

MINUTES

United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine Local Rules Committee Meeting September 21, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

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

Other Participants: Chief Judge Cary, Ms. Bigley

1. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.** The minutes from the July 20, 2021 meeting were approved. They will be posted to the Court's website.
2. **Chair Announcements.** Mr. Hull reported that the District Plenary Administrative Meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2021 and he will be providing a summary of the Committee's work to the group. He solicited input for matters to include in the summary.
3. **Clerk's Office Announcements/Updates.** Ms. Bigley reported the Judges have asked the Federal Judiciary Center to survey the members of the bar to provide feedback. Judge Cary's survey is scheduled to be sent out at the end of September and Judge Fagone's survey will be sent out in the middle of October. There will be a notice of this on the Court's website landing page. Judge Fagone will be chairing the Planning Committee for the October 2022 District of Maine Judicial Conference, with the expectation of an "in-person" conference at the Samoset. The Clerk asked for suggestions for bankruptcy topics that could be delivered to the Planning Committee.
4. **Review of Local Rules for Consistency/Cross-References/Updating.** Mr. Hull thanked the subcommittee for all its work. Judge Cary reports the subcommittee should be through the "6,000s" and "7,000s" soon and a red-lined version of the complete proposed changes will be circulated inside the subcommittee within 30 days or so. The subcommittee will consider an efficient way for the Committee to review and approve the new changes and make a recommendation at the next meeting.
5. **New Chapter 11 MORs and Post-Confirmation Quarterly Reports.** Mr. Morrell reported that the glitches with the forms stem from the use of different versions of Adobe and the program's inability to harvest the data from certain versions. Currently, because the caseload is small, Ms. Gaudrault is handling any issues on an "one-on-one" basis. The Committee will continue to communicate to the bar that the Office of the United States Trustee remains available for training and to answer any questions regarding the new forms and practice. Ms. Bigley will check with Judge Fagone to see if there is an opportunity for Mr. Morrell to address attendees at the District of Maine Judicial Conference on this issue. Ms. Doil asked if a future Maine Bankruptcy Section of the Bar Association CLE session is another opportunity to present on this topic. This item will come off the agenda.
6. **Addition of motions for D. Me. LBR 9013-1(d)(1).** Mr. Hull thanked Ms. Bigley for her assistance sending an email regarding this item to the bar. The Committee will wait to make any recommendations on adjustments to D. Me. LBR 9013-1(d)(1) until it is considering the

proposed “comprehensive” changes to the local rules.

7. **Reply Briefs D. Me. LBR 9013-1 and 9013-2.** – Once the comment period for changes to LBR 9013-1 and 9013-2, the proposed changes will then go into effect and be posted on the Court’s website.
8. **New Business/Matters/Issues.** Judge Cary reported that the VLP/MSBA/USBC will be putting on an hour-long CLE titled Tools for Representing Indigent Bankruptcy Clients in Maine. It will be held on October 27, 2021 at noon via ZOOM. There is also a Pine Tree Legal Assistance Consumer Debt Defense CLE program. Participants will receive 2 CLE credits and, in return for the training, Pine Tree will ask participants to accept one pro-bono case.

Any new items you can call or email Mr. Hull.

9. **Scheduling Next Meeting.** December 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM.