aggregate amount allowed by this order in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the distribution priorities of  $\S$  726.

17. <u>17-10844</u>-A-7 GAGE MCDERMITH PFT-1

OPPOSITION RE: TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SEC. 341(A) MEETING OF CREDITORS 4-25-17 [9]

SCOTT LYONS/Atty. for dbt.

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Dismiss Case and Extend Trustee's Deadlines

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

dismissed without hearing

Disposition: Conditionally denied in part, granted in part

Order: Civil minute order

#### DISMISSAL

Chapter 7 debtors shall attend the § 341(a) meeting of creditors. 11 U.S.C. § 343. A continuing failure to attend this meeting is cause for dismissal of the case. See 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 343, 707(a); see also In re Nordblad, No. 2:13-bk-14562-RK, 2013 WL 3049227, at \*2 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. June 17, 2013).

The court finds that the debtor has failed to appear at a scheduled meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  341. Because the debtor's failure to attend the required  $\S$  341 creditors' meeting has occurred only once, the court will not dismiss the case provided the debtor appears at the next continued date of the creditors' meeting. This means that the court's denial of the motion to dismiss is subject to the condition that the debtor attend the next continued creditors' meeting. But if the debtor does not appear at the continued meeting of creditors, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

#### EXTENSION OF DEADLINES

The court will grant the motion in part to the extent it requests extension of the trustee's deadlines to object to discharge and to dismiss the case for abuse, other than presumed abuse. Such deadlines will no longer be set at 60 days following the first date set for the meeting of creditors. The following deadlines are extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under § 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under § 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are stated in the Civil Minutes of the hearing.

The trustee's Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Appear at § 341(a) Meeting of Creditors and Motion to Extend the Deadlines for Filing Objections to Discharge and Motions to Dismiss having been presented to the court, and upon review of the pleadings, evidence, arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss is denied on the condition that the debtor attend the next continued \$ 341(a) meeting of creditors scheduled for July 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. But if the debtor does not appear at this continued meeting, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that following deadlines shall be extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under § 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under § 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

18. <u>17-12046</u>-A-7 MEDICAL ARTS AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER, INC.

ORDER TO APPEAR AND SHOW CAUSE WHY A PATIENT CARE OMBUDSMAN SHOULD NOT BE APPOINTED 5-26-17 [8]

LEONARD WELSH/Atty. for dbt.

No tentative ruling.

OPPOSITION RE: TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SEC. 341(A) MEETING

OF CREDITORS 4-21-17 [12]

#### Tentative Ruling

Motion: Dismiss Case and Extend Trustee's Deadlines

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

dismissed without hearing

Disposition: Conditionally denied in part, granted in part

Order: Civil minute order

#### DISMISSAL

Chapter 7 debtors shall attend the § 341(a) meeting of creditors. 11 U.S.C. § 343. A continuing failure to attend this meeting is cause for dismissal of the case. See 11 U.S.C. §§ 105(a), 343, 707(a); see also In re Nordblad, No. 2:13-bk-14562-RK, 2013 WL 3049227, at \*2 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. June 17, 2013).

The court finds that the debtor has failed to appear at a scheduled meeting of creditors under 11 U.S.C. § 341. Because the debtor's failure to attend the required § 341 creditors' meeting has occurred only once, the court will not dismiss the case provided the debtor appears at the next continued date of the creditors' meeting. This means that the court's denial of the motion to dismiss is subject to the condition that the debtor attend the next continued creditors' meeting. But if the debtor does not appear at the continued meeting of creditors, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

# EXTENSION OF DEADLINES

The court will grant the motion in part to the extent it requests extension of the trustee's deadlines to object to discharge and to dismiss the case for abuse, other than presumed abuse. Such deadlines will no longer be set at 60 days following the first date set for the meeting of creditors. The following deadlines are extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under § 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under § 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law are stated in the Civil Minutes of the hearing.

