



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Eastern District of California

Honorable Christopher M. Klein
Bankruptcy Judge
Sacramento, California

June 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise ordered, all matters before the Honorable Christopher M. Klein shall be simultaneously: (1) **In Person**, at Sacramento Courtroom #35, (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 **Remote 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 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:

1. Review the [Pre-Hearing Dispositions](#) prior to appearing at the hearing.
2. Parties appearing via CourtCall are encouraged to review the [CourtCall Appearance Information](#).

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

Unauthorized Recording is Prohibited: Any recording of a court proceeding held by video or teleconference, including "screen shots" or other audio or visual copying of a hearing is prohibited. Violation may result in sanctions, including removal of court-issued medical 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.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
Eastern District of California

Honorable Christopher M. Klein
Bankruptcy Judge
Sacramento, California

June 23, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

1. [22-22425](#)-C-13 JOANN GATES MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE ATTORNEY
[SLG](#)-1 Michael Benavides 5-15-26 [[29](#)]

Final Ruling: No appearance at the June 23, 2026 hearing is required.

The Motion has been set on Local Rule 9014-1(f)(1) procedure which requires 28 days' notice. The Proof of Service shows that 39 days' notice was provided. Dkt. 33.

No opposition has been filed. Therefore, the court enters the defaults of the non-responding parties in interest, finds there are no disputed material factual issues, and determines the matter will be resolved without oral argument. *Cf. Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995); *Law Offices of David A. Boone v. Derham-Burk (In re Eliapo)*, 468 F.3d 592, 602 (9th Cir. 2006).

The Motion to Substitute is granted.
--

Debtor JoAnn Gates filed this Motion seeking authority to substitute her attorney, Michael Benavides, with attorney Jin Kim. Debtor asserts the case was filed while Mr. Benavides was with Sacramento Law Group LLP, debtor wishes to remain a client of Sacramento Law Group LLP, and Mr. Benevides has since left Sacramento Law Group LLP.

The movant asserts that Mr. Benevides has not signed the substitution of attorney form.

DISCUSSION

Under California Professional Conduct Rule 1.16(a)(4), an attorney must withdraw from representation if the client discharges the lawyer. Local Rule 2017-1(h) requires that all substitutions of attorney be approved by the Court.

Based on the declaration of the debtor, she desires to discharge Mr. Benavides as her lawyer and wishes to be represented by Mr. Kim.

Therefore, the Motion is granted.

The court shall issue a minute order substantially in the following form holding that:

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

The Motion for Substitution of Attorney filed by Debtor 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 is granted, and Jin Kim is substituted as attorney of record in the case.

2. [24-21378](#)-C-13 CHRISTINE PRUITT MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE ATTORNEY
[SLG](#)-1 Michael Benavides 5-15-26 [[35](#)]

Final Ruling: No appearance at the June 23, 2026 hearing is required.

The Motion has been set on Local Rule 9014-1(f)(1) procedure which requires 28 days' notice. The Proof of Service shows that 39 days' notice was provided. Dkt. 39.

No opposition has been filed. Therefore, the court enters the defaults of the non-responding parties in interest, finds there are no disputed material factual issues, and determines the matter will be resolved without oral argument. *Cf. Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995); *Law Offices of David A. Boone v. Derham-Burk (In re Eliapo)*, 468 F.3d 592, 602 (9th Cir. 2006).

The Motion to Substitute is granted.

Debtor Christine Pruitt filed this Motion seeking authority to substitute her attorney, Michael Benavides, with attorney Jin Kim. Debtor asserts the case was filed while Mr. Benavides was with Sacramento Law Group LLP, debtor wishes to remain a client of Sacramento Law Group LLP, and Mr. Benevides has since left Sacramento Law Group LLP.

The movant asserts that Mr. Benevides has not signed the substitution of attorney form.

DISCUSSION

Under California Professional Conduct Rule 1.16(a)(4), an attorney must withdraw from representation if the client discharges the lawyer. Local Rule 2017-1(h) requires that all substitutions of attorney be approved by the Court.

Based on the declaration of the debtor, she desires to discharge Mr. Benavides as her lawyer and wishes to be represented by Mr. Kim.

Therefore, the Motion is granted.

The court shall issue a minute order substantially in the following form holding that:

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

The Motion for Substitution of Attorney filed by Debtor 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 is granted, and Jin Kim is substituted as attorney of record in the case.