

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION**

IN RE: CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EL PASO, DEBTOR¹	§ § § § §	CASE NO. 26-30311-CGB CHAPTER 11
---	-----------------------	---

**NOTICE OF DESIGNATION AS COMPLEX
CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY CASE**

TO THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER G. BRADLEY,
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

This bankruptcy case was filed on March 6, 2026. The undersigned party in interest believes that this case qualifies as a complex Chapter 11 case because:

 X The debtor has total debt of more than \$10 million;

 X There are more than 50 parties in interest in this case;

 Claims against the debtor and/or equity interests in the debtor are publicly traded;

 X Other: This case is the first Catholic Diocese Chapter 11 case in Texas. It involves complex legal issues regarding liability, insurance and the interaction of canon law with the Bankruptcy Code. The known creditor body holds unliquidated claims that could potentially greatly exceed the above debt amount. Further, the number of creditors holding such claims who have not come forward is unknown.

¹ The Diocese's address is 499 St. Matthews Street, El Paso, TX 79907. The last four digits of the Diocese's federal tax identification number are 0751.

Dated: March 6, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP

/s/ Lynn Hamilton Butler

Lynn Hamilton Butler (SBN 03527350)
Email: lynn.butler@huschblackwell.com
Tara T. LeDay (SBN 24106701)
Email: tara.leday@huschblackwell.com
Jennifer Pollan (SBN 24150828)
Email: jennifer.pollan@huschblackwell.com
111 Congress Avenue, Suite 1400
Austin, Texas 78701
Main No. (512) 472-5456
Fax No. (512) 479-1101

-and-

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP

Francis H. LoCoco, Esq. (TBN 24122830)
Email: frank.lococo@huschblackwell.com
511 North Broadway, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Telephone (414) 273-2100
Facsimile (414) 223-5000

**PROPOSED ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEBTOR
AND DEBTOR IN POSSESSION, CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF EL PASO**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on March 6, 2026, a true and correct copy of the forgoing document, together with all exhibits and attachments hereto, was filed with the Court and served to the parties on the attached service via the method indicated.

/s/ Lynn Hamilton Butler

Lynn Hamilton Butler

Secured Creditor

WestStar Bank
c/o James Brewer
KEMP SMITH LAW
221 N. Kansas, Suite 1700
El Paso TX 79901
Via Email: jim.brewer@kempsmith.com

Ad Hoc Committee

c/o Drew J. Glasnovich
STINSON LLP
50 South Sixth Street, Suite 2600
Minneapolis MN 55402
Via Email: drew.glasnovich@stinson.com

U.S. Trustee

Aubrey Thomas
Assistant United States Trustee
UNITED STATES TRUSTEE-REGION 7
615 E. Houston Street, Suite 533
San Antonio TX 78205
Via Fax: 210-472-4649

Texas Attorney General

Texas Office of the Attorney General
Bankruptcy & Collections Division
P.O. Box 12548
Austin TX 78711-2548
Via U.S. Mail

Top 20 Unsecured Creditors

GALLAGHER BASSETT SERVICES, INC.
Attn: Steve Puteki
15763 Collections Center Drive
Chicago IL 60693
Via Email: GB-AR-Mail@gbtpa.com

Gilberto Morales

c/o David M. Driscoll
AINSA HUTSON LLP
5809 Acacia Circle
El Paso TX 79912-4859
Via Email: info@ahhclawyers.com

Isaac Melendrez

c/o Margie A. Rutledge
Carey Bhalla
Carolyn M. Nichols
Roshanna K. Toya
ROTHSTEIN DONATELLI LLP
500 4th Street, N.W., Suite 400
Albuquerque NM 87102
Via Email: mrutledge@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: cbhalla@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: cnichols@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: rtoya@rothsteinlaw.com

John Doe “203”; Jane Doe “204”;

John Doe “206”; Jane Doe 208;

John Doe 209; John Doe 211;

John Doe 212; Jane Doe 214

c/o Levi A. Monagle
Shayne C. Huffman
Jason T. Wallace
HUFFMAN WALLACE & MONAGLE LLC
122 Wellesley Dr. SE
Albuquerque NM 87106
Via Email: office@hnmhw.law

-and-

c/o Ben Davis
Zackeree Kelin
Ellen Geske
DAVIS KELIN LAW FIRM, LLC
127 Bryn Mawr Drive, SE
Albuquerque NM 87106
Via Email: bdavis@daviskelin.com
Via Email: zkelin@daviskelin.com
Via Email: egeske@daviskelin.com

Jane Doe 1; Jane Doe 2; Jane Doe 3;

Jane Doe 4; Jane Doe 5

c/o Taylor E. Smith
Carolyn M. “Cammie” Nichols
ROTHSTEIN DONATELLI LLP
500 4th Street, N.W., Suite 400
Albuquerque NM 87102
Via Email: tsmith@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: cmnichols@rothsteinlaw.com

-and-

c/o Sam Fadduol
Christopher P. Winters
FADDUOL, CLUFF, HARDY &
CONAWAY, P.C.
3301 San Mateo Boulevard NE
Albuquerque NM 87107
Via Email: sfadduol@fchclaw.com
Via Email: cwinters@fchclaw.com

-and-

c/o Paul Linnenburger
Lane + Linnenburger + Lane LLP
P O Box 6622
Albuquerque NM 87197
Via Email: paul@attorneyslane.com

**John Doe 1; John Doe 2;
Leigh Messerer as Personal
Representative of John Doe 3**

c/o Taylor E. Smith
Carolyn M. "Cammie" Nichols
Carey Bhalla
Roshanna K. Toya
ROTHSTEIN DONATELLI LLP
500 4th Street, N.W., Suite 400
Albuquerque NM 87102
Via Email: tsmith@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: cmnichols@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: cbhalla@rothsteinlaw.com
Via Email: rtoya@rothsteinlaw.com