The trustee's Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Appear at § 341(a) Meeting of Creditors and Motion to Extend the Deadlines for Filing Objections to Discharge and Motions to Dismiss having been presented to the court, and upon review of the pleadings, evidence, arguments of counsel, and good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that the Motion to Dismiss is denied on the condition that the debtor attend the next continued § 341(a) meeting of creditors scheduled for June 16, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. But if the debtor does not appear at this continued meeting, the case will be dismissed on trustee's declaration without further notice or hearing.

IT IS ALSO ORDERED that following deadlines shall be extended to 60 days after the next continued date of the creditors' meeting: (1) the trustee's deadline for objecting to discharge under § 727, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4004(a); and (2) the trustee's deadline for bringing a motion to dismiss under § 707(b) or (c) for abuse, other than presumed abuse, see Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1017(e).

20. <u>17-10255</u>-A-7 DANNY/PETRA RUEDA
AP-1
CITIMORTGAGE, INC./MV
R. BELL/Atty. for dbt.
ALEXANDER LEE/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 4-28-17 [16]

# Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 916 Filburn Street, Wasco, CA

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

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc., 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

# CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as 916 Filburn Street, Wasco, CA, 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.

21. <u>17-11463</u>-A-7 ROGELIO BEDOLLA
MAZ-1
ROGELIO BEDOLLA/MV
MARK ZIMMERMAN/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO COMPEL ABANDONMENT 5-1-17 [15]

No tentative ruling.

22. 16-14569-A-7 ANNETTE CASTANON
TMT-1
TRUDI MANFREDO/MV
KARNEY MEKHITARIAN/Atty. for dbt.
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO SELL 5-17-17 [14]

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

**Disposition:** Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 2007 Honda Accord

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$4866 (\$1816 cash plus \$3050 exemption credit)
Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity

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 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.

23. <u>16-12071</u>-A-7 MIGUEL VARGAS AND MARIA MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM NLG-1 CONTRERAS NLG-1 CONTRERAS
LAND HOME FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC./MV THOMAS GILLIS/Atty. for dbt. NICHOLE GLOWIN/Atty. for mv. DISCHARGED

AUTOMATIC STAY 5-4-17 [38]

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Relief from Stay

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

Disposition: Granted in part, denied in part

Order: Prepared by moving party (see specific instructions below)

Subject: 1401 Port Street, Manteca, CA

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 in part and deny the motion in part.

Subsection (d)(4) of  $\S$  362 authorizes relief from the automatic stay "with respect to a stay of an act against real property . . . by a creditor whose claim is secured by an interest in such real property, if the court finds that the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, or defraud creditors . . . . " See 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(4). Such a scheme to delay, hinder, or defraud must involve either: (1) an transfer of any interest in such real property without the secured creditor's consent or the court's approval or (ii) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting such property. Id. § 362(d)(4)(A) - (B).

No factual grounds have been provided showing that the debtor took any action to obtain an interest in the real property. The moving party has not shown that the debtor participated in the unauthorized transfer or had any knowledge of it. The property does not appear on the debtor's Schedule A, of which the court takes judicial notice. Fed. R. Evid. 201. The court has no basis to conclude that the debtor filed this case in bad faith or as part of a scheme to hinder, delay or defraud any creditor.

In addition, the moving party has not shown that the grantee named in the copy of the grant deed attached as an exhibit (unauthenticated) is in fact the same person as the debtor. The moving party has not excluded the possibility that a person other than the debtor with the same name as the debtor was intended as the grantee. Nor has the moving party shown any evidence that the person named in the deed is the same as the debtor other than that the names are the same. The property may not even be property of the estate.

Given that some uncertainty exists about whether the stay applies, the court will grant stay relief for cause under § 362(d)(1) because the property may not be estate property and because the property's transfer was unauthorized.

The order shall state as follows: "To the extent that the property may be property of the estate affected by the debtor's bankruptcy, relief from stay under  $\S$  362(d)(1) is granted. The request for relief under  $\S$  362(d)(4) is denied." No other relief will be awarded, and the order shall not state the debtor's bankruptcy petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder or defraud creditors.

