

THE BANKRUPTCY COURT LIAISON COMMITTEE AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER

Statement regarding the Committee and Newsletter

The Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee was formed to promote communications about court procedures, etiquette, filings and other issues; to assist the Court and attorneys in creating a more efficient environment; and to represent a diverse group of bankruptcy attorneys from the Chicago area. Additionally, the Committee members develop, participate in and support educational programs concerning issues affecting the bench, attorneys, financial institutions and consumers, including providing support for the local CARE Program. The Committee also organizes and sponsors social events to allow greater interaction between the Court and the attorneys who appear before it. The Committee provides an opportunity to relay issues, concerns or ideas to the Committee – anonymously – through any of the Committee Members. The information will then be presented to the Bankruptcy Judges for their review and consideration.

This is the second Newsletter posted by the Committee. The Committee is circulating the Newsletter so that members of the Bar are aware of the types of topics that are discussed at the Committee meetings, and can offer their input regarding the same. If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee Members. Contact information for the Committee Members can be found on the Court's website through the link to the [Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee](#). Please submit your comments or questions to the Committee Members, and not to Judges who are invitees of the Committee.

Court Call -- Suggestions

In its continuing efforts to act as an effective bridge between the Court and the Bar, the Committee plans to conduct a town hall style meeting to discuss daily court call procedures. The purpose of this meeting will be to seek constructive input from the Bar on possible ways to make management and attendance at daily court calls more efficient and to report this feedback back to the Court. Details on the scheduling of the meeting will be announced at a later date. To make the meeting as efficient as possible, we would like you to share your ideas with the Committee ahead of time so that they can be organized, presented and discussed at the meeting with as little confusion as possible. Please note that the difficulty and the amount of work involved in implementing ideas should be considered, and not just the convenience of particular members of the Bar. If you would like to share your ideas or if you have any questions, please contact one of the members of the Committee.

New Volunteer Panel Members

The Court has formed a panel of volunteer attorneys to represent indigent parties on a *pro bono* basis in discrete adversary proceedings and contested matters. The program is administered by the Court with support and assistance from the Committee and the Chicago Bar Association Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee. Judges of the Court are responsible for identifying matters in which a party (generally a debtor but occasionally a creditor) appears to qualify and would benefit from representation. When a suitable matter is identified, the Judge notifies the Clerk of the Court. The Clerk then contacts a panel member to obtain representation. The program is limited strictly to representation in adversary proceedings and contested matters. No panel member is expected to file a bankruptcy case, complete schedules and similar forms, or attend a meeting of creditors. The program is also voluntary. Panel members are never required to accept representation in a particular matter and may decline a request for representation because of a conflict of interest or for any other reason. The panel is looking for new volunteers and a separate letter regarding this will be distributed shortly. Attorneys may join the panel by completing and submitting to the Clerk's office the questionnaire found under the [Volunteer Attorney Panel](#) link on the Court's website.

Adjustments to Dollar Amounts in Some Provisions of the Bankruptcy Code

As you are probably aware, on April 1, 2010, adjustments to the dollar amounts stated in various provisions of the Bankruptcy Code and one provision in Title 28 of the United States Code have become effective. The amended dollar amounts apply to cases filed on or after April 1, 2010. One notable adjustment is to debt limit amounts under 11 U.S.C. 109(e) for individuals filing Chapter 13 bankruptcy. The limit for noncontingent, liquidated, unsecured debts is being raised to \$360,475.00, and the limit for noncontingent, liquidated, secured debts is being raised to \$1,081,400.00. Complete details regarding the adjustments can be found on the following link:
<http://www.kywb.uscourts.gov/fpweb/pdf/Adjustments-to-Dollar-Amounts.pdf>

Motions to Redact Personal Information under Rule 9037(A) of F.R.B.P.

This is a reminder that the Court has amended its procedures for motions to redact personal information under Rule 9037(A). A motion to redact personal information should now be filed without a notice of motion and without serving other parties. The motion must be accompanied by a redacted version of the filed document and a proposed order requiring the clerk to substitute the redacted document for the unredacted document. The Judge should rule on the

motion as soon as possible without holding a hearing unless there appears to be a reason to deny the motion, in which case the Judge should set the matter for hearing with the movant as soon as possible. Any registrant or limited registrant may file a motion to redact.

Chapter 7 Trustees' Preferences for Section 341 Meeting of Creditors Documents

One concern that members of the Bar have expressed to the Committee is finding out the methods whereby each Chapter 7 Trustee prefers to receive documents from Debtors' attorneys for the Section 341 Meeting of Creditors. The Committee discussed the issue, and has decided to put together a list of every Chapter 7 Trustee and his or her preferences for obtaining the documents. The list is now posted on the Bankruptcy Court's website under the [US Trustee/Chapter 13 Trustees/Chapter 7 Trustees](#) link. The Committee hopes that members of the Bar will find the information helpful. Should any questions arise about the information, please contact the individual Trustee.

Required Use of Standardized Proposed Order Form, beginning November 1, 2010

As you may have heard by now, the Court has adopted a mechanism, using a fillable order form, to expedite the processing of motions and orders. Beginning November 1, 2010, there will be a requirement to use the standardized order form for any proposed order. You will be required to submit a draft order using the court mandated fillable form which will result in an order that the court will be able to edit and approve when needed. More information, as well as the downloadable order form, can be found in the [Announcements](#) section of the Court's website.