

DEC 12 2011

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U.S. BKCY. APP. PANEL  
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY APPELLATE PANEL  
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

5	In re:	)	BAP No. EC-11-1086-DJuKi
		)	EC-11-1167-DJuKi
6	MICHAEL WOOD,	)	(related appeals)
		)	
7	Debtor.	)	Bk. No. 10-49032
		)	
8	_____	)	Adv. No. 10-02731
9	MICHAEL WOOD,	)	
	Appellant,	)	
10	v.	)	<b>M E M O R A N D U M</b> <sup>1</sup>
		)	
11	EARNEST F. JOHNSON, dba	)	
12	Protect Carpet Cleaning;	)	
13	UNITED STATES TRUSTEE; THE	)	
	BANK OF NEW YORK,	)	
14	Appellees.	)	
		)	
15	_____	)	
16	MICHAEL WOOD,	)	
	Appellant,	)	
17	v.	)	
18	THE BANK OF NEW YORK,	)	
19	Appellee.	)	
20	_____	)	

Argued and Submitted on November 16, 2011  
at Sacramento, California

Filed - December 12, 2011

Appeal from the United States Bankruptcy Court  
for the Eastern District of California

Honorable Robert S. Bardwil, Bankruptcy Judge, Presiding

<sup>1</sup> This disposition is not appropriate for publication. Although it may be cited for whatever persuasive value it may have (see Fed. R. App. P. 32.1), it has no precedential value. See 9th Cir. BAP Rule 8013-1.

1 Appearances: Appellant Michael Wood argued pro se. Dawn N.  
2 Williams, Esq. of Dykema Gossett LLP appeared for  
3 Appellee The Bank of New York.

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4 Before: DUNN, JURY and KIRSCHER, Bankruptcy Judges.

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6 The debtor, Michael Wood, appeals the following orders of  
7 the bankruptcy court:<sup>2</sup> (1) dismissing his chapter 11 bankruptcy  
8 case ("dismissal order"); (2) denying his motion for  
9 reconsideration of the dismissal order; (3) remanding to state  
10 court ("remand order") an unlawful detainer action against him;  
11 and (4) denying his motion for reconsideration of the remand  
12 order. We AFFIRM.

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26 <sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all chapter, section and rule  
27 references are to the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532, and  
28 The Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Rules 1001-9037.  
The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are referred to as "Civil  
Rules."

1 **FACTS**<sup>3</sup>

2 A. Events before the debtor's second chapter 11 case

3 Joseph Manlapaz purchased a residence in Tracy, California  
4 ("Tracy residence"), through a loan from Ownit Mortgage  
5 Solutions, Inc. ("Ownit Mortgage"). The debtor claimed an  
6 interest in the Tracy residence.<sup>4</sup> When Manlapaz defaulted on his  
7 mortgage payments to Ownit Mortgage, the Tracy residence was  
8 placed into foreclosure. Bank of New York ("BNY") was the  
9 successful credit bidder at the foreclosure sale.

10 On May 26, 2009, BNY served the debtor with a written notice  
11 to quit the Tracy residence. The debtor did not leave the Tracy  
12 residence in response to the notice to quit. Consequently, on  
13 July 31, 2009, BNY initiated the unlawful detainer action against  
14 the debtor in state court to obtain possession of the Tracy  
15 residence. On February 18, 2010, the state court entered  
16 judgment against the debtor ("state court judgment") in the  
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18 <sup>3</sup> The debtor submitted four volumes of documents, requesting  
19 that we take judicial notice of the documents. BNY objected to  
20 the debtor's requests for judicial notice.

21 Nearly all of the documents in the debtor's requests for  
22 judicial notice relate to the unlawful detainer action.  
23 Generally, we do not consider facts outside the record developed  
24 before the bankruptcy court. See United States ex rel. Robinson  
25 Rancheria Citizens Council v. Borneo, Inc., 971 F.2d 244, 248  
26 (9th Cir. 1992). We may take judicial notice of proceedings in  
27 other courts, however, if those proceedings have a direct  
28 relation to the matters at issue. Id. None of the documents in  
the debtor's requests for judicial notice are necessary to our  
determination here. We thus deny the debtor's requests for  
judicial notice.

<sup>4</sup> It is unclear from the record whether the debtor or a  
member of the debtor's family leased the Tracy residence.

1 unlawful detainer action. The debtor did not appeal the state  
2 court judgment.<sup>5</sup>

3 After a writ of possession was issued, the eviction of the  
4 debtor was scheduled for March 3, 2010. The day before the  
5 scheduled eviction, the debtor filed his first chapter 11  
6 petition in the Eastern District of California (bankruptcy case  
7 no. 10-25046-cmk).<sup>6</sup> Two weeks later, the bankruptcy court  
8 dismissed the debtor's first chapter 11 case because he had "no  
9 bankruptcy reason for maintaining" it, as he had filed it in  
10 order to challenge title to the Tracy residence.

