

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MAINE**

Administrative Procedures for Telephonic Participation in Hearings

Commencing with hearings scheduled on or after March 14, 2007, the Bankruptcy Court will conduct all hearings as “in court” hearings on regularly scheduled motion days. Any party has the option to telephonically participate in these hearings, subject to the procedures set forth below. Telephonic appearances must be conducted through a commercial vendor approved by the Court (the “Vendor”). Parties appearing on specially set or emergency telephonic hearings may, but are not required to, use the Vendor.

I. Exceptions to Permitted Telephonic Appearances

These procedures do not apply:

- to hearings involving pro se debtors;
- if counsel will be examining witnesses;
- if counsel is the proponent of a Chapter 11 disclosure statement or plan; or
- if counsel is directed by the court to appear personally.

II. Requirements prior to hearing

All parties appearing telephonically must use the services of the Vendor. Participants in telephonic hearings will each pay the Vendor directly. There is no cost to the Bankruptcy Court for telephonic hearings.

Parties wishing to participate telephonically in a hearing must contact the Vendor no later than 5:00 p.m. on the business day prior to the hearing and provide the following information:

- court date and time;
- name of judge;
- case name and number;
- name and phone number of the attorney/party appearing.

III. Conduct of Hearings

To ensure the quality of the record, the use of digital speaker phones, or any phones in public places, is prohibited. The use of cell phones is permitted only with prior approval of the court.

Each time you speak, you must identify yourself for the record. If an individual schedules a telephonic appearance and then fails to respond to the calendar call, the court may pass the matter or may treat the failure to respond as a failure to appear.

IV. ~~A.1~~ Telephonic Appearance Privileges

The court views these procedures as a privilege for the convenience of the parties. Abuses of these procedures may result in cancellation of the privileges of offending parties.