

# Northeast Bankruptcy Conference and Consumer Forum

# **Tort Settlements: Undisclosed Assets**

**Hon. Maria González-Hernández** U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. P.R.) | Ponce

**Jennifer G. Hayden** Molleur Law Office | Saco, Maine

Nathaniel R. Hull Verrill Dana LLP | Portland, Maine

### **Building Blocks**

By Nathaniel R. Hull and Stephen B. Segal

#### Judicial Estoppel and the Early **End to Lawsuits**

trine of judicial estoppel effects a prompt end to lawsuits involving assets omitted from bankruptcy schedules serves to underscore that accurate and complete bankruptcy pleadings are a fundamental underpinning of our bankruptcy system. Debtors who fail to disclose assets face serious potential repercussions, including dismissal of any subsequent lawsuit based on an undisclosed cause of action, pursuant to judicial estoppel principles. Recently, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia again weighed in on the application of judicial estoppel.1 In a split decision, the majority suggested that the perceived uneven application of judicial estoppel among the circuits might be more due to the "channel of discretion ... narrow[ing] organically" than an actual split of the circuits with discrete sides.2 However, the court did take note of a further division within the circuits over the appro-

The consistency with which the equitable doc-



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#### **Judicial Estoppel**

application of judicial estoppel.

The U.S. Supreme Court described judicial estoppel in New Hampshire v. Maine as the rule that "generally prevents a party from prevailing in one phase of a case on an argument and then relying on a contradictory argument to prevail in another phase." The Court further noted that "where a party assumes a certain position in a legal proceeding, and succeeds in maintaining that position, he may not thereafter, simply because his interests have changed, assume a contrary position, especially if it be to the prejudice of the party who has acquiesced in the position formerly taken by him."4

priate standard of review in cases in which the

circuit court is reviewing a decision involving the

The rule "is an equitable doctrine invoked by a court at its discretion" to protect the integrity of the judicial process.5 According to the Supreme Court, several factors typically inform the decision of whether to apply the doctrine in a particular case.<sup>6</sup>

- 1 Marshall v. Honeywell Tech. Sys. Inc., \_\_\_ F.3d. \_\_\_, No. 14-7190, 2016 WL 3726039 (D.C. Cir. July 12, 2016) ("Marshall").

  2 Id. at \*8 (quoting Henry J. Friendly, "Indiscretion about Discretion," 31 Emory L.J. 747,
- 771-72 (1982)).

  New Hampshire v. Maine, 532 U.S. 742, 749 (2001) (quoting *Pegram v. Herdrich*, 530
- U.S. 211, 227 n.8 (2000)).
- Id. (citing Davis v. Wakelee, 156 U.S. 680, 689 (1895)). Id. at 749.
- The New Hampshire court noted that "[i]n enumerating these factors, we do not establish inflexible prerequisites or an exhaustive formula for determining the applicability of judicial estoppel. Additional considerations may inform the doctrine's application in specific factual contexts." New Hampshire v. Maine, 532 U.S. 742 (2001).

#### **Judicial Estoppel in a Case Involving a Prior Bankruptcy Filing**

inadvertence or mistake."

First, a party's later position must be "clearly

inconsistent" with its earlier position. Second,

courts inquire as to whether the party has succeeded

in persuading a court to accept that party's earlier

position, such that taking an inconsistent position in

a later proceeding would create the "the perception

that either the first or the second court was misled."

A third consideration is whether the party seeking

to assert an inconsistent position would derive an

unfair advantage or impose an unfair detriment

on the opposing party if not estopped. Finally, the Court stated that "[w]e do not question that it

may be appropriate to resist application of judicial

estoppel 'when a party's prior position was based on

In cases involving a debtor, the New Hampshire factors are regularly applied as follows:

- 1. When a debtor fails to list a cause of action in her bankruptcy case and later tries to pursue that claim, courts view her position in the bankruptcy case and her position in later litigation as inconsistent (i.e., she implicitly denies that a claim exists by failing to list it on her schedules and then contradicts that position by later pursuing that same claim);
- 2. The debtor succeeds in getting the first court (i.e., the bankruptcy court) to accept that there was no claim by virtue of the failure to disclose it; and 3. By obtaining a discharge without disclosing the lawsuit, the debtor gains an unfair advantage by pursuing an asset with no benefit to her creditors.11

#### **Existing Division Within the Circuits**

It has been observed elsewhere that the Fifth, 12 Tenth<sup>13</sup> and Eleventh<sup>14</sup> Circuits apply a "nearly irrebuttable"15 presumption of bad faith regarding a debtor's nondisclosure in bankruptcy schedules unless the debtor can show that she either lacked (1) the knowledge of the facts relevant to the undis-

- 7 New Hampshire, 532 U.S. at 750.
- 8 *Id.* at 750-51. 9 *Id.* at 751.
- 9 Ib. d. at 753 (citting John S. Clark Co. v. Faggert & Frieden PC, 65 F.3d 26, 29 (4th Cir. 1995)). 11 See, e.g., Guay v. Burack, 677 F.3d 10, 15-16 (1st Cir. 2012) (applying factors). 12 In re Coastal Plains Inc., 179 F.3d 197, 207-08 (5th Cir. 1999).
- 13 Eastman v. Union Pac. Ry. Co., 493 F.3d 1151, 1157 (10th Cir. 2007)
- 14 Barger v. City of Cartersville, 348 F.3d 1341, 171 (Notice: Lovy).

  15 See, e.g., William H. Burgess, "Dismissing Bankruptcy-Debtor Plaintiffs' Cases on Judicial Estoppel Grounds," Fed. Law., May 2015, at 54, 56.