11  
12 B. The debtor's second chapter 11 case

13 The debtor filed his second chapter 11 petition (bankruptcy  
14 case no. 10-49032-rsb) on November 1, 2010. He filed all of the  
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16  
17 <sup>5</sup> At oral argument, counsel for BNY represented that the  
18 unlawful detainer action was completed. She further represented  
19 that BNY had executed the writ of possession.

20 <sup>6</sup> BNY filed a motion for relief from stay ("stay relief  
21 motion"), seeking to proceed with the unlawful detainer action,  
22 in the debtor's first chapter 11 case (main case docket no. 20).  
23 BNY also filed the declaration of Ronald D. Roup, attorney for  
24 BNY, in support of its stay relief motion ("declaration")(main  
25 case docket no. 22). BNY recited these facts in the stay relief  
26 motion and the declaration. (Notably, the debtor's first  
27 chapter 11 case was dismissed before the April 14, 2010 hearing  
28 on BNY's stay relief motion.) Neither BNY nor the debtor  
included the stay relief motion and the declaration in the record  
on appeal. We obtained copies of the stay relief motion and the  
declaration from the bankruptcy court's electronic docket. See  
O'Rourke v. Seaboard Surety Co. (In re E.R. Fegert, Inc.),  
887 F.2d 955, 957-58 (9th Cir. 1988); Atwood v. Chase Manhattan  
Mortg. Co. (In re Atwood), 293 B.R. 227, 233 n.9 (9th Cir. BAP  
2003).

1 schedules, the statement of financial affairs ("SOFA") and other  
2 required bankruptcy documents (collectively, "original bankruptcy  
3 documents") on the same day as his petition.

4 The debtor scheduled only two assets: his "equity" from  
5 "possession of [the Tracy residence]" and \$340 in cash on hand.  
6 The debtor did not schedule any secured or priority creditors.  
7 He scheduled only one unsecured creditor with a \$590 claim. The  
8 debtor reported that he had no monthly income and that he was  
9 unemployed. He also reported only \$200 per month in expenses.  
10 He listed on the SOFA the unlawful detainer action and the  
11 foreclosure of the Tracy residence.

12 On the petition date, the bankruptcy court issued an order  
13 to file a status report and to attend the status conference set  
14 for December 1, 2010 ("status conference order"). The status  
15 conference order required the debtor to serve the status  
16 conference order on the parties listed therein by November 12,  
17 2010. It further required the debtor to serve the status report  
18 on these same parties by November 19, 2010.

19 Specifically, the status conference order set forth the  
20 following language:

21 **Service of this Order.** The debtor shall serve this  
22 order by the date stated above [i.e., November 12,  
23 2010] upon the following persons: (1) the United States  
24 trustee; (2) the holders of the 20 largest unsecured  
25 claims, excluding insiders; (3) all general partners,  
26 limited partners, or shareholders of the debtor;  
27 (4) all holders of secured claims; (5) all parties to  
28 executory contracts and unexpired leases; and (6) all  
parties that request special notice. If any of the  
foregoing persons is represented by an attorney known  
to the debtor, the attorney shall also be served with  
this order. The debtor shall file a proof of service  
no later than three court days after service of this  
order.

1       **Service of the Status Report.** The debtor shall, by the  
2       date set forth above [i.e., November 19, 2010], file a  
3       status report and serve it on the same persons served  
4       with this order.

5       **Sanctions for Failure to Comply.** Failure to comply  
6       with this order may result in sanctions, including  
7       dismissal, conversion, or the appointment of a trustee.  
8       Filing a status report with perfunctory conclusions and  
9       no meaningful factual detail does not comply with this  
10      order. The court expects to receive sufficient  
11      information to understand the current status of the  
12      case, the debtor's anticipated plan of reorganization,  
13      and the types of contested matters and adversary  
14      proceedings that will likely be filed. With this  
15      information the court may set the deadlines described  
16      below [e.g., date for filing the plan and disclosure  
17      statement].

18      The debtor filed a status report on November 22, 2010  
19      ("initial status report"),<sup>7</sup> and an amended status report  
20      ("amended status report") on November 30, 2010. The debtor  
21      included certificates of service in both status reports,  
22      indicating that he mailed copies of the initial status report and  
23      the amended status report to the United States Trustee ("UST").  
24      He did not list any other parties on the certificates of service.  
25      The debtor did not file with the bankruptcy court separate  
26      certificates of service for either status report.

27      At the status conference, the bankruptcy court noted that  
28      the debtor seemingly neither served the status conference order  
29      nor the amended status report properly. The debtor informed the  
30      bankruptcy court that he had "personally mailed" a copy of the  
31      status report to the UST and to the one unsecured creditor.

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32      <sup>7</sup> Neither the debtor nor BNY included a copy of the debtor's  
33      initial status report in the record on appeal. We obtained a  
34      copy of the initial status report from the bankruptcy court's  
35      electronic docket (main case docket no. 12). See supra n.6.

1 The bankruptcy court noted that, after "look[ing] at [the  
2 debtor's schedules and [SOFA]," the debtor listed only one  
3 unsecured creditor with a claim "for a little over \$500." Tr. of  
4 December 1, 2010 hr'g, 2:22-24. The debtor's schedules, the  
5 bankruptcy court continued, "show[ed] virtually no income, very  
6 little expenses." Tr. of December 1, 2010 hr'g, 3:2-3.

