

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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

PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS

DAY: WEDNESDAY
DATE: JULY 26, 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. [17-11703](#)-A-7 EVAN HOLZEM
PFT-1

OPPOSITION RE: TRUSTEE'S MOTION
TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO
APPEAR AT SEC. 341(A) MEETING
OF CREDITORS
6-6-17 [[10](#)]

ISMAEL RODRIGUEZ/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 August 7, 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).

2.	<u>05-60006</u> -A-7	JAMES OWENS AND JEANNETTE TGM-2 ROBLES-OWENS PETER FEAR/MV	MOTION TO COMPROMISE CONTROVERSY/APPROVE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND/OR MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR DAVIS & CRUMP, P.C., SPECIAL COUNSEL(S) 6-8-17 [<u>43</u>]
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ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for dbt.
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

Final Ruling

Matter: (1) Motion to Approve Compromise; and (2) Application for Allowance of Compensation and Expense Reimbursement

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

Disposition: (1) Motion to approve compromise granted; and (2) Application for compensation and expense reimbursement 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 motion and application 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).

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 dispute pertaining to a bio-medical product. The compromise provides for a gross settlement of \$95,000.00. 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.

COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, Burlingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C. and Davis & Crump, special counsel for the trustee, has applied for an allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The compensation and expenses requested are based on a contingent fee approved pursuant to § 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. The applicant requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of (1) common benefit fund expense \$4,750.00, (2) special counsel's fees \$34,200.00, and (3) special counsel's costs \$7,688.14.

"Section 328(a) permits a professional to have the terms and conditions of its employment pre-approved by the bankruptcy court, such that the bankruptcy court may alter the agreed-upon compensation only 'if such terms and conditions prove to have been improvident in light of developments not capable of being anticipated at the time of the fixing of such terms and conditions.' In the absence of preapproval under § 328, fees are reviewed at the conclusion of the bankruptcy proceeding under a reasonableness standard pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 330(a)(1)." *In re Circle K Corp.*, 279 F.3d 669, 671 (9th Cir. 2002) (footnote omitted) (quoting 11 U.S.C. § 328(a)). "Under section 328, where the bankruptcy court has previously approved the terms for compensation of a professional, when the professional ultimately applies for payment, the court cannot alter those terms unless it finds the original terms to have been improvident in light of developments not capable of being anticipated at the time of the fixing of such terms and conditions." *Pitrat v. Reimers (In re Reimers)*, 972 F.2d 1127, 1128 (9th Cir. 1992) (internal quotation marks omitted).

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.

Peter L. Fear's motion to approve the present compromise and application for allowance of final compensation and reimbursement of expenses have 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 motion is granted. The court hereby approves the compromise prayed in the motion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the trustee pay the common benefit fund \$4,750.00.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the application for compensation and reimbursement of expenses is approved on a final basis. The court allows final compensation to Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashely P.C. and Davis Crump in the aggregate amount of \$34,200.00 and reimbursement of expenses to Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashely P.C. and Davis Crump in the aggregate amount of \$7,688.14.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Fed. R. Bank. Proc. 7062 is waived.

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

3. [05-60006](#)-A-7 JAMES OWENS AND JEANNETTE MOTION TO EMPLOY MARK W. DAVIS
 TGM-3 ROBLES-OWENS AS SPECIAL COUNSEL AND/OR
 PETER FEAR/MV MOTION TO EMPLOY LEE S.
 ATKINSON AS SPECIAL COUNSEL
 6-8-17 [[51](#)]

ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for dbt.
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

Final Ruling

Application: Retroactive Employment of Special Counsel

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

Disposition: Approved

Order: Prepared by the applicant

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).

