

**Procedures for Noticing and Conducting Hearings
in the San Francisco Division of the
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California**

(Effective September 1, 2023)

Effective September 1, 2023, all debtors, creditors, counsel, and other interested parties shall comply with the following procedures when noticing or participating in hearings in cases assigned to Judge Dennis Montali or Judge Hannah L. Blumenstiel. Failure to comply with these procedures might result in vacatur of a hearing or the imposition of sanctions.

For available hearing dates and times, please continue to refer to the San Francisco Division's Open Calendar Procedure¹ and to Judge Montali's or Judge Blumenstiel's Open Calendar Dates and Procedures.

For purposes of these procedures, "non-evidentiary" hearings are those in which witness testimony will not be taken.

Recording of any hearing by any means is strictly prohibited. Any person who records a court hearing shall be subject to sanction.

Non-evidentiary hearings. Unless they order otherwise, Judges Blumenstiel and Montali will conduct all non-evidentiary hearings by video via Zoom or by telephone via AT&T conference call. Examples of non-evidentiary hearings subject to this provision include preliminary hearings on motions for relief from stay and other stay-related motions; monthly Chapter 13 calendars for San Francisco, Salinas, and Santa Rosa cases; status conferences in cases and adversary proceedings; scheduling or pre-trial conferences in adversary proceedings; and other law and motion matters. Litigants and interested parties should consult the relevant judge's posted calendars, which are posted to the court's website,² to determine whether a particular calendar will be conducted by video or by telephone.

¹ <https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/procedure/san-francisco/blumenstiel-carlson-montali/open-calendar-procedure-san-francisco>

² Judge Blumenstiel's calendar can be viewed here: <https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/judge/blumenstiel/calendar>;
Judge Montali's calendar can be viewed here: <https://www.canb.uscourts.gov/judge/montali/calendar>

All notices of any motion or application filed with the court and served on any party that set a hearing must state that such hearing will not be conducted in the presiding judge's courtroom but instead will be conducted by telephone or video, and must include the following language:

The Bankruptcy Court's website provides information regarding how to arrange an appearance at a video or telephonic hearing. If you have questions about how to participate in a video or telephonic hearing, you may contact the court by calling 888-821-7606 or by using the Live Chat feature on the Bankruptcy Court's website.

Notices of Hearing that do not contain the forgoing language may be stricken and the hearing set pursuant to such defective notice vacated.

Evidentiary Hearings. Unless they order otherwise, Judge Blumenstiel and Judge Montali will conduct evidentiary hearings and trials in-person. The logistics of any given evidentiary hearing or trial will be discussed at the appropriate scheduling conference, pre-trial hearing, or preliminary hearing. The means of conducting any evidentiary hearing or trial falls within the presiding judge's sole discretion, and the court may, for example, permit one or more witnesses to testify remotely, if appropriate.