7 The bankruptcy court informed the debtor that it was  
8 "convinced that [the chapter 11 case was] not a viable  
9 reorganization." Tr. of December 1, 2010 hr'g, 4:2-3. The  
10 bankruptcy court advised the debtor that it intended to dismiss  
11 his second chapter 11 case sua sponte because it "did not know  
12 what the intent [was] behind [the chapter 11 case]." Tr. of  
13 December 1, 2010 hr'g, 3:18-19.

14 The debtor explained that he filed for bankruptcy to  
15 "discharge [his] creditors." Tr. of December 1, 2010 hr'g, 3:5.  
16 He estimated that he had "about \$30,000 worth of creditors." Tr.  
17 of December 1, 2010 hr'g, 3:6.

18 When the bankruptcy court pointed out that the debtor did  
19 not list those debts in his bankruptcy schedules, the debtor  
20 explained that at the time he prepared his bankruptcy schedules,  
21 he "did not have the information." Tr. of December 1, 2010 hr'g,  
22 3:10. The debtor found "secondary information," however, upon  
23 the advice of the "trustee's office." Tr. of December 1, 2010  
24 hr'g, 3:11-12.

25 The bankruptcy court decided to dismiss the debtor's second  
26 chapter 11 case because:

27 [i]n light of the fact that [the debtor] filed  
28 schedules under penalty of perjury listing only one  
creditor, there is no mention about subsequent

1 additions or any other known creditors. The matrix  
2 that was filed lists only one creditor, [his Schedule  
3 I] shows virtually no income whatsoever and [his]  
4 expenses show that [he] go[es] into the red each month.  
5 All of those are factors that are taken into account  
6 when assessing the likelihood of a reorganization and  
7 [the bankruptcy court was] going to dismiss [the  
8 debtor's] case.

9 Tr. of December 1, 2010 hr'g, 4:5-14. The bankruptcy court  
10 entered a minute order dismissing the debtor's second chapter 11  
11 case ("dismissal order") on December 3, 2010.

12 Shortly after the bankruptcy court entered the dismissal  
13 order, the debtor amended the creditor matrix, list of 20 largest  
14 unsecured creditors, summary of schedules and Schedule F  
15 (collectively, "amended bankruptcy documents"). He reported in  
16 the amended summary of schedules \$340,340 in assets and  
17 \$45,844,788.90 in liabilities, all of which were unsecured  
18 claims. The debtor continued to assert \$0 monthly income and  
19 \$200 monthly expenses in the amended summary of schedules.

20 On December 13, 2010, the debtor filed a motion to  
21 reconsider the dismissal order.<sup>8</sup> The bankruptcy court held a

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22 <sup>8</sup> The debtor moved for reconsideration of the dismissal  
23 order under Civil Rule 59(e). Civil Rule 59(e) simply sets forth  
24 the time by which a party must file a motion to alter or amend a  
25 judgment. The debtor presumably meant to move for  
26 reconsideration under Civil Rule 59(a)(2), which provides, in  
27 relevant part: "After a nonjury trial, the court may, on motion  
28 for new trial, open the judgment if one has been entered, take  
additional testimony, amend findings of fact and conclusions of  
law or make new ones, and direct the entry of a new judgment."

The bankruptcy court apparently did not construe the  
debtor's motion to reconsider the dismissal order as one under  
Civil Rule 59(e). The bankruptcy court did not cite, however,  
the specific Civil Rule on which it based its ruling. After

(continued...)



1 hearing on the motion to reconsider the dismissal order on  
2 February 2, 2011.

3 At the hearing, the bankruptcy court informed the debtor  
4 that it had reviewed the amended bankruptcy documents. The  
5 bankruptcy court pointed out the inconsistencies in the  
6 bankruptcy documents filed in the first chapter 11 case and the  
7 second chapter 11 case. These inconsistencies led the bankruptcy  
8 court to believe that the debtor was "not being candid with  
9 [it]." Tr. of February 2, 2011 hr'g, 4:10-11. The bankruptcy  
10 court told the debtor that it "view[ed] this case and [his] prior  
11 case as not being filed in good faith." Tr. of February 2, 2011  
12 hr'g, 3:17-18.

13 The bankruptcy court noted that when the debtor filed his  
14 second chapter 11 case, he had filed his bankruptcy documents  
15 under penalty of perjury. If he knew that the bankruptcy  
16 documents were inaccurate, the debtor did not amend them, even  
17 though he had a month to do so. It was only after his second  
18 chapter 11 case was dismissed that the debtor filed "new  
19 schedules where [he] showed 35 or so creditors and over [\$45]  
20 million . . . in debt." Tr. of February 2, 2011 hr'g, 4:6-8.

21 Referring to the documents filed in the debtor's first  
22 chapter 11 case, the bankruptcy court pointed out that

23 the schedules and [SOFA] were virtually identical to  
24 the initial ones filed here: no assets other than \$350  
25 in cash, no income, no creditors other than \$590 to a

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26 <sup>8</sup>(...continued)

27 reviewing the bankruptcy court's findings, we surmise that the  
28 bankruptcy court construed the debtor's motion to reconsider the  
dismissal order as one under Civil Rule 60(b).

1 carpet cleaning business.

2 Tr. of February 2, 2011 hr'g, 4:15-18.

3 The debtor explained that when he filed his first chapter 11  
4 case, he "had no files, no records." Tr. of February 2, 2011  
5 hr'g, 4:21-22. He told the bankruptcy court that he had  
6 approximately \$40,000 in credit card debt, but was unable to  
7 "track down any of the documentation because it's all in the  
8 hands of [BNY's] attorneys and agents." Tr. of February 2, 2011  
9 hr'g, 6:5-7.

10 The debtor further explained that he was a federal archivist  
11 researcher with several clients whose files and records he held  
12 at the Tracy residence. The \$45 million in debt that the debtor  
13 scheduled related to certain clients who had claims against him  
14 arising from his possession of their files and records.

15 The debtor told the bankruptcy court that he filed his  
16 second chapter 11 case "to resolve claims that [he didn't]  
17 believe [he owed] everything [the creditors] claim [he] owe[d]." Tr. of February 2, 2011 hr'g, 7:23-24. He also sought to  
18 "liquidate claims of people that owe[d] [him] money." Tr. of  
19 February 2, 2011 hr'g, 7:24-25.

21 After listening to the debtor's explanations, the bankruptcy  
22 court denied the debtor's motion to reconsider the dismissal  
23 order on both procedural and substantive grounds. With respect  
24 to its procedural basis, the bankruptcy court found that the  
25 debtor only served the UST; he did not serve any creditors or  
26 other parties in interest as required under Rules 2002(a)(4) and  
27 9014. The debtor also failed to follow the local bankruptcy  
28 rules by filing the motion to reconsider the dismissal order and

1 the proof of service as a single document.

2 As to its substantive basis, the bankruptcy court found that  
3 the debtor did not give "weight to the requirement that schedules  
4 are filed under penalty of perjury," amending the schedules  
5 "based on what [was] advantageous to him." Tr. of February 2,  
6 2011 hr'g, 10:18-22. The bankruptcy court further found that the  
7 debtor did not file the second chapter 11 case in good faith,  
8 based on its review of the original and amended bankruptcy  
9 documents and the circumstances of the debtor's first chapter 11  
10 case.

11 On February 4, 2011, the bankruptcy court entered a minute  
12 order denying the debtor's motion to reconsider the dismissal  
13 order ("main case reconsideration order"). The debtor timely  
14 appealed the dismissal order and the main case reconsideration  
15 order.

16  
17 C. The debtor's adversary proceeding

18 While the debtor's second chapter 11 case was pending, on  
19 November 22, 2010, the debtor filed a notice of removal of the  
20 unlawful detainer action, initiating an adversary proceeding  
21 ("removed action")(adv. pro. case no. 10-02731).

22 BNY objected to the notice of removal. BNY contended that  
23 the bankruptcy court lacked subject matter jurisdiction because a  
24 judgment already had been entered against the debtor in the  
25 unlawful detainer action, which had not been appealed. BNY asked  
26 that the bankruptcy court either dismiss the removed action or  
27 remand the unlawful detainer action to the state court.

28 At the hearing on February 10, 2011, the bankruptcy court

1 noted that the debtor's second chapter 11 case had been  
2 dismissed. Counsel for BNY again contended that the bankruptcy  
3 court lacked subject matter jurisdiction over the removed action  
4 because there was no case or controversy before it, as the state  
5 court already had issued a final judgment against the debtor in  
6 the unlawful detainer action.

7 After hearing argument from the debtor and BNY, the  
8 bankruptcy court took the matter as submitted. Later that same  
9 day, the bankruptcy court entered an order remanding the unlawful  
10 detainer action to state court ("remand order"). The bankruptcy  
11 court reasoned that its jurisdiction over the removed action had  
12 been based on the debtor's underlying second chapter 11 case.  
13 Because the debtor's second chapter 11 case was dismissed, the  
14 bankruptcy court concluded that it no longer had jurisdiction  
15 over the removed action.

16 The debtor filed a motion to reconsider the remand order.<sup>9</sup>  
17 The debtor argued that, because his appeal of the dismissal order  
18 and the main case reconsideration order was pending, the remand  
19 order was premature.

20 The bankruptcy court denied the debtor's motion to  
21 reconsider the remand order on the ground that there were no new  
22 allegations or evidence supporting reconsideration. It found  
23 that the debtor's pending appeal of the dismissal order and the  
24 main case reconsideration order was not a basis for vacating the  
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26 <sup>9</sup> The debtor again moved for reconsideration under Civil  
27 Rule 59(e). The bankruptcy court did not construe the debtor's  
28 motion for reconsideration as one under Civil Rule 59(e), but as  
one under Civil Rule 60(b).

1 remand order. The bankruptcy court noted that even if it had not  
2 dismissed the debtor's underlying chapter 11 case, it would have  
3 remanded the removed action to state court.

