

MINUTES

United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine Local Rules Committee Meeting March 9, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mr. Hull (Chair), Chief Judge Cary, Mr. Wholly, Ms. Doil, Ms. Economy, Mr. Sleeper, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Crosman, Mr. Molleur, Mr. Anderson and Ms. Bigley

Observers: Ms. Dye

Absent: Mr. Morrell

1. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.** With no comments and all in favor of approval, the minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting were approved. The minutes will be posted to the Court's website.
2. **Chair Announcements.** No official announcements but Mr. Hull noted that there is a new piece of legislation – LD 737 – which is proposed to amend Maine's exempt property list.
3. **Clerk's Office Announcements/Updates.** Ms. Bigley announced that she is working with the Judges on plans to safely open both courthouses. Once the courthouses are opened, both telephonic and in-person participation will be available on hearing days.
4. **Review of Local Rules for Consistency/Cross-References/Updating.** Chief Judge Cary announced that the subcommittee met, developed a key to conform the rules, and has scheduled the next meeting.
5. **Pretrial Process and Forms.** New Local Rules 7016-1 and 7026-1 together with the forms of Rule 26(f) Report and the Pretrial Scheduling Order were approved by the Committee. Those proposed Local Rules and accompanying forms will be posted on the Court's website for a 30-day comment period. The new rules and forms will be presented to the bar.
6. **ECF Administrative Procedures on Electronic Signatures.** The Administrative Procedures for Filing, Signing, Maintaining, and Verifying Pleadings and Other Documents in the Electronic Case Filing (ECF) System ("ECF Administrative Procedures") were published in March 2011 and are undergoing a review and update. The Committee conferenced about potential adjustments to the process for securing "wet" signatures under ECF Administrative Procedures. The Clerk and the Court will consider proposed language and update the ECF Administrative Procedures as they deem appropriate.
7. **Rule 3002.1 – Notice Relating to Claims Secured by Security Interest in Debtor's Principal Residence – Subcommittee Formation.** With some minor changes, new Local Rule 3002.1-1 was approved, and new Local Rule 3002.1-1 will be posted to the Court's website for a comment period of 30 days.
8. **Conforming Amendment to Local Rule 2002-1.** The proposed change to our Local Rule is the result of an amendment to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(h) (effective December 2020).

Revised language will be circulated in advance of the next meeting by Mr. Hull and Ms. Dye and item will stay on the agenda.

9. **New Business/Matters/Issues.**

A. A member of the Bar contacted Mr. Hull to discuss whether the Local Rules Committee had any interest in developing a standard form for Subchapter V status reports. There was general discussion in the Committee, and it was agreed that the idea should be explored more deeply. Mr. Hull will reach out to the Subchapter V Trustees to get their comments and, if it may be helpful, form a subcommittee to get additional input. This topic will be added to the next agenda.

B. Ms. Doil would like to discuss adding motions to LR 9013-1(d)(1) “Relief Requested Without a Hearing.” This issue will be added to the next agenda.

10. **Scheduling Next Meeting.** May 18, 2021 at 10:00 am