

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

10:00 AM

**8:25-13289 Kenneth Scott Laderman**

**Chapter 7**

**#1.00 Pro se Reaffirmation Agreement Between Debtor and Orange Countys Federal Credit Union re 2021 Ford Explorer**

EH\_\_

Docket 9

**Tentative Ruling:**

- NONE LISTED -

<b>Party Information</b>
--------------------------

**Debtor(s):**

Kenneth Scott Laderman

Represented By  
Arlene Marie Tokarz

**Trustee(s):**

Karen S Naylor (TR)

Pro Se

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

11:00 AM

**8:25-13001 James J Lee**

**Chapter 7**

**#2.00 Motion To Extend The Bar Date For Filing A Complaint Objecting To Debtors Discharge Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. § 727**

EH\_\_

Docket 15

**Tentative Ruling:**

03/04/2026

**BACKGROUND**

On October 26, 2025, James J. Lee ("Debtor") filed a voluntary Chapter 7 petition. Debtor filed his Schedules and Statement of Financial Affairs ("SOFA") with the petition. In SOFA Part 2, paragraph 5, the Debtor disclosed that he did not receive any gambling winnings during "this year or the two previous calendar years." In SOFA Part 6, however, the Debtor disclosed gambling losses totaling \$400,000 between October 2024 and October 2025.

The Section 341(a) Meeting of Creditors was conducted on December 3, 2025, at which the Debtor testified regarding his gambling losses. On January 27, 2026, prior to the expiration of the deadline to object to discharge, the United States Trustee ("UST") filed a Motion to Extend the Bar Date for Filing a Complaint Objecting to Debtor's Discharge Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 727 ("Motion"). The current deadline to object to discharge is February 2, 2026. The UST seeks to extend the deadline through and including May 1, 2026.

The basis for the UST's Motion is that additional time is required to investigate the Debtor's transactions, including his gambling winnings and losses, and to determine whether the Debtor is entitled to a discharge under § 727. The UST states that the requested extension will permit sufficient time to complete the investigation and make any appropriate filings with the Court.

**DISCUSSION**

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

11:00 AM

**CONT... James J Lee**

**Chapter 7**

FED. R. BANKR. P. Rule 4004(a) states:

- (1) In a chapter 7 case, a complaint, or a motion under § 727(a)(8) or (9) of the Code, objecting to the debtor's discharge shall be filed no later than 60 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors under § 341(a). In a chapter 11 case, the complaint shall be filed no later than the first date set for the hearing on confirmation. In a chapter 13 case, a motion objecting to the debtor's discharge under § 1328(f) shall be filed no later than 60 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors under § 341(a). At least 28 days' notice of the time so fixed shall be given to the United States trustee and all creditors as provided in Rule 2002(f) and (k) and to the trustee and the trustee's attorney.

And FED. R. BANKR. P. Rule 4004(b) states:

- (1) On motion of any party in interest, after notice and hearing, the court may for cause extend the time to object to discharge. Except as provided in subdivision (b)(2), the motion shall be filed before the time has expired.
- (2) A motion to extent the time to object to discharge may be filed after the time for objection has expired and before discharge is granted if (A) the objection is based on facts that, if learned after the discharge, would provide a basis for revocation under § 727(d) of the Code, and (B) the movant did not have knowledge of those facts in time to permit an objection. The motion shall be filed promptly after the movant discovers the facts on which the objection is based.

As a matter of practice what constitutes "cause" rests within the discretion of the bankruptcy court. *See In re James*, 187 B.R. 395, 397 (Bankr. N.D. Ga. 1995). Also, Courts are generally unified in the view that the term "for cause" should receive a liberal construction. *Id.* Notwithstanding that fact, however, a creditor must exhibit some minimum degree of due diligence prior to seeking such an extension, and the Court should not allow the motion to serve as license for a baseless "fishing expedition." *Id.*; *See also In re Leary*, 185 B.R. 405, 406 (Bankr. D. Mass. 1995). To establish cause movant must (1) show that he had, with reasonable diligence, attempted to investigate the facts and circumstances, and (2) offer a reasonable explanation of why that investigation could not be completed within the allotted time. *See Bomarito*, 448 B.R. at 251.