4 On April 4, 2011, the bankruptcy court entered a minute  
5 order denying the debtor's motion to reconsider the remand order  
6 ("adversary proceeding reconsideration order"). The debtor  
7 timely appealed the remand order and the adversary proceeding  
8 reconsideration order.

9  
10 **JURISDICTION**

11 At the outset, BNY challenges our authority to review the  
12 bankruptcy court's remand order. BNY contends that, under  
13 28 U.S.C. § 1447(d), an appellate court cannot review a  
14 bankruptcy court's remand order if the remand order was based on  
15 lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

16 BNY seems to conflate the court of appeals and the  
17 bankruptcy appellate panel into one appellate court. 28 U.S.C.  
18 § 1452(b) provides:

19 The court to which such claim or cause of action is  
20 removed may remand such claim or cause of action on any  
21 equitable ground. An order entered under this  
22 subsection remanding a claim or cause of action, or a  
23 decision not to remand, is not reviewable by appeal or  
24 otherwise by the court of appeals under section 158(d),  
25 1291, or 1292 of this title or by the Supreme Court of  
26 the United States under section 1254 of this title.<sup>10</sup>

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24 <sup>10</sup> 28 U.S.C. § 1334(d) similarly provides, in relevant part:

25 (d) Any decision to abstain or not to abstain made  
26 under subsection (c)(other than a decision not to  
27 abstain in a proceeding described in subsection (c)(2))  
28 is not reviewable by appeal or otherwise by the court  
(continued...)

1 Contrary to BNY's contention, we have jurisdiction to review the  
2 bankruptcy court's remand order under 28 U.S.C. § 158(a) and (b).  
3 Only a district court or bankruptcy appellate panel may review a  
4 bankruptcy court's remand order under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334(d),  
5 1447(d) and 1452(b). It is further appellate review that is  
6 precluded. See Things Remembered, Inc. v. Petrarca, 516 U.S.  
7 124, 129 (1995); McCarthy v. Prince (In re McCarthy), 230 B.R.  
8 414, 417 (9th Cir. BAP 1999).

9 The bankruptcy court had jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.  
10 §§ 1334 and 157(b)(1). We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.  
11 § 158.

### 12 13 **ISSUES**

14 (1) Did the bankruptcy court abuse its discretion in  
15 dismissing the debtor's second chapter 11 case?

16 (2) Did the bankruptcy court abuse its discretion in  
17 remanding the unlawful detainer action to the state court?

18 (3) Did the bankruptcy court abuse its discretion in denying  
19 the debtor's motion to reconsider the dismissal order and motion  
20 to reconsider the remand order?

### 21 22 **STANDARDS OF REVIEW**

23 "We review de novo whether the cause for dismissal of a  
24 chapter 11 case under 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b) is within the  
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26 <sup>10</sup>(...continued)

27 of appeals under section 158(d), 1291, or 1292 of this  
28 title or by the Supreme Court of the United States  
under section 1254 of this title . . . .

1 contemplation of that section of the Code." Marsch v. Marsch  
2 (In re Marsch), 36 F.3d 825, 828 (9th Cir. 1994). We review for  
3 abuse of discretion the bankruptcy court's decision to dismiss a  
4 case as a bad faith filing. Id. We review a finding of bad  
5 faith for clear error. Id.

6 We review the bankruptcy court's remand order for abuse of  
7 discretion. United Nat'l Ins. Co. v. R&D Latex Corp., 242 F.3d  
8 1102, 1111-12 (9th Cir. 2001). See also McCarthy, 230 B.R. at  
9 416 ("Decisions to remand under 28 U.S.C. § 1452(b) are committed  
10 to the sound discretion of the bankruptcy judge and are reviewed  
11 for abuse of discretion."). We also review the bankruptcy  
12 court's denial of a motion for reconsideration for abuse of  
13 discretion. Weiner v. Perry, Settles & Lawson, Inc. (In re  
14 Weiner), 161 F.3d 1216, 1217 (9th Cir. 1998).

15 We follow a two-part test to determine objectively whether  
16 the bankruptcy court abused its discretion. United States v.  
17 Hinkson, 585 F.3d 1247, 1261-62 (9th Cir. 2009)(en banc). First,  
18 we "determine de novo whether the bankruptcy court identified the  
19 correct legal rule to apply to the relief requested." Id.  
20 Second, we examine the bankruptcy court's factual findings under  
21 the clearly erroneous standard. Id. at 1262 & n.20. We must  
22 affirm the bankruptcy court's factual findings unless those  
23 findings are "(1) 'illogical,' (2) 'implausible,' or (3) without  
24 'support in inferences that may be drawn from the facts in the  
25 record.'" Id.

26 We may affirm on any ground supported by the record. Shanks  
27 v. Dressel, 540 F.3d 1082, 1086 (9th Cir. 2008).

1 DISCUSSION

2 A. Dismissal of the second chapter 11 case

3 The debtor argues on appeal that the bankruptcy court should  
4 not have dismissed his second chapter 11 case simply because he  
5 is not "engaged in business." The debtor contends that any  
6 individual residing in the United States may file a chapter 11  
7 petition, regardless of whether he or she operates a business.

