

OCT 11 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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In re: ) Chapter 7  
AGUSTIN RENTERIA, ) No. 4-05-bk-03016-JMM  
 )  
 ) **MEMORANDUM DECISION**  
Debtor. ) (Opinion to Post)

Before the court is a challenge to a document preparer's fee of \$200. The court-appointed Trustee has challenged the fee as unreasonable, and has gone one step further: he has asked this court to re-think whether the rationale for the \$200 fee in *In re Kassa*, 198 B.R. (Bankr. Ariz. 1996), *aff'd* 232 B.R. 822 (9th Cir. BAP 1999) is still valid.

Viewing this case only, and reviewing what the document preparer did in it, the court must conclude that the \$200 fee charged by her is excessive and unreasonable. It would not seem to have required more than three to four hours to meet with a debtor and organize and type in the information onto the schedules and checklists filed in this case.

The document preparer did not attach a statement showing the exact amount of time spent on this case. Accordingly, the court will allow \$20 per hour for a three-hour commitment, and authorize a fee of \$60 to the document preparer for this case.

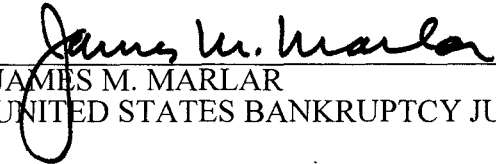
The points made by the Trustee, in his brief, regarding the cost and time-saving measures now available to document preparers through software and the court's electronic filing innovations are persuasive. It seems apparent that efficient petition preparers can cut their time--and rates--in order to benefit the consumer-debtor.

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The petition preparer, Jan C. Rust, shall be awarded a fee of \$60.

A separate order will issue.

DATED: October 11, 2005.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES M. MARLAR  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

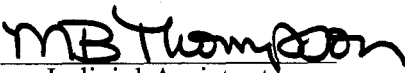
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day of October, 2005, upon:

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By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judicial Assistant