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closed lawsuit or (2) motive to conceal. Alternatively, the Sixth, <sup>17</sup> Seventh <sup>18</sup> and Ninth <sup>19</sup> Circuits seem inclined to give more leeway to debtors who correct (or attempt to correct) prior nondisclosures, and by doing so, they are sometimes permitted to continue with subsequent lawsuits.20

#### **Another Circuit Weighs In Again**

In Marshall v. Honeywell Technology Systems Inc., 21 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held in a split decision that an employee who orally disclosed one of three pending Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charges to a bankruptcy trustee at the meeting of creditors, but did not include any of the charges in her bankruptcy schedules and statements until she was faced with a motion to dismiss from the defendant years after her bankruptcy case had been closed, was judicially estopped from pursuing her lawsuit.22 The majority deliberately avoided "taking sides" in the perceived existing circuit-level split regarding inadvertence or mistake and suggested that there may not be "discrete sides at all" because "even those courts of appeals that have followed the Fifth Circuit's lead have not been 'as rigid as one would expect' in practice."23

The facts of Marshall are typical of a judicial estoppel bankruptcy case: Despite the requirement to disclose "all suits and administrative proceedings" to which she "is or was a party within one year" preceding her bankruptcy petition, the debtor failed to disclose three administrative proceedings in which she was a plaintiff alleging discrimination against certain defendants.<sup>24</sup> She did, however, list two other lawsuits and an administrative proceeding in which she was a defendant.25 After questioning by the chapter 7 trustee at the meeting of creditors, the debtor orally disclosed that a claim existed against the defendant, but she did not amend her schedules to accord with her oral testimony.<sup>26</sup>

Several years later, when faced with the initial motion to dismiss her complaint based on the undisclosed lawsuit remaining property of the bankruptcy estate over which the trustee had the exclusive control (i.e., she was not the real party in interest),<sup>27</sup> the debtor reopened her case and disclosed the lawsuit.<sup>28</sup> After the trustee could not find counsel

16 In re Coastal Plains Inc., 179 F.3d 197, 210 (5th Cir. 1999) (emphasis supplied).

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willing to take the matter on a contingency-fee basis (nor
able to reach a compromise with the defendant), 29 the bank-
ruptcy case was closed a second time and the lawsuit was
re-vested in the debtor.<sup>30</sup> Thereafter, the defendants moved
for summary judgment, successfully arguing to the district
court that the debtor's failure to list the lawsuits in her origi-
nal bankruptcy petition prevented prosecution of the claim
under judicial estoppel principles.<sup>31</sup>
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On appeal, the majority determined that the district court appropriately exercised its discretion when it rejected the debtor's argument that judicial estoppel should not apply because she orally disclosed one of her claims to the trustee, reasoning that "[f]or one thing, 'oral disclosure does not meet the requirements of the Bankruptcy Code."32 The majority also supported the district court's rejection of the debtor's contention that her failure to list the pending administrative claims was a mistake in light of the evidence that she listed other cases and administrative proceedings in which she was a defendant (rather than a plaintiff).<sup>33</sup> Accordingly, it was the majority's view that the district court's determination should not be disturbed on appeal.34 However, the dissent disagreed and opined that the debtor's oral disclosure of the lawsuit created a triable factual dispute as to whether she lied or made a mistake on her bankruptcy petition, "[a]nd because judicial estoppel is inappropriate in cases of mistake, whether she lied or made a mistake is material."35

Both the majority and dissent joined in the determination that even though a circuit court ordinarily reviews a grant of summary judgment de novo, it would join the "large majority" of courts of appeals and adopt an abuse-of-discretion standard when summary judgment was granted on the basis of judicial estoppel because judicial estoppel is an equitable doctrine, but it also noted that the circuits are not unanimous on the appropriate standard.<sup>36</sup> Nonetheless, the D.C. Circuit was split on whether this debtor's oral disclosure at the meeting of creditors created a triable issue such that the grant of a summary judgment was an abuse of this considerable discretion. One does wonder how much of this situation could have been avoided had the debtor consulted with an attorney rather than a bankruptcy petition preparer — for her initial filings, but at the very least, this decision helps to narrow the "channel of discretion" for this equitable tool. abi

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17 Browning v. Levy, 283 F.3d 761, 776 (6th Cir. 2002).
18 Spaine v. Community Contacts Inc., 756 F.3d 542, 544 (7th Cir. 2014).
19 Ah Quin v. Cnty. of Kauai, 733 F.3d 267, 281-86, 292-93 (9th Cir. 2013).
20 See Burgess, supra n.15, at 54.
21 2016 WL 3726039 at *8.
22 Id. at *8.
23 Id. (quoting Ah Quin v. Cty. of Kauai Dep't of Transp., 733 F.3d 267, 277 (9th Cir. 2013)).
24 Id. at *2. The court's opinion noted that the debtor had used a "bankruptcy petition preparer" who charged
   her $185. A mere three months after she failed to disclose the existence of the administrative proceeds on
   her schedules, the debtor, through counsel, filed a suit seeking more than $2 million in damages.
27 See 11 U.S.C. § 554(c) ("Unless the court orders otherwise, any property scheduled under section
   521(a)(1) of this title not otherwise administered at the time of the closing of a case is abandoned to the
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debtor and administered for purposes of section 350 of this title.") (emphasis supplied)

28 Marshall, 2016 WL 3726039, at \*3-4.

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29 Many courts, even those applying a rigid formulation of judicial estoppel, will not apply it against a bank-
   ruptcy trustee, since, among other reasons, application against a trustee would only serve to punish the
    debtor's creditors since the trustee would be seeking to recover for the benefit of the estate, rather than
   for the debtor individually. See, e.g., In re Parker v. Wendy's Int'l, 365 F.3d 1268 (11th Cir. 2004).
30 Marshall, 2016 WL 3726039, at 1
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31 Id. at \*8

32 Id. at \*6 (quoting Guay v. Burack, 677 F.3d 10, 20-21 (1st Cir. 2012)).

33 Id. at \*7.

34 Id. at \*8-9.

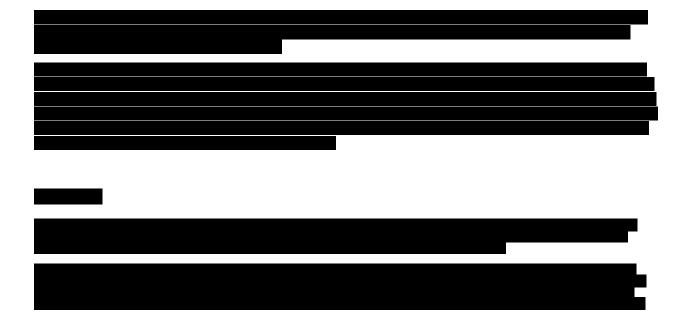
35 Id. at \*9 (Griffith, J. dissenting).

36 *Id.* at \*4 (citing to, among others, *Guay v. Burack*, 677 F.3d 10, 15-16 (1st Cir. 2012); *Jethroe v. Omnova* Sols, Inc., 412 F.3d 598, 599-600 (5th Cir. 2005); Eastman v. Union Pac, R.R. Co., 493 F.3d 1151, 1155-56 (10th Cir. 2007); but see Browning v. Levy, 283 F.3d 761, 775 (6th Cir. 2002) (reviewing application of judicial estoppel de novo): United States v. Hook. 195 F.3d 299, 305 (7th Cir. 1999) (same))

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Nate Hull
From: Sent: , 2022 2:11 AM To: , Trustee Subject:
Attachments: .pdf
Respected Trustee: The above-referenced debtor/claimant has been offered a gross personal injury settlement of grot damages related to a product liability claim against a product manufacturer for the physical injuries caused as a result of alleged exposure to the product, diagnosed on addisbursement of the funds we need bankruptcy clearance in this case. We are contacting you to determine whether or not you intend to claim these funds as part of the bankruptcy estate and if you plan to have the case reopened to administer these funds. We are reaching out to former trustees very early in the process. In most cases the settlement is not ready for disbursement and might not yet be funded by the defendant/manufacturer. Additionally, many cases still need to go through a lien resolution process and have fees and expenses finalized before a final settlement statement can be provided. has not reached the stage of the settlement where a net amount is known and may not be known for 6-9 months. The gross amount will have 40% attorney fees deducted along with other case expenses and administrative fees.  Please review and execute the attached document indicating the trustee's decision and return via email to We look forward to working with you to resolve this matter.  If you choose to claim an interest in the settlement, the general process is as follows:  Employment of Special Counsel: The first step is usually to employ the plaintiff's firm as special counsel, possibly, nunc pro tunc. As the court appointed settlement fund administrator, will serve as your liaison to defense counsel and the plaintiff's firm, related to this confidential settlement. We will provide the application to employ and affidavit of disinterest to the plaintiff's firm(s) for their execution and have them returned to you.  Bankruptcy Court Approval: Typically, after the employment of counsel, the bankruptcy court's approval of the settlement from the extendence of the part of the process.  Payment: As the settlement fund administrators, we are req
Thank you.
Associate operations



CM/ECF: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maine

NTCAPR, CLOSED

# U.S. Bankruptcy Court District of Maine (Portland) Bankruptcy Petition #:

Assigned to: Judge

Chapter 7 Voluntary No asset Date filed: 02/26/2019
Date terminated: 06/10/2019
Debtor discharged: 06/03/2019
341 meeting: 04/01/2019

Deadline for objecting to discharge: 05/31/2019 Deadline for financial mgmt. course: 05/31/2019

Debtor disposition: Standard Discharge



represented by



Trustee Nathaniel R. Hull, Esq.

Verrill Dana, LLP One Portland Square P.O. Box 586 Portland, ME 04112-0586 (207) 253-4726

U.S. Trustee Office of U.S. Trustee

537 Congress Street, Suite 300 Portland, ME 04101

Filing Date	#	Docket Text	
02/26/2019	1 (50 pgs)	Chapter 7 Voluntary Petition for Individuals . Fee Amount \$ 335 Filed by . (Entered: 02/26/2019)	
02/26/2019		Receipt of Voluntary Petition (Chapter 7)(19-20077) [misc,volp7a] ( 335.00) Filing Fee. Receipt number 4153722. Fee amount 335.00. (re: Doc# 1) (U.S. Treasury) (Entered: 02/26/2019)	
02/26/2019	2 (1 pg)	Certificate of Credit Counseling Filed by ( ) (Entered: 02/26/2019)	
02/27/2019	3 (3 pgs; 2 docs)	Meeting of Creditors and Notice of Appointment of Interim Trustee Nathaniel R. Hull, Esq. with 341(a)meeting to be held on 04/01/2019 at 10:00 AM at University of Southern Maine, Lewiston Objections for Discharge due by 05/31/2019. Financial Management Course due date:	

https://ecf.meb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/DktRpt.pl?150120680021393-L\_1\_0-1

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6/13/22, 11:10 AM CM/ECF: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maine