8 The debtor seems to misapprehend the basis of the bankruptcy  
9 court's dismissal. The bankruptcy court did not dismiss the  
10 debtor's second chapter 11 case because the debtor was not  
11 engaged in business or a business entity. Based on the  
12 circumstances of the debtor's second chapter 11 case, the  
13 bankruptcy court found sufficient cause to dismiss it: an  
14 apparent inability to reorganize and ultimately, the debtor's  
15 lack of good faith in filing the second chapter 11 case.

16 The bankruptcy court may dismiss a chapter 11 case for cause  
17 under § 1112(b). Marsch v. Marsch (In re Marsch), 36 F.3d at  
18 829. Lack of good faith in filing a chapter 11 petition  
19 constitutes cause for dismissal. Id. "The existence of good  
20 faith depends on an amalgam of factors and not upon a specific  
21 fact." Id. (quoting In re Arnold, 806 F.2d 937, 939 (9th Cir.  
22 1986))(quotation marks omitted). The bankruptcy court considers  
23 the following circumstantial factors in determining whether the  
24 chapter 11 case was not filed in good faith:

- 25 (1) the debtor has only one asset
- 26 (2) the secured creditors' lien encumbers that asset
- 27 (3) there are generally no employees except for the principals
- 28 (4) there is little or no cash flow, and no available sources of income to sustain a plan of reorganization or to make adequate protection payments
- (5) there are few, if any, unsecured creditors whose claims are



- 1 relatively small  
2 (6) there are allegations of wrongdoing by the debtor or its  
3 principals  
4 (7) the debtor is afflicted with the "new debtor syndrome" in  
5 which a one-asset equity has been created or revitalized on  
6 the eve of foreclosure to isolate the insolvent property and  
7 its creditors  
8 (8) bankruptcy offers the only possibility of forestalling loss  
9 of the property

10 Stolrow v. Stolrow's, Inc. (In re Stolrow's Inc.), 84 B.R. 167,  
11 171 (9th Cir. BAP 1988)(citing In re Hulse, 66 B.R. 681, 682-83  
12 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. 1986)).

13 Thoroughly reviewing the debtor's original bankruptcy  
14 documents, the bankruptcy court found that the debtor could not  
15 possibly propose a viable chapter 11 plan as he had essentially  
16 no income and was unemployed. It also found that the debtor  
17 listed only one small unsecured claim in the amount of \$590.

18 After the debtor filed the amended bankruptcy documents, the  
19 bankruptcy court further found that the debtor did not file the  
20 chapter 11 case in good faith. The bankruptcy court found that  
21 the debtor had few assets: "\$340 in cash and old clothing of no  
22 value" and "'possession of property,' an interest" in the Tracy  
23 residence. The bankruptcy court determined that the debtor had  
24 no income and was unemployed. The bankruptcy court further found  
25 that, despite filing his amended bankruptcy documents under  
26 penalty of perjury, the debtor was not candid in disclosing  
27 information in his amended bankruptcy documents.

28 Given the information the debtor provided in his original  
and amended bankruptcy documents, the bankruptcy court's factual  
findings of apparent inability to reorganize his affairs and bad  
faith were not clearly erroneous. Contrary to the debtor's  
assertion, the bankruptcy court did not dismiss his second

1 chapter 11 case because he was not engaged in business. The  
2 bankruptcy court's findings establish sufficient cause for  
3 dismissal under § 1112(b). The bankruptcy court thus did not  
4 abuse its discretion in dismissing the debtor's second chapter 11  
5 case.

6 Alternatively, the bankruptcy court had authority to dismiss  
7 the debtor's second chapter 11 case for failure to comply with  
8 the status conference order. The debtor contends that he did not  
9 receive notice of the bankruptcy court's intent to dismiss his  
10 second chapter 11 case. However, the status conference order  
11 clearly warned the debtor that dismissal was a possible sanction  
12 if he did not comply with the status conference order. Among its  
13 requirements, the status conference order expressly charged the  
14 debtor to serve the status conference order and the status report  
15 on certain creditors. Otherwise, he was subject to sanctions,  
16 including dismissal of his second chapter 11 case.

17 The bankruptcy court found that the debtor had not served  
18 either the status conference order or the status report on all of  
19 the parties required in the status conference order. The debtor  
20 moreover received notice of the possible sanction of dismissal  
21 for failure to comply with the status conference order. The  
22 debtor even claims in his brief that the bankruptcy court "gave  
23 no notice or show cause as to [its] intent of the court reasoning  
24 to dismiss the case prior to the hearing or by Minute Order other  
25 than the notice of the Status Conference." Appellant's Opening  
26 Brief at 5 (emphasis added).

27 The bankruptcy court was authorized under the status  
28 conference order to dismiss the debtor's second chapter 11 case

1 when he failed to comply with the status conference order. See  
2 Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995)(per curiam)  
3 (“Failure to follow a district court’s local rules is a proper  
4 ground for dismissal.”). See also In re Tennant, 318 B.R. 860,  
5 869 (9th Cir. BAP 2004)(“The court can dismiss a case sua sponte  
6 under Section 105(a).”). The bankruptcy court thus did not abuse  
7 its discretion in dismissing the debtor’s second chapter 11 case.