APPLICABLE LAW

In a previous case, this court has set forth the standards for retroactive approval of special counsel under § 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code and Ninth Circuit decisional law:

"The bankruptcy courts in this circuit possess the equitable power to approve retroactively a professional's valuable but unauthorized services." *Atkins v. Wain, Samuel & Co. (In re Atkins)*, 69 F.3d 970, 973 (9th Cir.1995) (citing *Halperin v. Occidental Fin. Grp. (In re Occidental Fin. Grp.)*, 40 F.3d 1059, 1062 (9th Cir.1994)). *Nunc pro*

tunc approval of an attorney's unauthorized services under § 327(e) requires two distinct showings. First, a showing must be made that the applicant "does not represent or hold any interest adverse to the debtor or to the estate with respect to the matter on which such attorney is to be employed," and that the employment is "in the best interest of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 327(e); see also *Mehdipour v. Marcus & Millichap (In re Mehdipour)*, 202 B.R. 474, 479 (9th Cir. BAP 1996) ("Applying for *nunc pro tunc* approval does not alleviate the professional from meeting the requirements of § 327...."). The attorney must continually qualify under the statutory conflict-of-interest standards throughout the entire period of representation. See 11 U.S.C. §§ 327(e), 328(c); see also *Rome v. Braunstein*, 19 F.3d 54, 57-58, 60 (1st Cir.1994) (holding that compensation may be disallowed if at any time a disqualifying conflict arises and recognizing the need for counsel to avoid such conflicts throughout their tenure).

Second, the applicant must show "exceptional circumstances" that justify *nunc pro tunc* approval. *Atkins*, 69 F.3d at 974; *Mehdipour*, 202 B.R. at 479. "To establish the presence of exceptional circumstances, professionals seeking retroactive approval must ... (1) satisfactorily explain their failure to receive prior judicial approval; and (2) demonstrate that their services benefitted the bankrupt estate in a significant manner." *Atkins*, 69 F.3d at 975-76; accord *Occidental Fin. Grp.*, 40 F.3d at 1062; *In re Gutterman*, 239 B.R. 828, 830 (Bankr.N.D.Cal.1999).

In re Grant, 507 B.R. 306, 309-10 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 2014).

DISCUSSION

Save the exception circumstances described in *Grant*, neither creditors, nor the U.S. Trustee, questions the qualifications of proposed special counsel. The trustee concedes the lack of exceptional circumstances. But the court will approve employment as of 30 days prior to the date of the application for employment. Application for Employment, June 8, 2017, ECF # 51. The court does approve employment under 11 U.S.C. § 328(e) at the contractual rate of 40%. In doing so, the court notes that this employment impacts the estate only minimally. Here, the settlement approved by this court will net the estate \$48,361.86. Motion to Approve Compromise ¶ 3, June 8, 2017, ECF # 43. The claims bar date past seven months ago. Notice to File Proof of Claim, October 7, 2016, ECF # 36. Total claims filed are \$803.16. As a consequence, there are sufficient asset to pay special counsel, the Chapter 7 trustee and his counsel, and all claims in full. The debtors have not objected to special counsel's employment.

The court will not approve the retroactive employment of special counsel but approves employment of special counsel as of 30 days prior to the date of the employment application.

4. [16-13315](#)-A-7 KASSANDRA HOELSCHER
TGM-2
JAMES SALVEN/MV
PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt.
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO EMPLOY ROBERT A.
BUCCOLA AS SPECIAL COUNSEL
6-26-17 [[30](#)]

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"). "Section 327 is implemented by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2014(a), which requires an applicant to disclose all connections with the debtor, creditors, parties in interest, and their respective attorneys and accountants. The disclosure must be full, candid, and complete." *Id.* (citing *Tevis v. Wilke, Fleury, Hoffelt, Gould & Birney, LLP (In re Tevis)*, 347 B.R. 679, 693-94 (B.A.P. 9th Cir.2006)).