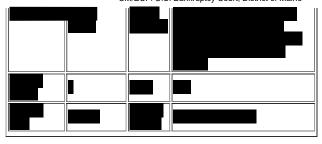
6/13/22, 11:10 AM		CM/ECF: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maine
		05/31/2019. Financial Management Course (Joint Debtor) due date: . (Entered: 02/27/2019)
02/27/2019	4 (1 pg)	Request for Notice by PRA Receivables Management, LLC. (Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC) (Entered: 02/27/2019)
03/01/2019 5 (3 pgs) 6 (1 pg)		BNC Certificate of Mailing - Meeting of Creditors (related document(s):3 Auto Assignment Meeting of Creditors Chapter 07 No Asset). Notice Date 03/01/2019. (Admin.) (Entered: 03/02/2019)
		Financial Management Course Certificate for Debtor Filed by  (related document(s):3 Auto Assignment Meeting of Creditors Chapter 07 No Asset). (Entered: 03/13/2019)
03/26/2019	7 (1 pg)	Request for Notice by Atlas Acquisitions LLC. (Atlas Acquisitions LLC) (Entered: 03/26/2019)
04/01/2019		Meeting of Creditors Held and Concluded. Chapter 7 Trustee's Report of No Distribution: I, Nathaniel R. Hull, Esq., having been appointed trustee of the estate of the above-named debtor(s), report that I have neither received any property nor paid any money on account of this estate; that I have made a diligent inquiry into the financial affairs of the debtor(s) and the location of the property belonging to the estate; and that there is no property available for distribution from the estate over and above that exempted by law. Pursuant to Fed R Bank P 5009, I hereby certify that the estate of the above-named debtor(s) has been fully administered. I request that I be discharged from any further duties as trustee. Key information about this case as reported in schedules filed by the debtor(s) or otherwise found in the case record: This case was pending for I months. Assets Abandoned (without deducting any secured claims): \$ 0.00, Assets Exempt: \$ 905.00, Claims Scheduled: \$ 12890.89, Claims Asserted: Not Applicable, Claims scheduled to be discharged without payment (without deducting the value of collateral or debts excerpted from discharge): \$ 12890.89. (Hull, Nathaniel) (Entered: 04/01/2019)
06/03/2019	8 (3 pgs; 2 docs)	Order Discharging Debtor (Admin.) (Entered: 06/03/2019)
06/05/2019	9 (3 pgs)	BNC Certificate of Mailing - Order of Discharge (related document(s):8 Order Discharging Debtor). Notice Date 06/05/2019. (Admin.) (Entered: 06/06/2019)
06/10/2019		Final Decree, Discharging Trustee and Closing Bankruptcy Case (Admin.) (Entered: 06/10/2019)



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6/13/22, 11:10 AM

CM/ECF: U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maine



		Document	Page 10 of 50		
Fill in this inform	nation to identify you	case and this filing:			
Debtor 1					
Debtor 2	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		
(Spouse, if filing)	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		
United States Bar	nkruptcy Court for the:	DISTRICT OF MAINE			
Case number					Check if this is an amended filing
Official For	rm 106A/B e <b>A/B: Pro</b> r	pertv			12/15
In each category, se	eparately list and descri	pe items. List an asset only once	. If an asset fits in more than one category		
	space is needed, attacl		ople are filing together, both are equally re n the top of any additional pages, write you		
Part 1: Describe E	Each Residence, Buildin	g, Land, or Other Real Estate You	u Own or Have an Interest In		
1. Do you own or ha	ave any legal or equitab	le interest in any residence, build	ling, land, or similar property?		
No. Go to Part	2.				
☐ Yes. Where is	the property?				
Part 2: Describe Y	Your Vehicles				
			es, whether they are registered or not 6: Executory Contracts and Unexpired Le		eles you own that
3. Cars, vans, tru	icks, tractors, sport u	tility vehicles, motorcycles			
■ No					
☐ Yes					
			rehicles, other vehicles, and accessor s, snowmobiles, motorcycle accessories	ies	
			es from Part 2, including any entries fo		\$0.00
Part 3: Describe	Your Personal and Hous	sehold Items			
		table interest in any of the fo	llowing items?	<b>por</b> Do	rent value of the tion you own? not deduct secured ms or exemptions.
		e, linens, china, kitchenware			·
	general h	ousehold furnishings		1	\$400.00
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		idio, video, stereo, and digital e neras, media players, games	equipment; computers, printers, scanners	s; music collections	; electronic devices
Yes. Descri	ibe				
Official Form 106A	/B	Schedule /	VB: Property		page 1

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Debtor 1	Document Page 11 of 50  Case number (if known)	
	TV, cell phone, computer, tablet, printer.	\$300.00
	s and figurines; paintings, prints, or other artwork; books, pictures, or other art objects; stamp, coin ollections, memorabilia, collectibles	, or baseball card collections;
	photographic, exercise, and other hobby equipment; bicycles, pool tables, golf clubs, skis; canoes instruments	and kayaks; carpentry tools;
0. Firearms  Examples: Pistols  No  Yes. Describe	r, rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and related equipment	
11. Clothes  Examples: Everyo  No  Yes. Describe	day clothes, furs, leather coats, designer wear, shoes, accessories	
	clothing	\$200.00
■ No □ Yes. Describe	cats, birds, horses nal and household items you did not already list, including any health aids you did not list	
15. Add the dollar v	ralue of all of your entries from Part 3, including any entries for pages you have attached that number here	\$900.00
Part 4: Describe Your Do you own or have	Financial Assets any legal or equitable interest in any of the following?	Current value of the portion you own? Do not deduct secured claims or exemptions.
□ No	you have in your wallet, in your home, in a safe deposit box, and on hand when you file your petiti	ion
	cash	\$5.00
institu	ey ing, savings, or other financial accounts; certificates of deposit; shares in credit unions, brokerage tions. If you have multiple accounts with the same institution, list each.	houses, and other similar
☐ No Official Form 106A/B	Schedule A/B: Property	page
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	ves	Institutio	Case number (if known) on name:	
	17.1. checking	TD Ba	nk #210 - negative balance	\$0.00
	17.2.	TD Ba	nk #311 - negative balance.	\$0.00
	Bonds, mutual funds, or publicly traded stock Examples: Bond funds, investment accounts wit		noney market accounts	
	■ No □ YesInstitution or iss	suer name:		
	Non-publicly traded stock and interests in inc joint venture	corporated and un	ncorporated businesses, including an interest in	n an LLC, partnership, and
ļ	Yes. Give specific information about them Name of entity:		% of ownership:	
	Government and corporate bonds and other in Negotiable instruments include personal checks Non-negotiable instruments are those you cannot No	, cashiers' checks,	promissory notes, and money orders.	
	☐ Yes. Give specific information about them Issuer name:			
	Retirement or pension accounts  Examples: Interests in IRA, ERISA, Keogh, 401	(k), 403(b), thrift sav	rings accounts, or other pension or profit-sharing pla	ans
	■ No  ☐ Yes. List each account separately.  Type of account:	Institutio	on name:	
			continue service or use from a company electric, gas, water), telecommunications companie	s, or others
	■ No □ Yes	Institutio	on name or individual:	
	Annuities (A contract for a periodic payment of r ■ No	money to you, either	r for life or for a number of years)	
ı	Yes Issuer name and description	on.		
	nterests in an education IRA, in an account in 26 U.S.C. §§ 530(b)(1), 529A(b), and 529(b)(1). ■ No	a qualified ABLE	program, or under a qualified state tuition progr	am.
I	Yes Institution name and descr	iption. Separately fil	e the records of any interests.11 U.S.C. § 521(c):	
- 1	■ No	ty (other than anyt	hing listed in line 1), and rights or powers exerc	isable for your benefit
	☐ Yes. Give specific information about them Patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secret	s and other intelle	actual proporty	
	Examples: Internet domain names, websites, pro  No  Yes. Give specific information about them			
	_ ′ ′ ′ ′		ation holdings, liquor licenses, professional licenses	
	■ No  ☐ Yes. Give specific information about them			
Мо	ney or property owed to you?			Current value of the portion you own?
	cial Form 106A/B are Copyright (c) 1996-2018 Best Case, LLC - www.bestcase.cor	Schedule A/	B: Property	page 3 Best Case Bankruptcy