8  
9 B. Remand of the unlawful detainer action

10 The debtor argues that the bankruptcy court, not the state  
11 court, had subject matter jurisdiction over the unlawful detainer  
12 action. Appellant’s Opening Brief at 10. He further seems to  
13 contend that federal law trumps state law in matters involving  
14 foreclosures of residences leased to tenants. Id. We disagree.

15 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b), the bankruptcy court has  
16 jurisdiction over any state action that is “related to” a  
17 bankruptcy case. A state court action is related to a bankruptcy  
18 case if the outcome of the state court action could conceivably  
19 have any effect on the estate being administered in bankruptcy.  
20 Great Western Sav. v. Gordon (In re Fietz), 852 F.2d 455, 457  
21 (9th Cir. 1988).

22 The dismissal of an underlying bankruptcy case does not  
23 automatically terminate the bankruptcy court’s jurisdiction over  
24 a related state court action. Carraher v. Morgan Elec., Inc.  
25 (In re Carraher), 971 F.2d 327, 328 (9th Cir. 1992). In deciding  
26 whether to retain jurisdiction over related state law actions,  
27 the bankruptcy court must consider economy, convenience, fairness  
28 and comity. Id.

1 A bankruptcy court may remand a claim or cause of action  
2 related to a bankruptcy case on any equitable ground under  
3 28 U.S.C. § 1452(b). "This 'any equitable ground' remand  
4 standard is an unusually broad grant of authority. It subsumes  
5 and reaches beyond all of the reasons for remand under  
6 nonbankruptcy removal statutes." McCarthy, 230 B.R. at 417. The  
7 bankruptcy court may consider any of the following factors in  
8 determining whether to remand to the state court the claim or  
9 cause of action concerned:

- 10 (1) the effect or lack thereof on the efficient  
11 administration of the estate if the Court recommends  
[remand or] abstention;
- 12 (2) extent to which state law issues predominate over  
bankruptcy issues;
- 13 (3) difficult or unsettled nature of applicable law;
- 14 (4) presence of related proceeding commenced in state  
court or other nonbankruptcy proceeding;
- 15 (5) jurisdictional basis, if any, other than § 1334;
- 16 (6) degree of relatedness or remoteness of proceeding  
to main bankruptcy case;
- 17 (7) the substance rather than the form of an asserted  
core proceeding;
- 18 (8) the feasibility of severing state law claims from  
core bankruptcy matters to allow judgments to be  
19 entered in state court with enforcement left to the  
bankruptcy court;
- 20 (9) the burden on the bankruptcy court's docket;
- 21 (10) the likelihood that the commencement of the  
proceeding in bankruptcy court involves forum shopping  
by one of the parties;
- 22 (11) the existence of a right to a jury trial;
- 23 (12) the presence in the proceeding of nondebtor  
parties;
- 24 (13) comity; and
- 25 (14) the possibility of prejudice to other parties in  
the action.

26 Nilsen v. Neilson (In re Cedar Funding, Inc.), 419 B.R. 807, 821  
27 n.18 (9th Cir. BAP 2009). The decision to remand is within the  
28 sound discretion of the bankruptcy court. McCarthy, 230 B.R. at  
417.

As we noted earlier, dismissal of an underlying bankruptcy

1 case does not automatically terminate a bankruptcy court's  
2 jurisdiction over a removed state court action. The bankruptcy  
3 court here nonetheless remanded the unlawful detainer action due  
4 to the dismissal of the debtor's second chapter 11 case. The  
5 bankruptcy court neither specified an "equitable ground" for  
6 remanding nor specifically considered any of the factors  
7 enumerated in Cedar Funding, Inc.

8 But because the "question [to remand] is committed to the  
9 sound discretion of the bankruptcy judge," McCarthy, 230 B.R. at  
10 417, we only need to look for abuse of discretion in our review  
11 of the record. We must affirm if we can find any appropriate  
12 basis supporting the bankruptcy court's decision to remand. See  
13 id. at 417-18.

14 Based on our review of the record, there are ample grounds  
15 justifying the bankruptcy court's decision to remand the unlawful  
16 detainer action to state court. The unlawful detainer action  
17 involved state law issues only, which the state court was fully  
18 competent to resolve. Moreover, the state court already had  
19 entered a final judgment against the debtor (a fact never  
20 contradicted by the debtor) - there apparently were no issues for  
21 the bankruptcy court left to adjudicate. The bankruptcy court  
22 thus did not abuse its discretion in remanding the unlawful  
23 detainer action to the state court.