"Employment may be for a general or limited, specific purpose." *In re Hummer Transp., Inc.*, No. 11-60663, 2013 WL 8013588, at *2-3 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. Sept. 12, 2013) (citing 11 U.S.C. § 327(a), (c), (e) and cases), *aff'd sub nom. In re Hummer Transp.*, No. CV F 13-1640 LJO, 2014 WL 412534 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 3, 2014). In this case, the applicant requests approval of an additional special counsel to associate with the existing special counsel employed in this case.

From the factual information provided in the motion and supporting papers, the court will approve the employment.

5. [17-10315](#)-A-7 WILHEMINA HENDERSON
APN-1
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A./MV
AUSTIN NAGEL/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
AUTOMATIC STAY
6-12-17 [[27](#)]

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2012 Nissan Juke-4 Cyl. Turbo

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. 2015). 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 adequately protect the creditor's security interest against a decline in the collateral's value 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. *See id.* ¶ 8:1076 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d 1396, 1400-01 (9th Cir. 1984)). "The Ninth Circuit has held that a 20% equity cushion (based on the property's fair market value . . .) adequately protects a creditor's security interest." March, Ahart & Shapiro, *supra*, at ¶ 8:1092 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d at 1401).

In this case the equity cushion is approximately 1.7%, which is far below the percentage cushion ordinarily considered as adequate protection. In addition, the debtor has missed 3 post-petition payments 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.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.'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 2012 Nissan Juke-4 Cyl. Turbo, 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.

6.	17-11815 -A-7 JEFFREY KIRKPATRICK PPR-1 MB FINANCIAL BANK/MV PETER BUNTING/Atty. for dbt. MELISSA VERMILLION/Atty. for mv. NON-OPPOSITION	MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY 6-22-17 [13]
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Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2006 Victory Hammer Prim

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 opposition 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.

MB Financial 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. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2006 Victory Hammer Prim, 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.

7. [14-11516](#)-A-7 DANIEL ROYAL
ALG-2
DANIEL ROYAL/MV
JANINE ESQUIVEL/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO DISMISS CASE
6-26-17 [[62](#)]

Final Ruling

Motion: Dismiss Chapter 7 Case

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by the movant

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).

Dismissal of a chapter 7 case may be sought under either § 305 or § 707(a). 11 U.S.C. §§ 305(a). Section 305 provides, "The court, after notice and a hearing, may dismiss a case under this title . . . at any time if . . . the interests of creditors and the debtor would be better served by such dismissal" 11 U.S.C. § 305(a)(1); see, e.g., *In re Eastman*, 188 B.R. 621, 624 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1995). Similarly, § 707(a) authorizes dismissal of a chapter 7 case for cause. See 11 U.S.C. § 707(a); *Hickman v. Hana (In re Hickman)*, 384 B.R. 832, 836 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2008) (holding that whether "cause" exists for dismissal under § 707(a) can be based on the totality of circumstances unless legal prejudice to creditors would result).

The debtor seeks dismissal of her case on the ground that he cannot receive a discharge in this chapter 7 case. This case was filed on March 27, 2014 as a chapter 13 case. The case was converted to chapter 7 on the advice of the debtor's counsel, who misread the petition date for the debtor's prior chapter 7 case. In fact, the petition date in the prior chapter 7 case was June 2009, and the debtor received a discharge in that case.

The petition date for the prior chapter 7 case was less than 8 years before the petition in this case. The debtor will be ineligible to receive a discharge in the present chapter 7 case pursuant to § 727(a)(8). The court will dismiss this case.

8. [17-11225](#)-A-7 DAVID/SUSAN HILL
JCW-1
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A./MV
JOEL WINTER/Atty. for dbt.
JENNIFER WONG/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
AUTOMATIC STAY
6-19-17 [[12](#)]

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2706 Villa Ave., Clovis, 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.

Bank of America, N.A.'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 2706 Villa Ave., Clovis, 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.

