

MINUTES
**United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of
Maine Local Rules Committee Meeting
November 12, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

Absent: Mr. Dudley, Ms. Economy, Ms. Dye (on behalf of Judge Fagone)

1. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.** Mr. Hull had circulated draft minutes from the September 17, 2019, including the Small Business of Reorganization Act (“**SBRA**”) summary that will be posted with those minutes. The minutes of September 17, 2019 were approved and will be posted to the website along with an announcement on the website concerning the SBRA summary.
2. **Chair Announcements.** Mr. Hull thanked all those who participated in the Maine State Bar Association Bankruptcy Program in Freeport.
3. **Clerk’s Office Announcements/Updates.**
 - NextGen was implemented by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine has begun the process and anticipates moving to NextGen in July of 2020.
 - After no comments were received, proposed revisions to Local Rules 3002-1 and 9045-1 were removed from the Court website and those revisions have been forwarded to the Judges for review.
4. **Federal Rule Revisions Effective Dec. 1, 2018 – FRBP 7005; 9014; 5005.**

After significant discussion regarding certificate of service practice, it was decided that this issue will not be pursued and will come off the Agenda.
5. **Review of Local Rules for Consistency/Cross-References/Updating.** – Progress has been made on the comprehensive updates to the Local Rules for consistency and cross-referencing. The Committee anticipates reviewing these proposed revisions soon.
6. **Small Business Reorganization Act (SBRA).** On February 19, 2020, the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019, P.L. 116-54 (SBRA), will go into effect – long before the normal three-year rules amendment process runs its course. As a temporary measure, the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules has drafted Interim Bankruptcy Rules that can be adopted by courts as local rules or by general order when the SBRA goes into effect. The Advisory Committee has also drafted amendments to the Official Forms to address the SBRA. The Advisory Committee states that “[b]ecause it is important that the new SBRA procedures be uniform, we hope that all courts will adopt the interim rules.” Adopting these interim rules locally may be done through a general order or the local rule process.

A subcommittee of Judge Cary, Jim Molleur, Steve Morrell, Sam Anderson and Nate Hull was formed in order to compare the proposed interim rules to the Local Rules to determine if any revisions to the Local Rules should be recommended to the Committee in connection with the anticipated implementation of the SBRA Interim Bankruptcy Rules.

7. **New Business/Matters/Issues.**

8. **Scheduling Next Meeting.**

January 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.