

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Eastern District of California

### Chief Judge Fredrick E. Clement

Sacramento Federal Courthouse 501 I Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Courtroom 28, Department A Sacramento, California

DAY: MONDAY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

CALENDAR: 9:00 A.M. CHAPTER 9 AND 11 CASES

Unless otherwise ordered, all matters before Chief Judge Fredrick E. Clement shall be simultaneously: (1) IN PERSON at Sacramento Courtroom No. 28, (2) via ZOOMGOV VIDEO, (3) via ZOOMGOV TELEPHONE, and (4) via COURTCALL.

You may choose any of these options unless otherwise ordered or stated below.

All parties who wish to appear at a hearing remotely must sign up by 4:00 p.m. one business day prior to the hearing.

Information regarding how to sign up can be found on the **Court Appearances** page of our website at:

https://www.caeb.uscourts.gov/Calendar/CourtAppearances

Each party who has signed up will receive a Zoom link or phone number, meeting I.D., and password via e-mail.

If the deadline to sign up has passed, parties who wish to appear remotely must contact the Courtroom Deputy for the Department holding the hearing.

Please also note the following:

- Parties in interest may connect to the video or audio feed free of charge and should select which method they will use to appear when signing up.
- Members of the public and the press appearing by ZoomGov may only listen in to the hearing using the zoom telephone number. Video appearances are not permitted.
- Members of the public and the press may not listen in to the trials or evidentiary hearings, though they may appear in person in most instances.

To appear remotely for law and motion or status conference proceedings, you must comply with the following guidelines and procedures:

- Review the <u>Pre-Hearing Dispositions</u> prior to appearing at the hearing.
- Review the court's <u>Zoom Procedures and Guidelines</u> for these, and additional instructions.
- Parties appearing via CourtCall are encouraged to review the 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 media credentials, denial of entry to future hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary by the court. For more information on photographing, recording, or broadcasting Judicial Proceedings, please refer to Local Rule 173(a) of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.

#### PRE-HEARING DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS

#### RULINGS

Each matter on this calendar will have one of three possible designations: No Ruling, Tentative Ruling, or Final Ruling.

"No Ruling" means the likely disposition of the matter will not be disclosed in advance of the hearing. The matter will be called; parties wishing to be heard should rise and be heard.

"Tentative Ruling" means the likely disposition, and the reasons therefor, are set forth herein. The matter will be called. Aggrieved parties or parties for whom written opposition was not required should rise and be heard. Parties favored by the tentative ruling need not appear. However, non-appearing parties are advised that the court may adopt a ruling other than that set forth herein without further hearing or notice.

"Final Ruling" means that the matter will be resolved in the manner, and for the reasons, indicated below. The matter will not be called; parties and/or counsel need not appear and will not be heard on the matter.

#### CHANGES TO PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED RULINGS

On occasion, the court will change its intended ruling on some of the matters to be called and will republish its rulings. The parties and counsel are advised to recheck the posted rulings after 3:00 p.m. on the next business day prior to the hearing. Any such changed ruling will be preceded by the following bold face text: "[Since posting its original rulings, the court has changed its intended ruling on this matter]".

## ERRORS IN RULINGS

Clerical errors of an insignificant nature, e.g., nomenclature ("2017 Honda Accord," rather than "2016 Honda Accord"), amounts, ("\$880," not "\$808"), may be corrected in (1) tentative rulings by appearance at the hearing; or (2) final rulings by appropriate ex parte application. Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(a) incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9024. All other errors, including those occasioned by mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect, must be corrected by noticed motion. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 60(b), incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9023.

## 1. $\frac{25-24206}{CAE-1}$ -A-11 IN RE: TOWN & COUNTRY WEST LLC

STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 8-11-2025 [ $\frac{1}{2}$ ]

TOWN & COUNTRY WEST LLC/ATTY. FOR MV. DEBTOR DISMISSED: 09/02/25

### Final Ruling

This case was dismissed on September 2, 2025. The Status Conference is concluded.

