

## MINUTES

### **United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine Local Rules Committee Meeting May 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

Absent: Ms. Dye (on behalf of Judge Fagone).

1. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.** With no comments and all in favor of approval, the minutes of March 20, 2020 were approved. The minutes will be posted to the Court's website.
2. **Chair Announcements.** Mr. Hull thanked all for their professionalism, flexibility and resilience during the on-going pandemic.
3. **Clerk's Office Announcements/Updates.** Chief Judge Cary announced the following:
  - After many years of great work and service, Alec Leddy, as of May 15, 2020, will no longer be serving as the Clerk of the Court. Deputy Clerk LePauloue will serve as Acting Clerk. Questions should be direct to Chief Judge Cary.
  - Comments on the existing chapter 13 plan form remain under consideration by Chief Judge Cary and Judge Fagone.
  - Local Rules 2007-1, 2018-1 and 9013-1(d) have been posted to the website for 30-day comment period and will then go to District Court for approval.
  - NEXTGEN. The anticipated transition to NEXTGEN in July 2020 has been changed as a result of the pandemic and Deputy Clerk LePauloue will provide an update on the new start date when one is available.
  - The Committee discussed the anticipated increase in bankruptcy filings resulting from the pandemic. The District of Maine appears to have sufficient staff to handle the anticipated increase, although the need for more IT staff will be examined. The Committee reported to Judge Cary that the telephonic process was working well, but video capabilities would provide some additional benefits.
4. **Review of Local Rules for Consistency/Cross-References/Updating.** Chief Judge Cary reported that this project is well underway. He also reported that the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules is in the process of revising the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure but that revisions will not be completed for several years.
5. **Compliance with Administrative Order Regarding Electronic Signatures.** (Mr. Morrell).

Further discussions were had regarding electronic signatures. Mr. Hull circulated a recent *ABI Journal* article on the subject. The Committee discussed and agreed that this issue is an important one which may warrant changes to the Local Rules. The Committee will do further research regarding how other courts are addressing the issue. Judge Cary and Mr. Hull will gather information from other Districts.

6. **New Business/Matters/Issues.**

**Rule 3002.1-1 Notice Relating to Claims Secured by Security Interest in the Debtor's Principal Residence**

Mr. Hull was contacted regarding a potential amendment to the Local Rules relating to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 3002.1. Mr. Hull will circulate the materials he was provided regarding this topic.

7. **Scheduling Next Meeting.** July 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.