Wednesday, March 27, 2024		Hearing Room	
<u>11:00 AM</u> 6:13-22713	Abel Solorzano and Irma Solorzano	С	hapter 7
#1.00	Notice of Trustee's Final Report and Applications for Compe	ensation	
	EH		
	[Tele. appr. Jason M. Rund, Successor Chapter 7 Truste	ee]	

Docket 651

Tentative Ruling:

3/27/2024

Service: Proper Opposition: Response filed by Howard Grobstein

The application for compensation of the Trustee has been set for hearing on the notice required by LBR 2016-1. Pursuant to the Trustee's Final Report and the applications of the associated professionals, and noting the absence of opposition, which the Court deems consent to the relief requested pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(h), the Court is inclined to APPROVE the proposed distribution and the following administrative expenses:

Successor Trustee Fees: \$ 37,955.07 Successor Trustee Expenses: \$ 173.77

Successor Trustee Attorney Fees: \$298,233.29 Successor Trustee Attorney Costs: \$4,953.22

Successor Trustee Accountant Fees: \$8,844 Successor Trustee Accountant Costs: \$366.80

Court Costs: \$293

APPEARANCES REQUIRED.

Party Information

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:00 AM CONT Abel Solorzano and Irma Solorzano Debtor(s):		Hearing Room 3	
		Chaj	pter 7
Abel Solorzano	Represented By Byron Z Moldo Howard Camhi		
Joint Debtor(s):			
Irma Solorzano	Represented By Byron Z Moldo Howard Camhi		
<u>Trustee(s):</u>			
Jason M Rund (TR)	Represented By Thomas H Casey		

Hearing Room

301

<u>11:00 AM</u> 6:23-14368	Nathan James Freeman	Chapter 7
#2.00	Motion to Dismiss Debtor Pursuant To To Extend Dismissal And Discharge De Authorities; Declaration Of Cameron Ric (Motion filed 3/1/24)	
	EH	
	[Tele. appr. Cameron Ridley, rep. Mo	vant US Trustee, Peter Anderson]
	Docket 25	

Tentative Ruling:

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

<u>3/27/2024</u>

BACKGROUND

On September 26, 2023, Nathan Freeman ("Debtor") filed a Chapter 7 voluntary petition. The meeting of creditors was initially scheduled for November 2, 2023.

The meeting of creditors has been continued on *nine* occasions. On December 27, 2023, Debtor entered into a stipulation with UST to extend the §§ 707 and 727 deadlines until March 2, 2024.

On March 1, 2024, UST filed a motion to dismiss the case with a 180-day refiling bar. UST asserts that Debtor failed to attend his meeting of creditors on February 22 and 29, 2024.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

11:00 AM CONT... Nathan James Freeman DISCUSSION

Chapter 7

The Court notes that 11 U.S.C. § 521(a) contains certain duties of a debtor in bankruptcy, including the duty to "cooperate with the trustee as necessary to enable the trustee to perform the trustee's duties under this title." 11 U.S.C. § 521(a)(3).

A debtor's duty to cooperate includes the duty to appear at the meeting of creditors, and the Court can strictly enforce attendance at these meetings. Local Rule 1017-2(b) provides: "[t]he failure of a chapter 7 debtor to appear at the initial meeting of creditors and any continuance thereof is cause for dismissal of the case." Therefore, pursuant to Local Rule 1017-2(b), and for the reasons stated in UST's motion, dismissal of the case is warranted.

The court notes that it empowered to impose a refiling bar under 11 U.S.C. § 349(a). As COLLIER notes, courts' analysis of this section is somewhat confused due to confounding "dismissal with prejudice" with "dismissal with injunction against future filings." COLLIER ON BANKRUPTCY ¶ 349.02[3]. At a minimum, however, the Court is empowered to impose a refiling bar under § 349(a) for the reasons set forth in § 109(g) --- including "failure to appear before the court in proper prosecution of the case" and "failure of the debtor to abide by orders of the court."

Here, multiple failures to attend the meeting of creditors satisfies the § 349(a) and § 109(g) standard for dismissal with a re-filing bar. *See, e.g., In re Wen Hua Xu*, 386 B.R. 451, 456-57 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 2008) (failure to attend meeting of creditors is both failure to abide by orders of the court and failure to appear before the court in proper prosecution of the case); *see also In re Montgomery*, 37 F.3d 413 (8th Cir. 1994) ("Failure to attend a creditors meeting is a failure to obey a court order within the meaning of section 109(g)(1).").