## 2. $\frac{25-23919}{CAE-1}$ -A-11 IN RE: PATRICK/PATRICIA MCCAULEY

STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 7-30-2025 [1]

PATRICK MCCAULEY/ATTY. FOR MV.

### No Ruling

## 3. $\underline{20-23726}$ -A-11 IN RE: AME ZION WESTERN EPISCOPAL DISTRICT STG-2

MOTION FOR COMPENSATION BY THE LAW OFFICE OF BG LAW LLP FOR STEVEN T. GUBNER, SPECIAL COUNSEL(S) 8-13-2025 [1061]

GABRIEL LIBERMAN/ATTY. FOR DBT. STEVEN GUBNER/ATTY. FOR MV.

#### Final Ruling

Application: Allowance of First Interim 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). Except as provided below, no party in interest or other party with standing has filed opposition to the motion.

#### COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

In this Chapter 11 case, BG Law LLP has applied for an allowance of interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses. The application requests that the court allow compensation in the amount of \$\$39,296.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$336.76.

Section 330(a) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by an employed professional in a Chapter 11 case 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. 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.

#### UNITED STATES TRUSTEE'S STATEMENT

The United States Trustee has a "Statement and Notice of Voluntary Reduction," ECF No. 1073. It states:

The Applicant has consented to a voluntary reduction of \$1,000.00 in legal fees and expenses to address various legal service descriptions that the United States Trustee identified as potential block billing, transitory billing, and vague fee and expense descriptions. See Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 (the "Guidelines"). 28 C.F.R. Part 58. See also In re SonicBlue Inc., 2006 WL 2067882, at \*8 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. July 24, 2006). After accounting for this voluntary reduction, the Application now requests a total of \$38,632.76 (\$39,632.76 less \$1,000.00). The United States Trustee does not object to the reasonableness of this Application in the reduced amount.

Statement and Notice  $\P$  8, ECF No. 1073.

It is not signed by the movant.

For two reasons, the court gives no weight to this statement. First, it has no evidentiary value. The movant has not signaled its assent to this reduction. And the court believes it a dangerous precedent to allow one side or party in interest to set forth the position of another party on a given issue. Second, because the fees and costs will ultimately need to be finalized, any reduction be broken out between fees and costs.

#### 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.

BG Law's application for allowance of first 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 on an interim basis. The court allows interim compensation in the amount of \$39,296.00 and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$336.76. The applicant is authorized to draw on any retainer held.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the fees and costs are allowed pursuant to 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  331 as interim fees and costs, subject to final review and allowance pursuant to 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  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 debtor in possession is authorized to pay the fees allowed by this order from available funds only if the estate is administratively solvent and such payment will be consistent with the priorities of the Bankruptcy Code.

4. <u>25-24136</u>-A-11 **IN RE: GREATER LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH OF**SACRAMENTO
CAE-1

STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 8-6-2025 [1]

MICHAEL BERGER/ATTY. FOR DBT.

5.  $\underline{25-24136}$ -A-11 IN RE: GREATER LIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO

MJB-2

MOTION TO EMPLOY MICHAEL JAY BERGER AS ATTORNEY(S) 8-27-2025 [32]

MICHAEL BERGER/ATTY. FOR DBT.

## No Ruling

6.  $\frac{25-23639}{CAE-1}$ -A-11 IN RE: MATTHEW CRON

CONTINUED STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 7-17-2025 [1]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

### No Ruling

7.  $\frac{25-23639}{\text{JHH}-2}$ -A-11 IN RE: MATTHEW CRON

MOTION FOR CONTINUED USE OF IT'S EXISTING BANK ACCOUNTS AND/OR MOTION FOR CONTINUED USE OF IT'S BUSINESS FORMS  $8-25-2025 \ [41]$ 

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

## 8. $\frac{25-23639}{\text{JHH}-3}$ -A-11 IN RE: MATTHEW CRON

MOTION TO ABANDON 8-25-2025 [37]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

#### Final Ruling

Motion: Debtor in Possession's Motion Compel Abandonment of Property

of the Estate

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

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party pursuant to the instructions below

Business Description: 100% membership interest ownership of Trailer Supply Co., LLC.