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Dr	ebtor 1		Document	Page 13 of 50  Case number (if known)	
					Do not deduct secured claims or exemptions.
28.	■ No	unds owed to you  Give specific information about them,	, including whether you al	ready filed the returns and the tax years	·
29.	Examp No	support  les: Past due or lump sum alimony, s  Give specific information	spousal support, child sup	port, maintenance, divorce settlement, property	settlement
30.		amounts someone owes you oles: Unpaid wages, disability insuran benefits; unpaid loans you made		enefits, sick pay, vacation pay, workers' compe	nsation, Social Security
	_	Give specific information			
31.		ts in insurance policies l/es: Health, disability, or life insuranc	e; health savings account	t (HSA); credit, homeowner's, or renter's insura	nce
	☐ Yes. I	Name the insurance company of eac Company nam		Beneficiary:	Surrender or refund value:
32.	If you a someo	erest in property that is due you frage the beneficiary of a living trust, ex ne has died.  Give specific information		<b>lied</b> insurance policy, or are currently entitled to rec	eive property because
33.	Examp ■ No	against third parties, whether or notes: Accidents, employment disputes  Describe each claim		uit or made a demand for payment its to sue	
34.	■ No	contingent and unliquidated claims  Describe each claim	s of every nature, includ	ing counterclaims of the debtor and rights to	o set off claims
35.	Any fin	ancial assets you did not already l	ist		
	■ No □ Yes.	Give specific information			
36				any entries for pages you have attached	\$5.00
Pa	rt 5: Des	scribe Any Business-Related Property \	ou Own or Have an Interes	et In. List any real estate in Part 1.	
	Do you o	own or have any legal or equitable inter to Part 6.	est in any business-related	property?	
ı	☐ Yes. G	So to line 38.			
Pa		scribe Any Farm- and Commercial Fishi ou own or have an interest in farmland, list		wn or Have an Interest In.	
46.	■ No.	Go to Part 7.	e interest in any farm- o	r commercial fishing-related property?	
	☐ Yes.	. Go to line 47.			
	icial Forn	n 106A/B ight (c) 1996-2018 Best Case, LLC - www.bestca:	Schedule A/B	Property	page 4 Best Case Bankrupto

	Document	t	Page 14 of	50		
Deb	tor 1			Case number (if known)		
Part	7: Describe All Property You Own or Have an Interest in That Y	′ou Di	d Not List Above			
	Oo you have other property of any kind you did not already lis Examples: Season tickets, country club membership	st?				
_	No Yes. Give specific information					
54.	Add the dollar value of all of your entries from Part 7. Write t	that n	number here			\$0.00
Part	8: List the Totals of Each Part of this Form					
55.	Part 1: Total real estate, line 2					\$0.00
56.	Part 2: Total vehicles, line 5		\$0.00			
57.	Part 3: Total personal and household items, line 15		\$900.00			
58.	Part 4: Total financial assets, line 36		\$5.00			
59.	Part 5: Total business-related property, line 45		\$0.00			
60.	Part 6: Total farm- and fishing-related property, line 52		\$0.00			
61.	Part 7: Total other property not listed, line 54	+	\$0.00			
62.	Total personal property. Add lines 56 through 61	_	\$905.00	Copy personal property	total	\$905.00
63.	Total of all property on Schedule A/B. Add line 55 + line 62					\$905.00