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

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

11:00 AMCONT...Nathan James FreemanTENTATIVE RULING

The Court is inclined to either GRANT the motion to the extent of imposing a 180day re-filing bar, and otherwise DENY the contingent motion as MOOT.

APPEARANCES REQUIRED.

Par	Party Information			
<u>Debtor(s):</u>				
Nathan James Freeman	Represented By Neil R Hedtke			
<u>Movant(s):</u>				
United States Trustee (RS)	Represented By Cameron C Ridley			
<u>Trustee(s):</u>				
Todd A. Frealy (TR)	Pro Se			

Wednesday, March 27, 2024		Hearing Room	301	
<u>11:00 AM</u> 6:23-14749	Hussein Abd Wehbe		Cha	pter 7
#3.00	CONT. Order to Show Cause why Rajiv Jain should not be held in contempt fo violating the Court's orders			
	From: 2/28/24			
	EH			
	[Tele. appr. Abram Feuers	tein, rep. Office of The Uni	ted States Truste	e]
	Docket	29		
Tentative	Ruling:			

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Hussein Abd Wehbe

Represented By Rajiv Jain

Trustee(s):

Lynda T. Bui (TR)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>11:00 AM</u>

- 6:22-14723 Better Nutritionals, LLC
 - #4.00 CONT. Motion of Impact Networking, LLC For Allowance and Payment of Chapter 11 Administrative Priority Claim; \$108419.99 (Motion filed 9/28/23)

From: 11/1/23, 1/31/24

EH___

Docket 626 *** VACATED *** REASON: CONTINUED TO 5/29/24 BY ORDER ENTERED 3/13/24

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Better Nutritionals, LLC

Represented By John N Tedford IV Aaron E. DE Leest Danielle R Gabai

Movant(s):

Impact Networking, LLC

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Represented By David W. Meadows

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>11:00 AM</u>

- 6:22-14723 Better Nutritionals, LLC
 - #5.00 CONT. Motion By Goli Nutrition Inc For Allowance Of Chapter 11 Administrative Priority And Super priority Claims (Motion filed 9/28/23)

From: 11/1/23, 1/31/24

EH___

Docket 633 *** VACATED *** REASON: CONTINUED TO 5/29/24 BY ORDER ENTERED 3/7/24

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Better Nutritionals, LLC

Represented By John N Tedford IV Aaron E. DE Leest Danielle R Gabai

Movant(s):

Goli Nutrition, Inc.

Represented By Eve H. Karasik Joseph M Rothberg Daniel H Reiss Todd M Arnold Carmela Pagay

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Represented By D Edward Hays David Wood Tinho Mang

Wednesday, March 27, 2024Hearing Room30111:00 AM
CONT...Better Nutritionals, LLCChapter 7

Michael A Sweet Daniel A Lev

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>11:00 AM</u>

- 6:22-14723 Better Nutritionals, LLC
 - #6.00 CONT. Notice of Motion and Motion of Allied Universal Security Services for Allowance of an Administrative Priority Expense Claim; \$78,525.46 (Motion filed 9/29/23)

From: 11/1/23/ 1/31/24

EH___

Docket 646 *** VACATED *** REASON: CONTINUED TO 5/29/24 BY ORDER ENTERED 3/22/24

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Better Nutritionals, LLC

Represented By John N Tedford IV Aaron E. DE Leest Danielle R Gabai

Movant(s):

Allied Universal Security Services

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Represented By Jamie L Edmonson

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>11:00 AM</u>

- 6:22-14723 Better Nutritionals, LLC
 - #7.00 Alpha Packaging, Inc.'s Motion for Allowance and Payment of Administrative Expense Claim Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 503 (Motion filed 11/9/23)

From: 2/8/24

EH___

Docket 782 *** VACATED *** REASON: CONTINUED TO 5/29/24 BY ORDER ENTERED 3/27/24

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Better Nutritionals, LLC

Movant(s):

Alpha Packaging, Inc.

