

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

In re:)
)
RYNE JOSEPH VITUG,) Case No. 25-13120
) Chapter 11 (Subchapter V)
Debtor.) Hon. David D. Cleary
)
)

**DEBTOR'S STATUS REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 1188(c)**

Ryne Joseph Vitug, debtor and debtor-in-possession (the “Debtor”), pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1188(c), hereby provides the following status report:

1. On August 26, 2025 (the “Petition Date”), the Debtor filed a voluntary petition under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).
2. On August 28, 2025, Ira Bodenstein was appointed as the subchapter V trustee in the above-captioned case.
3. The Debtor is an Illinois attorney who operated a “side hustle” arranging travel and entertainment for his colleagues and contacts (“Vitug Travel”). Over time, many of the arrangements either did not come through or cost more than anticipated, resulting in losses to the Debtor. For arrangements that did not come through, the Debtor sometimes reimbursed money to his customers. When arrangements cost more than anticipated, the Debtor sometimes absorbed the increased costs. This proved unsustainable.
4. Understandably, many claimants have clamored for refunds of amounts paid to the Debtor or reimbursements for often much larger amounts of money spent in obtaining alternative travel and entertainment. The Debtor and a number of his family members face a deluge of

communications on a daily basis, in some cases including apparent or explicit threats of physical, legal, or reputational harm.

5. Moreover, as a result of complaints by claimants, his employment as an in-house attorney at a large commercial insurance company was terminated earlier this year. The Debtor sought unemployment compensation benefits, but that application was denied. The Debtor has appealed the denial of unemployment compensation benefits, and that appeal remains pending.

6. As a result, the Debtor faces claims exceeding \$1 million that he cannot afford to repay at this time. Accordingly, the Debtor filed this case both to obtain protection from his creditors and to use the tools provided by subchapter V to repay as much as possible to his creditors, in an equitable fashion, from his salary, wages, and any other available assets over time.

7. To assist him in addressing these circumstances, the Debtor applied to this Court for the approval of employment of special counsel pursuant to section 327(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. On September 24, 2025, this Court entered its *Order Granting Debtor's Application to Employ Robinson Stewart, Montgomery & Doppke LLC as Special Counsel* [Docket No. 34]. On October 1, 2025, this Court entered its *Order Granting Debtor's Application to Employ Goodman Tovrov Hardy & Johnson LLC as Special Counsel* [Docket No. 41]

8. On the Debtor's motion, this Court entered its *Order (I) Setting Deadlines for Filing Proofs of Claim and (II) Approving the Manner and Sufficiency of Notice* on September 24, 2025 [Docket No. 29]. That Order established November 17, 2025, as the deadline for submitting general unsecured claims and February 23, 2026, as the deadline for governmental units to submit claims.

9. Based on the foregoing circumstances, on the Court's own motion pursuant to section 1188(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Court entered an order extending the time for the

status conference required by section 1188(a) of the Bankruptcy Code to December 10, 2024, at 10 a.m.

10. On November 24, 2025, the Debtor filed his chapter 11 plan (the “Plan”).

11. On November 25, 2025, after examining the Debtor at sessions of the meeting of creditors convened pursuant to section 341(a) of the Bankruptcy Code on October 1, 2025, and November 21, 2025, the United States Trustee concluded the meeting of creditors.

12. Since the Petition Date, the Debtor has undertaken and will undertake to attain a consensual plan. The Debtor has proposed a Plan with two classes of unsecured claims. One class consists of Holders of Travel & Entertainment Claims (as defined in the Plan). The other class consists of Holders of Loan Claims (as defined in the Plan), which include the Debtor’s parents and two close friends of the Debtor’s family.

13. The Debtor proposes to treat the class of Loan Claims less favorably by requiring that Holders of Travel & Entertainment Claims recover ten (10) percent of their Allowed Claims before the Holders of Loan Claims receive any Distributions. This proposed treatment serves both as a means of providing that the Holders of Travel & Entertainment Claims receive a meaningful recovery under the Plan and to avoid any suggestion that the Debtor’s family or those close to the Debtor’s family receive Distributions that render the Plan inequitable to the Debtor’s other creditors.

14. The Debtor acknowledges that the Plan will not succeed unless he can obtain meaningful employment. Toward that end, the Debtor is engaged full-time in a job search. At this time, the Debtor has numerous interviews scheduled and expects to have a series of subsequent interviews with prospective employers in the coming weeks.

15. The Debtor looks forward to addressing any questions or concerns of the Court at the status conference.

Dated: November 26, 2025
Chicago, Illinois

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID CHRISTIAN ATTORNEYS LLC

/s/David Christian

David Christian (IL #6274704)
105 W. Madison St., Suite 2300
Chicago, IL 60602
312-282-5282
dchristian@dca.law

PROPOSED COUNSEL FOR DEBTOR

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, David Christian, hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing *Debtor's Status Report Pursuant to Section 1188(c)* electronically via the Court's CM/ECF system.

/s/David Christian

David Christian