9.	<u>10-11328</u> -A-7 CHRISTIAN/SUSAN VON PBB-3 BEVERFOERDE CHRISTIAN VON BEVERFOERDE/MV KEVIN O'CASEY/Atty. for dbt. KEVIN O'CASEY/Atty. for mv.	MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF FIRST MUTUAL SALES FINANCE 6-30-17 [43]
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Tentative Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$9307.80

All Other Liens: \$160,260.25

Exemption: \$2198.73

Value of Property: \$126,000.00

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). 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 respondent'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 judicial lien. As a result, the respondent's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

10. 17-11735 -A-7 BYRON SCOTT PK-1 BYRON SCOTT/MV PATRICK KAVANAGH/Atty. for dbt.	MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA) N.A. 7-6-17 [17]
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Tentative Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$18,692.98

All Other Liens: \$177,451.80

Exemption: \$175,000.00

Value of Property: \$249,900.00

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 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 respondent'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 judicial lien. As a result, the respondent's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

11. [17-11735](#)-A-7 BYRON SCOTT
PK-2
BYRON SCOTT/MV
PATRICK KAVANAGH/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF ED
TUCKER DISTRIBUTOR, INC.
7-7-17 [[23](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$18,692.98

All Other Liens: \$177,451.80

Exemption: \$175,000.00

Value of Property: \$249,900.00

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 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 respondent'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 judicial lien. As a result, the respondent's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

12. [17-11735](#)-A-7 BYRON SCOTT
PK-3
BYRON SCOTT/MV
PATRICK KAVANAGH/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF
CITIBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
7-7-17 [[29](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Avoid Lien that Impairs Exemption

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Judicial Lien Avoided: \$24,041.53

All Other Liens: \$177,451.80

Exemption: \$175,000.00

Value of Property: \$249,900.00

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 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 respondent'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 judicial lien. As a result, the respondent's judicial lien will be avoided entirely.

13. [17-11437](#)-A-7 SHAHNAZ GORSI
TMT-1
TRUDI MANFREDO/MV
DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for dbt.
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO SELL
6-21-17 [[15](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: 2012 Toyota Corolla

Buyer: Debtor

Sale Price: \$6991 (\$3000 cash plus \$3050 exemption credit plus accounting for a \$941 lien to which the sale is made subject)

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.

14. [16-14237](#)-A-13 JULIO/CYNTHIA HERNANDEZ
JES-5
JAMES SALVEN/MV

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR
JAMES E. SALVEN, CHAPTER 7
TRUSTEE(S)
6-28-17 [[97](#)]

THOMAS GILLIS/Atty. for dbt.
CONVERTED ON 3/28/17

Final Ruling

Pursuant to an Amended Notice of Hearing, ECF #105, showing an amended hearing date of August 8, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., this hearing is dropped as moot.

15. [17-12046](#)-A-7 MEDICAL ARTS AMBULATORY MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
DRJ-1 SURGERY CENTER, INC. AUTOMATIC STAY
THOMAS MITTS/MV 7-12-17 [[17](#)]
LEONARD WELSH/Atty. for dbt.
DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for mv.

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief to Pursue Unlawful Detainer Action and Writ of Possession

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

Disposition: Granted only to the extent specified in this ruling

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: Exercise of state law rights and remedies to obtain possession of real property located at 205 S. West St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, including all actions necessary to pursue an unlawful detainer action and execute a writ of possession

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) (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).

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 enforce its rights and remedies to obtain possession of real property located at 205 S. West St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, and to pursue an unlawful detainer action through judgment and execution of a writ of possession if necessary.

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 money judgment against debtor, except by (1) filing a proof of claim in this court or (2) filing an adversary proceeding to determine the debt nondischargeable, and executing on a favorable judgment entered in such adversary proceeding.

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.

Thomas F. Mitts, M.D.'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 enforce its rights and remedies against the debtor to obtain possession of real property located at 205 S. West St., Suite B, Visalia, CA, and to pursue an unlawful detainer action through judgment and execution of a writ of possession, if necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the movant 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 money judgment against debtor, except by (1) filing a proof of claim in this court or (2) filing an adversary proceeding to determine the debt nondischargeable, and executing on a favorable judgment entered in such adversary proceeding. And the stay of the order provided by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived.