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Represented By John N Tedford IV Aaron E. DE Leest Danielle R Gabai

Represented By Claudia Coleman

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>11:00 AM</u>

- 6:22-14723 Better Nutritionals, LLC
 - **#8.00** Application to Employ Greenspoon Marder LLP as Special Avoidance Power Litigation Counsel (Application filed 2/13/24)

[Placed on calendar by order entered 3/8/24]

EH___

[Tele. appr. Daniel A. Lev, Proposed Special Avoidance Power Litigation Counsel for Larry D. Simons Chapter 7 Trustee for the Estate of Debtor Better Nutritionals LLC]

[Tele. appr. Tinho Mang rep. Larry D. Simons Chapter 7 Trustee]

[Tele. appr. Larry D. Simons Chapter 7 Trustee]

Docket 911

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Better Nutritionals, LLC

Represented By John N Tedford IV Aaron E. DE Leest Danielle R Gabai

Movant(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

<u>11:00 AM</u>

CONT... Better Nutritionals, LLC

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Represented By D Edward Hays David Wood Tinho Mang Michael A Sweet Daniel A Lev Chapter 7

301

Hearing Room

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

2:00 PM 6:14-22067 Gary S. Hann Adv#: 6:21-01018 Hann v. Sakaya et al

Chapter 7

Pre-Trial Conference re: Complaint by Gary S Hann against Francis P Sakaya, **#9.00** Jacqueline Mbwille, Babalao Investors LLC, Collis Griffor & Hendra PC, Stuart M Collis. (\$350.00 Fee Not Required). (Attachments: #(1) Part 2 of 4 #(2) Part 3 of 4 #(3) Part 4 of 4) Nature of Suit: (11 (Recovery of money/property - 542 turnover of property)) (21 (Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property)) (72 (Injunctive relief - other)) (91 (Declaratory judgment))

[Grants motion dismissing counts one through two and seven through ten, without leave to amend] [Denied as to counts four and five] [Granted as to counts three and six, with leave to amend]

From: 4/20/21,6/8/21,1/18/22, 4/6/22, 5/4/22, 6/1/22, 8/17/22, 10/26/22, 1/18/23, 3/29/23, 8/16/23, 9/6/23, 9/27/23, 12/13/23

[HOLDING DATE]

EH

[Tele. appr. Defendant, Jacqueline Mbwille Sakaya Pro per]

1

Docket

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information Gary S. Hann Pro Se

Defendant(s):

Debtor(s):

Francis P Sakaya

Represented By Sanaz Sarah Bereliani

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Gary S. Hann Jacqueline Mbwille

Represented By Sanaz Sarah Bereliani

Represented By Sanaz Sarah Bereliani

<u>Plaintiff(s):</u>

Gary S Hann

Trustee(s):

Karl T Anderson (TR)

Babalao Investors LLC

Pro Se

Represented By Leonard M Shulman Melissa Davis Lowe Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

Wednesday, March 27, 2024	Hearing Room	301

Chapter 7

<u>2:00 PM</u>

6:23-11535 Okaysou Corporation

Adv#: 6:23-01111 Okaysou Corporation v. Souxing Information Technology Company

#10.00 CONT. Status Conference re Adversary case 6:23-ap-01111. Complaint by Okaysou Corporation against Souxing Information Technology Company (Chongqing) Co., Ltd., Fudong Cao. (\$350.00 Fee Charge To Estate). to Avoid and Recover Preferential and Fraudulent Transfers, For Imposition of Constructive and resulting Trusts; Turnover and Unjust Enrichment (Attachments: # 1 Adversary Cover Sheet # 2 Summons) Nature of Suit: (11 (Recovery of money/property - 542 turnover of property)),(12 (Recovery of money/property - 547 preference)),(13 (Recovery of money/property - 548 fraudulent transfer))

From: 1/10/24

EH___

Docket 1

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information			
<u>Debtor(s):</u>			
Okaysou Corporation	Represented By Vahe Khojayan		
Defendant(s):			
Souxing Information Technology	Pro Se		
Fudong Cao	Pro Se		
<u>Plaintiff(s):</u>			
Okaysou Corporation	Represented By Vahe Khojayan		

Wednesday, March 27, 2024		Hearing Room	301	
<u>2:00 PM</u> CONT	Okaysou Corporation		Cha	pter 7
<u>Trustee</u> Rob	(<u>s):</u> ert Whitmore (TR)	Pro Se		

Wednesday,	March	27, 2024		Hearing Roon	n 301
<u>2:00 PM</u> 6:23-12911 Adv#: 6:23-0		a Denise Elise Armstr Red Target LLC dba	0	Financial Servic v. Armstrong	Chapter 7
#11.00		ff's Motion for Default n filed 3/1/24)	Judgment		
	EH				
	[Tele.	appr. S. Christophei	r Yoo, rep. Cred	litor Red Target LLC]	
		Docket	17		

Tentative Ruling:

3/28/2024

BACKGROUND

On June 30, 2023, Shalena Armstrong ("Debtor") filed a Chapter 7 voluntary petition. On October 10, 2023, Debtor received a discharge.