24. 17-10472-A-7 TRANDON/ELLIE HALL WLG-1
TRANDON HALL/MV
NICHOLAS WAJDA/Atty. for dbt.
RESPONSIVE PLEADING

MOTION TO REDEEM 4-28-17 [18]

## Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

25. <u>15-11079</u>-A-7 WEST COAST GROWERS, INC. MOTION TO COMPROMISE KDG-29 A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION CONTROVERSY/APPROVE ROBERT HAWKINS/MV AGREEMENT WITH QUINN

MOTION TO COMPROMISE
CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH QUINN COMPANY
5-18-17 [952]

HAGOP BEDOYAN/Atty. for dbt.

#### Final Ruling

Motion: Approve Compromise of Controversy

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

#### APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE

In determining whether to approve a compromise under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019, the court determines whether the compromise was negotiated in good faith and whether the party proposing the compromise reasonably believes that the compromise is the best that can be negotiated under the facts. In re A & C Props., 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1982). 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 a preferential post-petition transfer dispute in the amount of \$12,475.32. The compromise is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as an exhibit and filed at docket no. 955. 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.

Robert A. Hawkins's motion to approve a compromise has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The court hereby approves the compromise that is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as Exhibit A and filed at docket no. 955. After payment of attorney's fees and costs, the estate will retain 20% of the net proceeds. See Global Settlement Agreement, April 18, 2016, ECF # 730.

26. <u>15-11079</u>-A-7 WEST COAST GROWERS, INC. KDG-30 A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION ROBERT HAWKINS/MV

MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORRUGATED LLC 5-18-17 [959]

HAGOP BEDOYAN/Atty. for dbt.

# Final Ruling

Motion: Approve Compromise of Controversy

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court

considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys.*, *Inc.* v. *Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

# APPROVAL OF COMPROMISE

In determining whether to approve a compromise under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019, the court determines whether the compromise was negotiated in good faith and whether the party proposing the compromise reasonably believes that the compromise is the best that can be negotiated under the facts. In re A & C Props., 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1982). 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 a preferential pre-petition transfer dispute in the amount of \$106,542.86. The compromise is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as an exhibit and filed at docket no. 962. 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.

Robert A. Hawkins's motion to approve a compromise has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The court hereby approves the compromise that is reflected in the settlement agreement attached to the motion as Exhibit A and filed at docket no. 962. After payment of attorney's fees and costs, the estate will retain 20% of the net proceeds. See Global Settlement Agreement, April 18, 2016, ECF # 730.

27. 16-14282-A-7 SUSAN CASTANEDA

RHT-2

ROBERT HAWKINS/MV

TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.

ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

**Disposition:** Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 2006 Toyota Avalon

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$6050 (\$3000 cash plus \$3050 exemption credit)
Sale Type: Private sale subject to overbid opportunity

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).

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.

28. <u>15-13184</u>-A-7 DEBBY RENNA TMT-2 TRUDI MANFREDO/MV

TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv. RESPONSIVE PLEADING

No tentative ruling.

MOTION TO EMPLOY BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES CALIFORNIA REALTY AS REALTOR(S) 5-4-17 [169]

MOTION TO SELL

5-9-17 [24]

29. <u>15-13184</u>-A-7 DEBBY RENNA TMT-3 TRUDI MANFREDO/MV TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO EMPLOY TRUDI G.
MANFREDO AS ATTORNEY(S)
5-4-17 [176]

# Final Ruling

Application: Approval of Employment

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

Disposition: Approved

Order: Prepared by applicant

Unopposed applications 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 court may approve employment of professional persons who "do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate, and that are disinterested persons." 11 U.S.C. § 327(a); see also id. § 101(14) (defining "disinterested person"). From the factual information provided in the motion and supporting papers, the court will approve the employment.