24  
25 C. Motions to reconsider

26 1. Motion to reconsider the dismissal order

27 The debtor moved for reconsideration of the dismissal order  
28 and the remand order under Civil Rule 59(e). The bankruptcy

1 court apparently treated both motions to reconsider as being  
2 brought under Civil Rule 60(b). The bankruptcy court did not  
3 specify which subsection of Civil Rule 60(b) it applied in  
4 denying the motion to reconsider the dismissal order. However,  
5 we presume that the bankruptcy court considered it under Civil  
6 Rule 60(b)(6), as none of the other subsections of Civil Rule  
7 60(b) appear to apply.<sup>11</sup>

8 A party may bring a motion for reconsideration under Civil  
9 Rule 60(b)(6) if he or she can show any reason not otherwise  
10 specified in Civil Rule 60(b) justifying relief from operation of  
11 the order or judgment. However, judgments seldom are set aside  
12 under Rule 60(b)(6). Zurich Am. Ins. Co. v. Int'l Fibercom, Inc.  
13 (In re Int'l Fibercom, Inc.), 503 F.3d 933, 941 (9th Cir. 2007).  
14 "Rather, Rule 60(b)(6) should be used sparingly as an equitable  
15 remedy to prevent manifest injustice and is to be utilized only  
16

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17  
18 <sup>11</sup> Civil Rule 60(b) provides: On motion and just terms, the  
19 court may relieve a party or its legal representative from a  
20 final judgment, order, or proceeding for the following reasons:

- 21 (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable  
22 neglect;  
23 (2) newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable  
24 diligence, could not have been discovered in time to  
25 move for a new trial under [Civil] Rule 59(b);  
26 (3) fraud (whether previously called intrinsic or  
27 extrinsic), misrepresentation, or misconduct by an  
28 opposing party;  
(4) the judgment is void;  
(5) the judgment has been satisfied, released or  
discharged; it is based on an earlier judgment that has  
been reversed or vacated; or applying it prospectively  
is no longer equitable; or  
(6) any other reason that justifies relief.

1 where extraordinary circumstances prevented a party from taking  
2 timely action to prevent or correct an erroneous judgment." Id.  
3 (quoting United States v. Washington, 394 F.3d 1152, 1157 (9th  
4 Cir. 2005))(internal quotation marks omitted). The moving party  
5 therefore must show injury and uncontrollable circumstances that  
6 prevented him or her from proceeding with the action in a proper  
7 fashion. Id.

8 The debtor did not give in his motion for reconsideration  
9 any reason justifying relief from the bankruptcy court's  
10 dismissal order. With respect to the dismissal order, the  
11 bankruptcy court determined that the debtor had no apparent  
12 ability to reorganize and further found that the debtor did not  
13 file his second chapter 11 case in good faith in light of his  
14 inaccurate bankruptcy documents. The debtor did not show how he  
15 was prevented from preparing his bankruptcy documents to reflect  
16 accurate information.

17 The debtor informed the bankruptcy court that he was unable  
18 to track down any documentation concerning his liabilities.  
19 Still, the debtor apparently was aware of his liabilities, which  
20 he could have disclosed in his bankruptcy documents. Moreover,  
21 as the bankruptcy court pointed out, the debtor had a month in  
22 which to amend the bankruptcy documents.

23 None of these circumstances were so extraordinary as to  
24 prevent the debtor from taking steps to prevent dismissal of his  
25 second chapter 11 case (i.e., amending his bankruptcy documents  
26 to include accurate information). As noted by the bankruptcy  
27 court, he should have prepared his schedules accurately the first  
28 time if he took seriously the requirement to verify their

1 accuracy under penalty of perjury. The bankruptcy court did not  
2 abuse its discretion in denying the debtor's motion to reconsider  
3 the dismissal order.

4  
5 2. Motion to reconsider the remand order

6 The bankruptcy court found that the debtor failed to present  
7 any new evidence supporting reconsideration of the remand order.  
8 Under Civil Rule 60(b)(2), a bankruptcy court may relieve a party  
9 from a final judgment or order on the ground of "newly discovered  
10 evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been  
11 discovered in time to move for a new trial under [Civil] Rule  
12 59(b)."

13 Evidence is newly discovered within the meaning of Civil  
14 Rule 60(b)(2) if: (1) the moving party can show the evidence  
15 relied on indeed constitutes newly discovered evidence; (2) the  
16 moving party used due diligence to discover this evidence; and  
17 (3) the newly discovered evidence must be of "such magnitude that  
18 production of it earlier would have been likely to change the  
19 disposition of the case." Feature Realty, Inc. v. City of  
20 Spokane, 331 F.3d 1082, 1093 (9th Cir. 2003).

21 The debtor here did not establish any of these factors.  
22 Instead, he merely argued that the remand order was premature  
23 because his appeal of the dismissal order and the main case  
24 reconsideration order was pending. This reason does not justify  
25 relief from the remand order. The bankruptcy court did not abuse  
26 its discretion in denying the debtor's motion to reconsider the  
27 remand order.



1 **CONCLUSION**

2 Based on our review of the record, we conclude that the  
3 bankruptcy court did not abuse its discretion in dismissing the  
4 debtor's second chapter 11 case and in remanding the unlawful  
5 detainer action to state court. We also determine that the  
6 bankruptcy court did not abuse its discretion in denying the  
7 debtor's motions to reconsider the dismissal order and remand  
8 order. Accordingly, we AFFIRM.

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