On September 29, 2023, Red Target LLC ("Plaintiff") filed a non-dischargeability adversary proceeding against Debtor. The complaint includes three causes of action: (1) § 523(a)(2)(A); (2) § 523(a)(4); and (3) § 523(a)(6). On November 22, 2023, the clerk entered Debtor's default.

On March 1, 2024, Plaintiff filed a motion for default judgment. Plaintiff asserts that Debtor --- through an LLC --- purchased seven trailers and two trucks (collectively, the "Vehicles") and entered into five equipment finance agreements that were personally guaranteed. Plaintiff alleges that Debtor sub-leased the Vehicles, stopped making payments to Plaintiff, and has not providing the identity of the individuals in possession of the Vehicles or the location of the Vehicles. The motion for default

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong Chapter 7 judgment indicates that Debtor has asserted that one of the Vehicles was stolen and another was involved in an accident and was towed.

DISCUSSION

A. Entry of Default

FED. R. CIV. P. Rule 55 states that "[w]hen a party against whom a judgment for affirmative relief is sought has failed to plead or otherwise defend as provided by these rules and that fact is made to appear by affidavit or otherwise, the clerk shall enter the party's default." Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(a). Local Rule 7055-1 provides further requirements relating to a motion for entry of default judgment, and those requirements have been substantially satisfied here.

B. <u>Motion for Default Judgment</u>

1. Proper Service of Summons and Complaint

FED. R. BANKR. P. Rule 7004(b)(1) states, in part:

[S]ervice may be made within the United States by first class mail postage prepaid as follows:

(1) Upon an individual other than an infant or incompetent, by mailing a copy of the summons and complaint to the individual's dwelling house or usual place of abode or to the place where the individual regularly conducts a business or profession.

Here, service appears proper as Debtor was served at 24460 Rimview Road, Moreno

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong

Chapter 7

Valley, CA, 92557, the address listed on the petition as their current mailing address.

2. Merits of Plaintiff's claim

Upon default, the factual allegations of the complaint, except those relating to the amount of damages, will be taken as true. *TeleVideo Systems, Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917 (9th Cir. 1987); *see also Almog v. Golden Summit Investors Group, Ltd.*, 2012 WL 12867972 at *4 (C.D. Cal. 2012) ("When reviewing a motion for default judgment, the Court must accept the well-pleaded allegations of the complaint relating to liability as true.").

The complaint includes three causes of action. The first cause of action is 11 U.S.C. 523(a)(2)(A), which states:

(a) A discharge under section 727, 1141, 1228(a), 1228(b), or 1328(b) of this title does not discharge an individual debtor from any debt –

(2) for money, property, services, or an extension, renewal, or refinancing of creditor, to the extent obtained by –

(A) false pretenses, a false representation, or actual fraud, other than a statement respecting the debtor's or an insider's financial condition;

Here, the motion for default judgment does not clearly specify the specific actions by Debtor that fit within § 523(a)(2)(A). The Court notes that the first financing agreement was entered into by Debtor in July 2019 --- and it appears Debtor did not stop making payments until October 2022. Because: (a) the motion for default judgment does not specify any particular false pretense or false representation; and (b) it does not appear Plaintiff suffered any damage until more than three years after the first agreement was entered into, the Court is reluctant to impute fraud to Debtor with regard to the loan transaction itself.

The second cause of action is § 523(a)(4), which provides that an individual debtor is

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong

not entitled to discharge for debt that constitutes "fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity, embezzlement, or larceny." Specifically, Plaintiff has correctly characterized the actions of Debtor as embezzlement. The elements of an embezzlement claim under § 523(a)(4) are: "(1) property rightfully in the possession of a nonowner; (2) nonowner's appropriation of the property to a use other than which it was entrusted; and (3) circumstances indicating fraud." *In re Littleton*, 942 F.2d 551, 555 (9th Cir. 1991) (*quoting In re Hoffman*, 70 B.R. 155, 162 (Bankr. W.D. Ark. 1986).

Here, Plaintiff has adequately alleged the elements of embezzlement. The Vehicles were --- pursuant to the financing agreements --- rightfully in the possession of Debtor. Plaintiff alleges that Debtor subleased the Vehicles in contravention of the financing agreements. And Debtors failure to cooperate or furnish information regarding the whereabouts of the Vehicles constitutes a circumstance indicating fraud.