30. 16-14484-A-7 LISA JONES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE - FAILURE TO PAY FEES 5-2-17 [44]

# Final Ruling

The order to show cause discharged by Order, ECF #52, the matter is dropped as moot.

31. 17-10384-A-7 NICHOLAS BRISTER
TGM-1
HARLEY-DAVIDSON CREDIT
CORP./MV
VINCENT GORSKI/Atty. for dbt.

TYNEIA MERRITT/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 5-4-17 [13]

# Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2015 Harley-Davidson FLTRXS Road Glide Special

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).

"[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 movant-creditors] show a lack of adequate protection." Id.

The movant alleges lack of insurance as a ground for stay relief. 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.

Harley-Davidson Credit Corp.'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 2015 Harley-Davidson FLTRXS Road Glide Special, 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.

32. <u>16-14487</u>-A-7 HOMER/GRACIELA GONZALES

TMT-1

TRUDI MANFREDO/MV

MOTION TO EMPLOY BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES CALIFORNIA REALTY AS BROKER(S) 5-17-17 [19]

PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt. TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

# Final Ruling

Application: Approval of Employment

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

Disposition: Approved

Order: Prepared by applicant

Unopposed applications 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 court may approve employment of professional persons who "do not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate, and that are disinterested persons." 11 U.S.C. § 327(a); see also id. § 101(14) (defining "disinterested person"). From the factual information provided in the motion and supporting papers, the court will approve the employment.

33. 17-11487-A-7 MARIA GARCIA
KAZ-1
NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC/MV
THOMAS GILLIS/Atty. for dbt.
KRISTIN ZILBERSTEIN/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 5-15-17 [13]

# Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 10754 Cather Avenue, Las Vegas, NV

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

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc., 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

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 10754 Cather Avenue, Las Vegas, NV, 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.

34. 17-11487-A-7 MARIA GARCIA
MET-1
BANK OF THE WEST/MV
THOMAS GILLIS/Atty. for dbt.
MARY TANG/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 6-1-17 [21]

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2010 Mini Cooper

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

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc., 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

Bank of the West'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 2010 Mini Cooper, 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.

35. 17-12093-A-7 CLAUDIA SANCHEZ
EPE-1
CLAUDIA SANCHEZ/MV
ERIC ESCAMILLA/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO COMPEL ABANDONMENT 6-1-17 [9]

## Tentative Ruling

Motion: Compel Abandonment of Property of the Estate Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Granted only as to the business and such business assets

described in the motion

Order: Prepared by moving party pursuant to the instructions below

Business Description: automotive repair business, a sole proprietorship operated by the debtor's non-filing spouse

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).

Property of the estate may be abandoned under  $\S$  554 of the Bankruptcy Code if property of the estate is "burdensome to the estate or of inconsequential value and benefit to the estate." See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  554(a)-(b); Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6007(b). Upon request of a party in interest, the court may issue an order that the trustee abandon property of the estate if the statutory standards for abandonment are fulfilled.

The business described above is either burdensome to the estate or of inconsequential value to the estate. An order compelling abandonment of such business is warranted.

The order will compel abandonment of the business and the assets of such business only to the extent described in the motion. The order shall state that any exemptions claimed in the abandoned business or the assets of such business may not be amended without leave of court given upon request made by motion noticed under Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1).

36. 17-10294-A-13 VERONICA/RAFAEL CHAVEZ
UST-1
TRACY DAVIS/MV
IRMA EDMONDS/Atty. for dbt.
ROBIN TUBESING/Atty. for mv.
CONVERTED 6/2/17

MOTION TO DISMISS CASE PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. SECTION 707(B) 5-5-17 [24]

#### Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

37. <u>11-62196</u>-A-7 MANUEL/MARY MATOS TGM-3

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR TRUDI G. MANFREDO, TRUSTEES ATTORNEY(S) 4-25-17 [74]

RILEY WALTER/Atty. for dbt.