John Doe 210;
c/o Levi A. Monagle
Shayne C. Huffman
Jason T. Wallace
HUFFMAN WALLACE & MONAGLE LLC
122 Wellesley Dr. SE
Albuquerque NM 87106
Via Email: office@hnmhw.law

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION**

IN RE:

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EL PASO,

DEBTOR¹

§
§
§
§
§

CASE NO. 26-30311-CGB

CHAPTER 11

**ORDER GRANTING COMPLEX
CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY CASE TREATMENT**

This bankruptcy case was filed on March 6, 2026. A Notice of Designation as Complex Chapter 11 Case was filed. After review of the initial pleadings filed in this case, the Court concludes that this case appears to be a complex Chapter 11 case.

Accordingly, unless the Court orders otherwise,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Debtor shall maintain a service list identifying the parties that must be served whenever a motion or other pleading requires notice. Unless otherwise required by the Bankruptcy

¹ The Diocese's address is 499 St. Matthews Street, El Paso, TX 79907. The last four digits of the Diocese's federal tax identification number are 0751.

Code or Rules, notices of motions and other matters will be limited to the parties on the service list.

- a. The service list shall initially include the debtor, debtor's counsel, counsel for the unsecured creditors' committee, the U.S. trustee, all secured creditors, the 20 largest unsecured creditors of each debtor, any indenture trustee, and any party that requests notice;
- b. Any party in interest that wishes to receive notice, other than as listed on the service list, shall be added to the service list by filing and serving the debtor and debtor's counsel with a notice of appearance and request for service; and
- c. The initial service list shall be filed within 3 days after entry of this order. A revised list shall be filed 7 days after the initial service list is filed. The debtor shall update the service list and shall file a copy of the updated service list, (i) at least every 7 days during the first 30 days of the case; (ii) at least every 14 days during the next 60 days of the case; and (iii) at least every 30 days thereafter throughout the case.

2. [The Court sets _____ of [each week] [every other week, commencing [Month and Day] [each month] at ____ am/pm as the pre-set hearing day and time for hearing all motions and other matters in these cases.] The Court sets the following dates and times for the next two months as the pre-set hearing date and time for hearing all motions and other matters in these cases [insert dates and times]. Settings for the following months will be published by the Court no later than 30 days before the first hearing date in the said following months. (There may be exceptions;

those exceptions will be noted on the Court's internet schedule, available at www.txwb.uscourts.gov).

- a. All motions and other matters requiring hearing, but not requiring expedited or emergency hearing, shall be noticed for hearing, on the next hearing day that is at least 21 days after the notice is served. As a preface to each pleading, just below the case caption, in lieu of the language required by any Local Bankruptcy Rule, the pleading shall state:

A hearing will be conducted on this matter on _____ at ____ am/pm in courtroom , [courthouse name & address], Texas.

If you object to the relief requested, you must respond in writing, specifically answering each paragraph of this pleading. Unless otherwise directed by the court, you must file your response with the clerk of the bankruptcy court within 21 days from the date you were served with this pleading. You must serve a copy of your response on the person who sent you the notice; otherwise, the court may treat the pleading as unopposed and grant the relief requested.

- b. All motions and other matters requiring expedited or emergency hearing shall comply with the applicable Local Bankruptcy Rule(s) for explanation and verification of the need for emergency or expedited hearing. Specifically, if a party in interest has a situation that it believes requires consideration on less than 21 days' notice, then the party should file and serve a separate, written motion for expedited hearing, with respect to the underlying motion. The Court will make its best effort to rule on the motion for expedited or emergency hearing within 24 hours of the time it is presented. If the Court grants the motion for expedited or emergency hearing, the underlying motion will be set by the Courtroom Deputy at the next available pre-set hearing day or at some other appropriate shortened date approved by the Court. The party requesting the

hearing shall be responsible for providing proper notice in accordance with this order and the Bankruptcy Code and Rules.

- c. Not less than 24 hours before each of the pre-set hearing dates, the debtor shall file an agenda listing each matter set for hearing and indicating which of those matters are contested, which have been resolved, and which the parties will seek to continue to a later hearing date.

3. Emergency and expedited hearings (and other hearings in limited circumstances) in this case may be conducted by virtual means. Parties must request permission to participate virtually in accordance with the assigned Judge's procedures, which are available on the Court's website (<https://www.txwb.uscourts.gov/honorable-christopher-g-bradley-us-bankruptcy-judge>). The Court may, on its own motion and in its sole discretion, order that any hearing be conducted solely by virtual means. In such instances, parties need not seek permission to appear virtually. All "First Day" Hearings shall be conducted only by virtual means.

4. If a matter is properly noticed for hearing and the parties reach a settlement of the dispute before the final hearing, the parties may announce the settlement at the scheduled hearing. If the Court determines that the notice of the dispute and the hearing is adequate notice of the effects of the settlement, (i.e., that the terms of the settlement are not materially different from what parties in interest could have expected if the dispute were fully litigated) the Court may approve the settlement at the hearing without further notice of the terms of the settlement and without requiring a motion under FRBP 9019. Parties should notify the appropriate Courtroom Deputy as soon as practicable if a matter has been resolved consensually.

5. The debtor shall serve this order to all parties in interest within 7 days of the date of this order. If any party in interest, at any time, objects to the provisions of this order, that party

shall file a motion articulating the objection and the relief requested. After hearing the objection and any responses the Court may reconsider any part of this order and may grant relief, if appropriate.

#

The Clerk shall notice:

Debtor

Debtor's Counsel

U.S. Trustee