The third cause of action is § 523(a)(6) --- willful and malicious injury. Where Plaintiff has already satisfied the elements for embezzlement, Plaintiff need only show "wrongful intent" to succeed on the § 523(a)(6) claim. *See, e.g., In re Thiara*, 285 B.R. 420, 429 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2002) ("Even though a conversion occurred, creditor still had to prove that Debtor converted the proceeds with 'wrongful intent.'").

Here the Court has little direct evidence of Debtor's intent, but given: (1) the uncooperativeness in responding to Plaintiff's requests for information; and (2) the failure to participate in this proceeding, the Court concludes that the circumstantial evidence indicates that Debtor acted with wrongful intent in subleasing the Vehicles.

Finally, Debtor has provided detailed statements of accounts supporting the damage amounts specified in the motion for default judgment.

TENTATIVE RULING

The Court is inclined to GRANT the motion as to 523(a)(4) and (6) and DENY the motion as 523(a)(2)(A).

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 7

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong APPEARANCES REQUIRED.

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong

Defendant(s):

Shalena Denise Elise Armstrong

Plaintiff(s):

Red Target LLC dba SCJ

Trustee(s):

Larry D Simons (TR)

Keith Q Nguyen

Represented By

Represented By S Christopher Yoo

Pro Se

Wednesday, March 27, 2024		Hearing Room	301		
<u>2:00 PM</u> 6:23-13800	Best Rock Quarry, Inc.	Chaj	pter 11		
#12.00	Order to Show Cause why Case Should not be Dismissed or Converted				
	EH				
	Also #13				
[Tele. appr. Caroline Djang, Subchapter V Trustee]					
	Docket 44				
Tentative - NONE	Ruling: LISTED -				
	Party Information				
<u>Debtor(s</u>)	<u>:</u>				
Best	Rock Quarry, Inc. Represented By Lazaro E Fernandez				
<u>Trustee(s</u>	<u>):</u>				

Caroline Renee Djang (TR)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024		Hearing Room	
<u>2:00 PM</u> 6:23-13800	Best Rock Quarry, Inc.	Chap	oter 11
#13.00	CONT. Order (1) Setting Scheduling Hearing and Case N Conference And (2) Requiring Status Report	lanagement	
	From: 10/3/23, 12/12/23, 2/13/24		
	EH		
	[Tele. appr. Caroline Djang, Subchapter V Trustee]		

Docket 1

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Best Rock Quarry, Inc.

Represented By Lazaro E Fernandez

Trustee(s):

Caroline Renee Djang (TR)

Wednesday,	Wednesday, March 27, 2024		301
<u>2:00 PM</u> 6:23-14734 Adv#: 6:23-0	Joshua Tongco 1123 Tongco v. Blue Rock Capital Group et al	Chaj	oter 11
#14.00	CONT. Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment (Motion filed 1/24/24)		
	From: 3/13/24		
	[Placed on calendar by order entered 2/15/24]		
	EH		
	[Tele. appr. Andy Warshaw, rep. Plaintiff] [Tele. appr. Martha Warriner, only if Mr. Warshaw is ι	ınavailable]	
	Docket 8		
Tentative	Ruling:		

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Joshua Tongco

Represented By Andy C Warshaw

Defendant(s):

Blue Rock Capital Group

C T Corporation System

<u>Movant(s):</u>

Joshua Tongco

Represented By Andy C Warshaw

Pro Se

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

<u>2:00 PM</u>

CONT... Joshua Tongco

<u>Plaintiff(s):</u>

Joshua Tongco

Trustee(s):

Arturo Cisneros (TR)

Andy C Warshaw

Represented By

Represented By Arturo Cisneros

3/26/2024 5:20:24 PM

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 11

CI (11

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Hearing Room 301

Chapter 11

<u>2:00 PM</u>

6:23-14734 Joshua Tongco

#15.00 CONT. Order (1) Setting Scheduling Hearing and Case Management Conference And (2) Requiring Status Report

From: 11/28/23, 1/16/24, 3/12/24

EH___

Docket 1 *** VACATED *** REASON: CONTINUED TO 5/14/24 BY ORDER ENTERED 3/13/24

Tentative Ruling:

- NONE LISTED -

Party Information

Debtor(s):

Joshua Tongco

Represented By Andy C Warshaw

Trustee(s):

Arturo Cisneros (TR)

Represented By Arturo Cisneros