16. [17-11154](#)-A-7 FRESNO INTERNATIONAL MOTION TO SELL
RHT-3 GRAND OPERA, A CALIFORNIA 6-16-17 [[32](#)]
ROBERT HAWKINS/MV
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for dbt.
ROBERT HAWKINS/Atty. for mv.

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property

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

Disposition: Granted as to relief under § 363(b) only; Denied as to relief under § 363(f)

Order: Prepared by moving party

Property: Miscellaneous Office Equipment as described on the exhibit attached to the motion

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).

SECTION 363(b)

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 363(f)

It is possible that the motion requests relief under § 363(f). The heading of the motion references both § 363(b) and (f). No ground for § 363(f) relief has been provided. The court will deny any relief that may be requested under that subsection.

17. [14-10258](#)-A-7 HEATHER BRANDT MOTION FOR COMPENSATION FOR
WHL-1 WILLIAM H. LEIFER, SPECIAL
COUNSEL(S)
6-5-17 [[84](#)]

THOMAS ARMSTRONG/Atty. for dbt.

Final Ruling

This matter is continued to August 7, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. Not later than July 31, 2017, the applicant shall file Exhibit A to the Declaration of William H. Leifer, June 5, 2017, ECF # 84.

18. [17-10061](#)-A-7 IWAJIRO IKUMA MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
TGM-1 AUTOMATIC STAY
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT 6-20-17 [[33](#)]
CORPORATION/MV
TYNEIA MERRITT/Atty. for mv.
WITHDRAWN

Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

19. [15-10966](#)-A-7 RODNEY HARON MOTION TO SELL
FW-9 6-20-17 [[256](#)]
ROBERT HAWKINS/MV
TIMOTHY SPRINGER/Atty. for dbt.
PETER FEAR/Atty. for mv.

No tentative ruling.

20. [17-11869](#)-A-7 BRIGID LANE
GT-1

GRISELDA TORRES/Atty. for dbt.

MOTION FOR EXEMPTION FROM
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COURSE
6-27-17 [[17](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Waiver of Post-petition Education Requirement for Discharge

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by the movant

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 motion requests a waiver of the requirement to complete, after the petition date, the personal financial management course described in § 111 and § 727(a)(11). See 11 U.S.C. §§ 111, 727(a)(11). But this post-petition requirement does not apply when the debtor is a person described in § 109(h)(4). *Id.* § 727(a)(11).

Furthermore, Rule 1016 provides in pertinent part: "Death or incompetency of the debtor *shall not* abate a liquidation case under chapter 7 of the Code. In such event the estate shall be administered and the case concluded in the same manner, so far as possible, as though the death or incompetency had not occurred." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1016 (emphasis added).

The court finds that the debtor's death constitutes incapacity under § 109(h)(4). The court will grant the waiver of the requirement to complete a personal financial management course.

21. [17-11871](#)-A-7 LISANDRO/YVETTE ALVARADO
DWE-1
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A./MV
DANE EXNOWSKI/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
AUTOMATIC STAY
6-9-17 [[15](#)]

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2520W Whitendale Ave., Visalia, 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

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. 2015). 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 adequately protect the creditor's security interest against a decline in the collateral's value 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. See *id.* ¶ 8:1076 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d 1396, 1400-01 (9th Cir. 1984)). "The Ninth Circuit has held that a 20% equity cushion (based on the property's fair market value . . .) adequately protects a creditor's security interest." March, Ahart & Shapiro, *supra*, at ¶ 8:1092 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d at 1401).

"Ninth Circuit courts generally divide the equity remaining (after subtracting liens of the movant and any liens *senior* to the movant from the property's fair market value) by the fair market value of the collateral." Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, *California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy* ¶ 8:1077, at 8(II)-7 (rev. 2015) (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d 1396, 1401 (9th Cir. 1984)). In this case, the equity cushion in the subject property is only 3.75 percent. 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.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.'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 2520W Whitendale Ave., Visalia, 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.