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Schedule A/B: Property

page 5
Best Case Bankruptcy

			Document	F	age 15 of 50	_
Fil	I in this inform	ation to identify your o	case:			
De	ebtor 1	First Name	Middle Name		ast Name	
De	ebtor 2		Middle Name	L	ast ivallie	
(Sp	ouse if, filing)	First Name	Middle Name	L	ast Name	
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$\overline{}$	#: a: a! \(\pi a \)	1000				-
	fficial For			_	_	
5	chedule	C: The Pro	perty You Cla	im	as Exempt	4/16
he nee	property you lis	ited on <i>Schedule A/B: P</i> I attach to this page as r	Property (Official Form 106A/B)	as yo	our source, list the property that you	or supplying correct information. Using claim as exempt. If more space is additional pages, write your name and
any iun	ecific dollar am applicable stands as—may be ur amption to a pa	ount as exempt. Alteri atutory limit. Some exe nlimited in dollar amou	natively, you may claim the f emptions—such as those for int. However, if you claim an	ull fa heal exen	ir market value of the property be th aids, rights to receive certain l aption of 100% of fair market valu	One way of doing so is to state a eing exempted up to the amount of penefits, and tax-exempt retirement ue under a law that limits the t, your exemption would be limited
		the Property You Cla	im as Exempt			
1.			aiming? Check one only, ever	n if vo	ur spouse is filing with vou.	
	_		nonbankruptcy exemptions.	•	, , ,	
	_	•	ns. 11 U.S.C. § 522(b)(2)		y.o. 3 022(2)(0)	
2		,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	empt.	fill in the information below.	
		on of the property and line	<u>-</u>	• •	ount of the exemption you claim	Specific laws that allow exemption
	Schedule A/B t	hat lists this property	portion you own  Copy the value from	Che	ck only one box for each exemption.	
			Schedule A/B	Crie	ck only one box for each exemption.	
	general hou	sehold furnishings	\$400.00		\$400.00	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 14, § 4422(3)
	Line Ironi Sch	edule A/B. <b>G.</b> I			100% of fair market value, up to any applicable statutory limit	4422(3)
		ne, computer, table	t, \$300.00		\$300.00	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 14, §
	printer. Line from Scho	edule A/B: <b>7.1</b>			100% of fair market value, up to	4422(3)
					any applicable statutory limit	
	clothing		\$200.00		\$200.00	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 14, §
	Line from Scho	edule A/B: <b>11.1</b>	<u> </u>	_	100% of fair market value, up to any applicable statutory limit	4422(3)
					arry applicable statutory limit	
	cash	edule A/R: <b>16 1</b>	\$5.00		\$5.00	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 14, § 4422(15)
	Line from Sch	edule A/D. 10.1			100% of fair market value, up to	4422(13)
	Line from Scho				any applicable statutory limit	
3.	Are you claim (Subject to adj	justment on 4/01/19 and	, ,	ises fi	led on or after the date of adjustme	,

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Debtor 1	3	
Debtor 1	Case number (if known)	

Official Form 106C

Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt

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Best Case Bankruptcy

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		Document	Page 17 of 50	
Fill in this infor	mation to identify your	case:		
Debtor 1				
	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
Debtor 2				
(Spouse if, filing)	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	
United States Ba	ankruptcy Court for the:	DISTRICT OF MAINE		
Case number				
(if known)				☐ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 106D

#### Schedule D: Creditors Who Have Claims Secured by Property

12/15

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, copy the Additional Page, fill it out, number the entries, and attach it to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known).

- 1. Do any creditors have claims secured by your property?
  - No. Check this box and submit this form to the court with your other schedules. You have nothing else to report on this form.
  - ☐ Yes. Fill in all of the information below.

Official Form 106D

Schedule D: Creditors Who Have Claims Secured by Property

page 1 of 1

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		Document Page 18 of 50	
Fill i	n this information to identify your case:	2 common : age 20 c. co	
Debt			
Debt		Middle Name Last Name	
Debt			
(Spous	se if, filing) First Name	Middle Name Last Name	
Unite	d States Bankruptcy Court for the: DIST	RICT OF MAINE	
Case	number		
(if know	wn)	<del></del>	☐ Check if this is an
			amended filing
Offic	cial Form 106E/F		
	edule E/F: Creditors Who H	lave Unsecured Claims	12/15
Sched Sched left. At name	ule G: Executory Contracts and Unexpired Lea ule D: Creditors Who Have Claims Secured by tach the Continuation Page to this page. If you and case number (if known).	uld result in a claim. Also list executory contracts on Schedule A/ ises (Official Form 106G). Do not include any creditors with partia Property. If more space is needed, copy the Part you need, fill it o u have no information to report in a Part, do not file that Part. On the	lly secured claims that are listed in ut, number the entries in the boxes on the
Part			
_	o any creditors have priority unsecured claims	s against you?	
	No. Go to Part 2.		
	Yes.	saured Claims	
	List All of Your NONPRIORITY Unse to any creditors have nonpriority unsecured cla		
_		• •	
_	_	mit this form to the court with your other schedules.	
	Yes.		
u th	nsecured claim, list the creditor separately for eac	the alphabetical order of the creditor who holds each claim. If a cr h claim. For each claim listed, identify what type of claim it is. Do not lis her creditors in Part 3.If you have more than three nonpriority unsecure	t claims already included in Part 1. If more
			Total claim
4.1		Last 4 digits of account number	\$462.00
	Nonpriority Creditor's Name		
		When was the debt incurred?	
	Newskas Observation City Observation	As of the date was file the date to Ohead all that each	
	Number Street City State Zlp Code  Who incurred the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	■ Debtor 1 only	☐ Contingent	
	Debtor 2 only	☐ Unliquidated	
	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed	
	☐ At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community	☐ Student loans	
	debt Is the claim subject to offset?	Dobligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce report as priority claims	e that you did not
	No	Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar	debts
	☐ Yes	Other Specify Various credit card debt	

Official Form 106 E/F

Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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	Case number (if known)	r1
\$1,268.00	Last 4 digits of account number	Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	When was the debt incurred?	
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	Number Street City State Zlp Code Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	☐ Debtor 2 only
	☐ Disputed	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	☐ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	☐ Check if this claim is for a community
	$\hfill \Box$ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	debt Is the claim subject to offset?
	$\square$ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	■ No
	■ Other. Specify various credit card debt	Yes
\$744.00	Last 4 digits of account number	
		Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	When was the debt incurred?	
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	Number Street City State Zlp Code Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	☐ Debtor 2 only
	□ Disputed	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	☐ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	☐ Check if this claim is for a community
	lacktriangle Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not	debt
	report as priority claims	Is the claim subject to offset?
	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	No
	Other. Specify various credit card debt	Yes
\$142.00	Last 4 digits of account number	
		Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	ode Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	■ Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	Debtor 2 only
	☐ Disputed	Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	☐ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	☐ Check if this claim is for a community
	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not	debt
	report as priority claims	Is the claim subject to offset?
	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts  ☐ Other. Specify	■ No
	- aradit account	☐ Yes

