

The Judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California and the
Bench Bar Liaison Committee for the Northern District of California Bankruptcy Court

Invite you to the Inaugural

2017 Bay Area Bankruptcy Judges' Conference

April 14, 2017

The Presidio of San Francisco – Golden Gate Club

The conference will present both commercial and consumer practitioners the opportunity to come together in an historic setting, interact with the judges of the Northern District, and sharpen their legal skills as they learn about the cutting edge bankruptcy issues that will affect their practice today and into the future.

Schedule of Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Registration**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Program #1: An Ethical Good-Bye** – Everyone is familiar with the professional responsibilities of an attorney while she is practicing, but what about her duties when she wants to retire or take the bench? Our esteemed panelists will delve into the ethical issues and pratfalls surrounding the winding up or sale of a legal practice. If you ever want to get out, then you need to get into this program.

Panelists: Hon. Roger Efremsky, United States Bankruptcy Court
 Martha Bronitsky, Chapter 13 Trustee
 Samuel C. Bellicini, California Ethics Counsel

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Program #2: Gift-Wrapped Sales and Structured Dismissals** – As attorneys, we are always pushing the envelope in order to obtain the best result for our clients, and in Chapter 11, Section 1123(b)(6) affords us significant freedom in developing strategies to resolve cases favorably for our clients. Recent case law has started to define the outer limits of that creativity in some crucial areas – the ability to use Section 363 to sell a fully encumbered asset, the ability to bring a case to a conclusion through a so-called “structured dismissal,” and the ability to “gift” around the absolute priority rule. Our panelists will unpack these issues, some of which are now before the Supreme Court in the *Jevic* case, which is slated to be decided in 2017.

Panelists: Hon. Hannah Blumenstiel, United States Bankruptcy Court
 Ori Katz, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
 John Fiero, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
 Michael Malter, Binder & Malter LLP

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and Keynote Address with Chief Judge Roger Efremsky**

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Program #3: Mortgage Issues in Chapter 13 Cases – Housing is perhaps the most controversial issue affecting the Bay Area today, and the stress imposed by the current Bay Area housing market is omnipresent in consumer cases in the Bay Area. With that background, our panel will focus on where the rubber meets the road in Bankruptcy Court, discuss evolving issues with regard to mortgage claims and Bankruptcy Rule 3002.1.

Panelists: Hon. Charles Novak, United States Bankruptcy Court
Adam Barasch, Severson & Werson APC
Gina Klump, Law Office of Gina R. Klump
Cathleen Cooper Moran, Moran Law Group

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Program #4: Do Cyber Associates Dream of Electric Sheep? – What the Future Holds and Who (or What) Will Be There to See It – We have all heard it: the legal industry is changing. For good. Law firms five years or more from now will not look like law firms today. Well, what will they look like, then? Our panel will discuss the future of our practice in California, focusing in particular on the issue of artificial intelligence and the potential to replace attorney billable hours with work performed by “cyber associates” such as IBM’s ROSS.

Panelists: Hon. Dennis Montali, United States Bankruptcy Court
Gary Neustadter, Santa Clara University Law School
Thomas Hamilton, IBM’s ROSS Intelligence

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Open Forum

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION TO FOLLOW