22. [17-11374](#)-A-7 LISA HOLGUIN

LISA HOLGUIN/MV

LISA HOLGUIN/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR WAIVER OF THE
CHAPTER 7 FILING FEE OR OTHER
FEE

6-26-17 [[15](#)]

No tentative ruling.

23. [15-11079](#)-A-7 WEST COAST GROWERS, INC.
KDG-31 A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION BY THE
LAW OFFICE OF KLEIN, DENATALE,
GOLDNER, COOPER, ROSENLIB &
KIMBALL, LLP FOR HAGOP T.
BEDOYAN, SPECIAL COUNSEL(S)
7-5-17 [[972](#)]

HAGOP BEDOYAN/Atty. for dbt.

Tentative Ruling

Application: Allowance of Second Interim Compensation and Expense
Reimbursement

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

Disposition: Approved

Order: Civil minute order

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, Klein DeNatale, counsel for the Chapter 7 trustee, has applied for an allowance of interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The application requests that the court approve compensation on an interim basis in the amount of \$73,032.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$6,312.00. It also prays approval for immediate payment by the trustee of \$54,774.00 (80%

of the interim compensation sought of \$73,032.00) and all approved costs, \$6,312.60.

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 an interim basis as to the amounts requested. Such amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for compensation and expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

The court also finds that an interim distribution to counsel for the trustee is appropriate. The trustee is currently holding \$275,903.25. The aggregate of counsel's interim fees approved aggregates approximately one-half of that amount.

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.

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

IT IS ORDERED that the application is approved. The court approves compensation on an interim basis in the amount of \$73,032.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$6,312.60. The fees and costs are allowed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 331 as interim fees and costs, subject to final review and allowance pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 330. Such allowed amounts shall be perfected, and may be adjusted, by a final application for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses, which shall be filed prior to case closure.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the trustee is authorized without further order of this court to pay from the estate \$54,774.00 (80% of the requested compensation) and \$6,312.60 in accordance with the Bankruptcy Code and the distribution priorities of § 726.

24. [17-12181](#)-A-7 MARGARITA HERNANDEZ CONTINUED MOTION TO IMPOSE
DRJ-1 AUTOMATIC STAY
MARGARITA HERNANDEZ/MV 6-3-17 [[5](#)]
DAVID JENKINS/Atty. for dbt.

No tentative ruling.

25. [15-13184](#)-A-7 DEBBY RENNA CONTINUED MOTION TO EMPLOY
TMT-2 BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES
TRUDI MANFREDO/MV CALIFORNIA REALTY AS REALTOR(S)
5-4-17 [[169](#)]
TRUDI MANFREDO/Atty. for mv.
WITHDRAWN

Final Ruling

The motion withdrawn, the matter is dropped as moot.

26. [13-18085](#)-A-7 PROVISIONS FOOD COMPANY, CONTINUED MOTION FOR
JTW-2 INC. COMPENSATION FOR JANZEN,
JANZEN, TAMBERI & WONG/MV TAMBERI & WONG, ACCOUNTANT(S)
6-6-17 [[96](#)]
DAVID JENKINS/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).

NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

After reviewing the supplemental narrative statement, the court finds that greater detail could have been provided. In the future, the applicant accountant shall provide a more complete description of the services performed. The narrative statement shall include be more detailed and at a lower level of abstraction. For example, when describing "re-creation of accounts receivable," the applicant should indicate the approximate face value of such accounts receivable or the approximate number of accounts receivable re-created.

COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 7 case, Janzen, Tamberi & Wong, accountant 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 \$11,436.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$80.50.

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.

Janzen, Tamberi & Wong'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 \$11,436.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$80.50.

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 § 726.