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Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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Debtor	1 _	Case number (if known)	
4.5	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	Last 4 digits of account number	Unknown
	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	When was the debt incurred?	
	Number Street City State Zlp Code  Who incurred the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	Debtor 1 only	☐ Contingent	
	☐ Debtor 2 only	☐ Unliquidated	
	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed	
	☐ At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community	☐ Student loans	
	debt Is the claim subject to offset?	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	
	No	$\square$ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	Yes	■ Other. Specify various credit card debt	
4.6	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	Last 4 digits of account number	\$2,956.00
		When was the debt incurred?	
	Number Street City State ZIp Code  Who incurred the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	■ Debtor 1 only	☐ Contingent	
	☐ Debtor 2 only	□ Unliquidated	
	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	□ Disputed	
	☐ At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community	☐ Student loans	
	debt Is the claim subject to offset?	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	
	■ No	$\square$ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	Yes	■ Other. Specify varous credit card debt	
4.7	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	Last 4 digits of account number	\$892.00
		When was the debt incurred?	
	Number Street City State ZIp Code	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	Who incurred the debt? Check one.		
	Debtor 1 only	Contingent	
	Debtor 2 only	Unliquidated	
	Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	Disputed	
	At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community debt	☐ Student loans	
	Is the claim subject to offset?	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	
	■ No	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	□Yes	■ Other Specify various credit card debt	

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Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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	Case number (if known)	1
\$462.00	Last 4 digits of account number	Name is site Occality at a Name
		Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	When was the debt incurred?	
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	Number Street City State ZIp Code
		Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	☐ Debtor 2 only
	☐ Disputed	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	$\square$ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	$\square$ Check if this claim is for a community
	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	debt Is the claim subject to offset?
	Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	No
	■ Other. Specify various credit card debt	Yes
£400.00	Look delinite of account number	
\$469.00	Last 4 digits of account number	Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	When was the debt incurred?	
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	Number Street City State ZIp Code
	.,,	Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	■ Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	☐ Debtor 2 only
	☐ Disputed	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	☐ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	☐ Check if this claim is for a community
	Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not	debt
	report as priority claims	Is the claim subject to offset?
	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	■ No
	Other. Specify various credit card debt	☐ Yes
\$462.89	Last 4 digits of account number	
<b>Ψ102</b> .00		Nonpriority Creditor's Name
	When was the debt incurred?	
	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	Number Street City State ZIp Code
	The of the date you me, the dam is crossed and date apply	Who incurred the debt? Check one.
	☐ Contingent	Debtor 1 only
	☐ Unliquidated	☐ Debtor 2 only
	Disputed	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only
	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	☐ At least one of the debtors and another
	☐ Student loans	☐ Check if this claim is for a community
	$\square$ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not	debt
	report as priority claims	Is the claim subject to offset?
	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	No
	Other. Specify	☐ Yes

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Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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		Document Page 22 of 50	
Debto	r 1	Case number (if known)	
4.1	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	Last 4 digits of account number  When was the debt incurred?	\$860.00
	Number Street City State Zip Code  Who incurred the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	Debtor 1 only	Contingent	
	Debtor 2 only	☐ Unliquidated	
	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed	
	At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community debt Is the claim subject to offset?	☐ Student loans ☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	
	■ No	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	Yes	■ Other Specify Credit account; original creditor: Credit One Bank N.A.	
4.1		Last 4 digits of account number	\$428.00
	Nonpriority Creditor's Name	When was the debt incurred?	
	Number Street City State Zlp Code  Who incurred the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	■ Debtor 1 only	☐ Contingent	
	☐ Debtor 2 only	☐ Unliquidated	
	☐ Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed	
	☐ At least one of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	Check if this claim is for a community	☐ Student loans	
	debt Is the claim subject to offset?	Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not report as priority claims	
	■ No	☐ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	☐ Yes	■ Other. Specify	
4.1			<b>\$4.00</b>
3	Nonpriority Creditor's Name 15480 Laguna Canyon Rd.	Last 4 digits of account number  When was the debt incurred?	\$1.00
	Irvine, CA 92618  Number Street City State Zlp Code	As of the date you file, the claim is: Check all that apply	
	Who incurred the debt? Check one.		
	Debtor 1 only	☐ Contingent	
	Debtor 2 only	Unliquidated	
	Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed  Type of NONPRIORITY unsecured claim:	
	At least one of the debtors and another	Student loans	
	☐ Check if this claim is for a community debt	☐ Obligations arising out of a separation agreement or divorce that you did not	
	Is the claim subject to offset?	report as priority claims	
	No	$\square$ Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts	
	Yes	■ Other. Specify	