# Final Ruling

Application: Allowance of Final Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

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

Disposition: Approved
Order: 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 application was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on the application. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

#### COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, Trudi G. Manfredo, attorney for the trustee, has applied for an allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The applicant requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$7661.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$414.17.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by a trustee, examiner or professional person employed under \$ 327 or \$ 1103 and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. \$ 330(a)(1). Reasonable compensation is determined by considering all relevant factors. See id. \$ 330(a)(3).

The court finds that the compensation and expenses sought are reasonable, and the court will approve the application on a final basis.

#### 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.

Trudi G. Manfredo's application for allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the application,

IT IS ORDERED that the application is approved on a final basis. The court allows final compensation in the amount of \$7661.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$414.17.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the trustee is authorized without further order of this court to pay from the estate the aggregate amount allowed by this order in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the distribution priorities of  $\S$  726.

38. 17-11197-A-7 LINDA MARQUEZ
ABG-1
KINECTA FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION/MV
PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.
MARK BLACKMAN/Atty. for mv.
NON-OPPOSITION

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 5-16-17 [12]

# Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted
Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2014 Chevrolet Cruz

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). The debtor has filed a non-opposition, and no other party has opposed the motion. 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

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc., 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

#### CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

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

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2014 Chevrolet Cruz, 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.

39. <u>17-11598</u>-A-7 LAZARO BARRERA
ICE-1
LAZARO BARRERA/MV
IRMA EDMONDS/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO COMPEL ABANDONMENT 5-31-17 [11]

# Tentative Ruling

Motion: Compel Abandonment of Property of the Estate Disposition: Continued to June 29, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.; no later than 14 days before the continued hearing date, movant will file a supplemental proof of service and a notice of continued hearing using the notice procedure under LBR 9014-(f)(2)

Order: Civil minute order

Rule 6007(a) expressly requires a trustee or debtor in possession to provide notice of a proposed abandonment to all creditors, indenture trustees, and any committees. But Rule 6007(b) does not specifically state who must receive notice of a motion to abandon property of the estate. See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6007(a)-(b). But a motion under Rule 6007(b) seeks an order to compel the trustee to abandon property of the estate, the same action that is described in Rule 6007(a) and for which notice to creditors is required.

Because a motion under Rule 6007(b) requests a type of relief that requires notice to all creditors and parties in interest under Rule 6007(a), the same notice required by Rule 6007(a) should be required when a party in interest seeks to compel the trustee to take such an action under Rule 6007(b). See Sierra Switchboard Co. v. Westinghouse Elec. Corp., 789 F.2d 705, 709-10 (9th Cir. 1986) (finding that a trustee's abandonment would not be effective without notice to creditors); Hie of Effingham, LLC v. WBCMT 2007-C33 Mid America Lodging, LLC (In re Hie of Effingham, LLC), 490 B.R. 800, 807-08 (Bankr. S.D. Ill. 2013) (concluding that Rule 6007(b) incorporates service requirements of Rule 6007(a)); In re Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp., 96 B.R. 462, 464-65 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) (finding that parties in interest requesting abandonment of estate property for which a hearing is contemplated must provide notice to the parties listed in Rule 6007(a)).

Accordingly, the court requires all creditors and parties in interest described in Rule 6007(a), and the trustee pursuant to Rule 9014(a), to be provided notice of a motion requesting abandonment under Rule 6007(b). In this case, all creditors and parties in interest

described in Rule 6007(a) and Rule 9014(a) have not received notice of the motion. The court cannot grant the motion at this time due to insufficient notice of the motion.

For matters requiring notice to all creditors and parties in interest, the court prefers that a current copy of the ECF master address list, accessible through PACER, be attached to the certificate of service to indicate that notice has been transmitted to all creditors and parties in interest. The copy of the master address list should indicate a date near in time to the date of service of the notice. In addition, governmental creditors must be noticed at the address provided on the Roster of Governmental Agencies, Form EDC 2-785, so the master address list and schedule of creditors must be completed using the correct addresses shown on such roster. See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(j), 5003(e); LBR 2002-1.