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).

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.

The movant bears the burden of proof. In re Pilz Compact Disc., Inc., 229 B.R. 630 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1999) (Chapter 7 trustee). "[B] urdensome to the estate" means "consumes the resources and drains the income of the estate." In re Smith-Douglass, Inc., 856 F.2d 12, 16 (4th Cir. 1988). "[O]f inconsequential value and benefit to the estate" refers to assets not likely to be liquidated for the benefit of creditors. 11 U.S.C. § 704(a)(1); Matter of Taxman Clothing Co., 49 F3d 310, 315 (7th Cir. 1995) (Chapter 7 trustee has no duty to liquidate assets where costs of doing so likely to exceed asset's value). Of inconsequential value and benefit to the estate includes assets that (1) have no equity (including post-petition appreciation), In re Viet Vu, 245 B.R. 644 (9th Cir. BAP 2000); and (2) assets with equity, which has been wholly and properly exempted by the debtor. In re Montanaro, 307 B.R. 194 (Bankr. E.D. Cal. 2004).

The business described above has no value to the estate. Cron decl., ECF No. 39. An order compelling abandonment of such business is warranted. The order will compel abandonment of only the business and its assets that are described in the motion.

## 9. $\frac{25-23639}{\text{JHH}-4}$ IN RE: MATTHEW CRON

MOTION TO SELL 8-29-2025 [<u>46</u>]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

#### No Ruling

10.  $\frac{25-23639}{\text{JHH}-5}$  -A-11 IN RE: MATTHEW CRON

MOTION TO EMPLOY MICHAEL L. HAUG AS ACCOUNTANT(S) 9-4-2025 [50]

JUDSON HENRY/ATTY. FOR DBT.

### Final Ruling

The applicant has not made a prima facie cases for relief. 11 U.S.C. § 327 requires that the applicant be disinterested and not hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate. The court finds that the applicant is disinterested. But the applicant has not satisfied the hold or represent an interest adverse to the estate, e.g., holds a prepetition claim against the debtor. In fact, the declaration of Michae L. Haug is negative pregnant as to the existence of such a claim. Haug decl. 2:4-7, ECF No. 52. The matter will be continued to October 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Not later than September 29, 2025, the movant may augment the record to address the issue of adversity. Failing a timely further declaration, the court will deny the application. A civil minute order shall issue.

# 11. $\underline{25-23844}$ -A-11 IN RE: TIMOTHY STANDLEY $\underline{\text{CAE}-1}$

CONTINUED STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 7-25-2025 [ $\underline{1}$ ]

THOMAS URE/ATTY. FOR DBT.

## 12. $\frac{25-23844}{\text{FEC}-1}$ -A-11 IN RE: TIMOTHY STANDLEY

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE 8-27-2025 [24]

THOMAS URE/ATTY. FOR DBT.

### Final Ruling

A detailed status report was filed, the order to show cause is dropped. A civil minute order shall issue.

### 13. 25-24089-A-11 IN RE: OPEN RANGE PROPERTY LLC

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISMISS CASE IF DOCUMENTS ARE NOT TIMELY FILED

8-4-2025 [2]

CYRUS ZAL/ATTY. FOR DBT.

### No Ruling

14.  $\underbrace{25-24089}_{\text{CAE}-1}$ -A-11 IN RE: OPEN RANGE PROPERTY LLC

STATUS CONFERENCE RE: VOLUNTARY PETITION 8-4-2025  $\left[\frac{1}{2}\right]$ 

CYRUS ZAL/ATTY. FOR DBT.

### No Ruling

15. <u>25-23919</u>-A-11 IN RE: PATRICK/PATRICIA MCCAULEY

MOTION TO EXTEND AUTOMATIC STAY O.S.T. 9-9-2025 [31]

PATRICK MCCAULEY/ATTY. FOR MV.