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

11:00 AM

**CONT... James J Lee**

**Chapter 7**

Here, the UST's need for additional time to investigate the Debtor's gambling transactions constitutes sufficient cause to extend the deadline. The Debtor disclosed \$400,000 in gambling losses within the year preceding the petition date, while simultaneously reporting no gambling winnings within the relevant reporting period. The 341(a) meeting was conducted on December 3, 2025, and the UST states that further investigation into the Debtor's financial transactions, including gambling winnings and losses, is necessary to determine whether grounds exist to object to discharge under § 727. The Motion was filed on January 27, 2026, prior to the February 2, 2026 deadline, and is therefore timely under Rule 4004(b)(1).

Moreover, Debtor's failure to oppose may be deemed consent to the relief requested pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(h).

**TENTATIVE RULING**

**03/04/2026**

**Service:** Proper

**Opposition:** None

The Court is inclined to GRANT the Motion.

APPEARANCES WAIVED. Movant to lodge order within seven days. If oral or written opposition is presented at the hearing, the hearing may be continued.

<b>Party Information</b>
--------------------------

**Debtor(s):**

James J Lee

Represented By  
Kevin Tang

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

---

11:00 AM

**CONT... James J Lee**

**Chapter 7**

**Trustee(s):**

Karen S Naylor (TR)

Pro Se

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

2:00 PM

**8:25-11950 Brian Conway**

**Chapter 7**

Adv#: 8:25-01250 Conway v. Sequoia Equities, Inc. -Alicante Limited Californi

**#3.00** Defendants Kimball, Tirey & St. John, LLP and Sequoia Equities, Inc-Alicante Limited California Partnership's Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice for Failure to Amend

EH\_\_

Docket 72

**Tentative Ruling:**

- NONE LISTED -

<b>Party Information</b>
--------------------------

**Debtor(s):**

Brian Conway

Pro Se

**Defendant(s):**

Sequoia Equities, Inc. -Alicante

Represented By  
Curtis Tyler Greer IV  
Scott Andrews

Kimball, Tirey & St. John LLP

Represented By  
Curtis Tyler Greer IV

**Plaintiff(s):**

Brian Conway

Pro Se

**Trustee(s):**

Weneta M.A. Kosmala (TR)

Pro Se

**United States Bankruptcy Court  
Central District of California  
Santa Ana  
Mark Houle, Presiding  
Courtroom 6C Calendar**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Hearing Room 6C**

2:30 PM

**8:25-11919 Alfred McZeal**

**Chapter 7**

Adv#: 8:25-01268 Kilburn v. Pattenson et al

**#4.00** CONT. Status Conference re Notice of Removal: Paige Killburn vs Del Pattenson & Dottiee Pattenson, Superior Court of CA, County of Orange, Case No: 30-2023-01360427-CL-UD-CJC

EH\_\_

From: 11-6-25, 12-17-25, 1-28-26

**[Tele. appr. Kathleen M. Patrick, rep. Plaintiff Paige Kilburn]**

**[Tele. appr. Alfred McZeal Jr, Removing Party]**

Docket 1

**Tentative Ruling:**

- NONE LISTED -

<b>Party Information</b>
--------------------------

**Debtor(s):**

Alfred McZeal	Pro Se
---------------	--------

**Defendant(s):**

Del Pattenson	Pro Se
---------------	--------

Dottie Pattenson	Pro Se
------------------	--------

**Plaintiff(s):**

Paige Kilburn	Pro Se
---------------	--------

**Trustee(s):**

Jeffrey I Golden (TR)	Pro Se
-----------------------	--------