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Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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			Document Page 2	23 of 5	0	
Debtor 1					umber (if known)	
4.1			Last 4 digits of account numbe	r 🔣	<u> </u>	\$2,126.00
1	Nonpriority Cre	ditor's Name				
			When was the debt incurred?			
		City State ZIp Code the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the clair	n is: Check	k all that apply	
	■ Debtor 1 on		☐ Contingent			
	Debtor 2 on	•	☐ Unliquidated			
		d Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed			
		of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecu	red claim:		
		is claim is for a community	☐ Student loans			
(	debt	·		paration ag	greement or divorce that you did not	
	_	bject to offset?	report as priority claims			
	■ No		☐ Debts to pension or profit-sha		and other similar debts	
	☐ Yes		■ Other. Specify _ credit acc	ount		
4.1			Last 4 digits of account numbe	r		\$1,618.00
	Nonpriority Cre	ditor's Name	-			
			When was the debt incurred?			
		21. 0. 1				
		City State ZIp Code the debt? Check one.	As of the date you file, the clair	n is: Check	k all that apply	
	■ Debtor 1 on		☐ Contingent			
	Debtor 2 on	•	☐ Unliquidated			
	_	d Debtor 2 only	☐ Disputed			
		of the debtors and another	Type of NONPRIORITY unsecui	red claim:		
		is claim is for a community	☐ Student loans			
	debt	is claim is for a community	☐ Obligations arising out of a se	paration ag	greement or divorce that you did not	
ı	ls the claim su	bject to offset?	report as priority claims		,	
I	No		Debts to pension or profit-sha		and other similar debts	
I	☐ Yes		Other. Specify credit acc	ount		
Dort 2	List Other	s to Be Notified About a Deb	t That Vau Alrandy Listed			
5. Use this is trying have m	s page only if g to collect fro ore than one d for any debts	you have others to be notified all om you for a debt you owe to soi creditor for any of the debts that in Parts 1 or 2, do not fill out or	pout your bankruptcy, for a debt tha meone else, list the original creditor you listed in Parts 1 or 2, list the ad submit this page.	in Parts 1	ndy listed in Parts 1 or 2. For example, if or 2, then list the collection agency her reditors here. If you do not have additio	e. Similarly, if you
				I reporting	purposes only. 28 U.S.C. §159. Add the	amounts for each
AL- a.					Total Claim	
	6a.	Domestic support obligations		6a.	\$ 0.00	
To clai	otal					
from Pa		Taxes and certain other debts	you owe the government	6b.	\$	
	6c.	·	njury while you were intoxicated	6c.	\$ 0.00	
	6d.	Otner. Add all other priority unse	ecured claims. Write that amount here.	6d.	\$	
	6e.	Total Priority. Add lines 6a thro	ugh 6d.	6e.	\$ 0.00	
						I
	6f.	Student loans		6f.	Total Claim	
То	otal	Stadent Idans		OI.	\$0.00_	
clai from Pa	ims	Obligations arising out of a se	paration agreement or divorce that	6g.	\$	

Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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Best Case Bankruptcy

Debtor 1 _		Document Page 2		0 umber (if knowr	n)	<b>.</b>
	6h. 6i.	you did not report as priority claims Debts to pension or profit-sharing plans, and other similar debts Other. Add all other nonpriority unsecured claims. Write that amount here.	6h. 6i.	\$ \$	0.00 12,890.89	
	6j.	Total Nonpriority. Add lines 6f through 6i.	6j.	\$	12,890.89	

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Schedule E/F: Creditors Who Have Unsecured Claims

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## **Faculty**

Hon. Maria González-Hernández is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Puerto Rico in Ponce. She has been involved in bankruptcy law for more than 30 years, most of which she has spent with the federal government. Prior to her appointment in 2021, Judge González-Hernández's legal career began in 1991, when she clerked for Judge Lamoutte of the District of Puerto Rico Bankruptcy Court, following her graduation from law school. In 1994, she entered private practice at Gonzalez Oliver, Correa Calzada, Collazo Salazar, Herrero & Jimenez in Hato Rey, P.R., where she was head of the consumer bankruptcy division and practiced bankruptcy, banking and real estate law for nearly three years. In 1996, Judge González-Hernández joined the U.S. Trustee's Office in San Juan, P.R., where she was a trial attorney for 10 years, litigating chapter 7 and 11 cases. In 2006, she rejoined Judge Lamoutte's chambers as a law clerk, and, in 2011, she became clerk of court of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico, where she managed all of the court's divisions such as human resources, finance and budget, and operations, was the official custodian of the bankruptcy court's records and dockets, and was accountable for all fees and costs collected by the court. Judge González-Hernández is a member of the Puerto Rico Bankruptcy Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Bar Association and the Honorable Raymond Acosta Puerto Rico Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. From 2013-15, she taught bankruptcy law at the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. Judge González-Hernández received her B.A. from Colgate University in 1987, her J.D. from Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico School of Law in 1990, and her LL.M. from Boston University Morin Center for Banking Law Studies in 1993.

Jennifer G. Hayden is a partner with Molleur Law Office in Saco, Maine, where she focuses on chapter 7 and 13 consumer bankruptcy cases. She also litigates consumer and bankruptcy law violations in bankruptcy and state courts. Ms. Hayden specializes in student loan debt solutions and prioritizes her work for veterans dealing with financial hardship. Prior to joining the firm, she practiced in Massachusetts for several years at Neighborhood Legal Services in Lynn and Lawrence, where her practice focused on eviction defense for poor and disabled Massachusetts residents. Previously, Ms. Hayden spent eight years in the Maine Army National Guard as a medic and reached the enlisted rank of sergeant. Prior to going to law school, she worked as a housing advocate at Rosie's Place in Boston. Ms. Hayden is licensed to practice in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts in both state and federal jurisdictions. She has taught legal studies courses at Andover College and Kaplan University, including bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights, as well as law courses at the North Shore Community College in Danvers, Mass. Ms. Hayden is a member of ABI, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the National Association of Consumer Advocates, the York and Cumberland County Bar Associations and the Maine Bar Association. She received the Katahdin Counsel Pro Bono Legal Service Awards each year since it has been awarded. Ms. Hayden received her undergraduate degree from Northeastern University and her J.D. from New England Law in Boston in 2002.

**Nathaniel R. Hull** is a partner at Verrill Dana LLP in Portland, Maine, and serves as a chapter 7, 11 and 12 trustee for the District of Maine, and as counsel to trustees, federal receivers, creditors' committees, debtors, secured lenders, critical vendors, commercial landlords, asset-purchasers, and defendants in many preference and fraudulent transfer actions. He and the firm's Bankruptcy &

Creditors' Rights Group manage complex asset sales and wind-downs of businesses as bankruptcy counsel to trustees, debtors, receivers, secured lenders and buyers. Mr. Hull is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, regularly authors articles for the *ABI Journal*, and is actively involved with the Maine division of ABI's Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program, which provides financial literacy resources and classes to high school students. Mr. Hull received his B.A from Evergreen State College and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Maine School of Law.