

MINUTES

**United States Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Maine
Local Rules Committee Meeting
December 12, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Sam Anderson, Kevin Crosman, Andrew Dudley, Allison Economy, Kellie Fisher, Nate Hull, Jim Molleur, Stephen Morrell, Tanya Sambatakos, Bruce Sleeper, and Jim Wholly.

Members Absent: Shawn Doil

Other Participants: Judge Cary, Judge Fagone, Monica Bigley, Ciera Dye

1. **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting.** The minutes from the August 2, 2023 meeting were approved.
2. **Chair Announcements.** The draft of the proposed revisions to the Local Rules had been posted on the Court's website for comment.
3. **Clerk's Office Announcements/Updates:** No announcements.
4. **Review of Local Rules for Consistency/Cross-References/Updating.**
 - Once review is completed today, the package will be submitted to the US District Court for approval by Judge Levy. The Committee anticipates that the updates will go into effect on January 1, 2024.
 - **General Discussion:**
 - It was noted that there are some issues that won't be caught in this revision but will be caught up with within the next calendar year.
 - **2002-1(a)(2)(A).** This was removed as it is addressed in the Federal Rules.
 - **2002-1(a)(4).** A committee member expressed concerns over the burdens associated with proposed noticing requirements. The committee agreed to remove the language "either filed a proof of claim or". This will be revisited in 2024.
 - **2002-1(a)(8) & (9).** In an effort to streamline the chapter 12 and chapter 13 notice of confirmation hearing processes, the language "and the hearing to consider" will be removed.
 - **2002-1(f)(12).** Eliminated due to redundancy.

- **2014-1(a).** Language of “Affidavit” has been changed to “Statement.”
- **2015-1.** Language to be updated to read “monthly operating reports and post-confirmation reports.” Title of the section to be updated to “Filing of Reports in Chapter 11.”
- **3002-1.** Subsection (a) deleted.
- **3003-1.** The changes here are primarily language changes. The goal was to use the Local Rules to fix the deadline.
- **3015-1(c).** Change “plan proponent” to “debtor or the movant, as applicable.”
- **4002-1.** This update adds the requirement of the certification on the official form.
- **6004-1.** Eliminated.
- **6007-1.** A Committee member requested that the noticing requirements of this section remain consistent with the existing Local Rules. The Judges will discuss this section further.
- **9001-1.** The definitions to be updated to properly reference the court names.
- **9010-1(a)(2).** Implements the requirement of a Motion for Admission Pro Hac Vice.
- **9010-1(d)(1).** Revised the last line to read “...and adversary proceedings to which the motion to withdraw applies.”
- **9010-1(d)(4).** Revised to eliminate the requirement that a party appear pro se after their attorney has withdrawn.
- **9013-2.** 9050 has been moved here.
- **9013-2(a)(1).** The language “necessary parties” will be updated to “interested parties.”
- **9013-2(a)(3).** This subsection will be enhanced to indicate that dispositive motions pertain to adversary proceedings only.
- **9027-1.** This section has been updated with new deadlines for removal actions. There were no issues raised by the Committee.
- **Global Revision:** Throughout the document, the references to appendices should be standardized to “Attached as Appendix ____.”

- A motion was presented to approve proposed changes, seconded, and approved by the Committee.
- Judge Fagone and Judge Cary both expressed their gratitude to the entire committee for their tremendous efforts with this project. Special thank you to Jim Molleur and Bruce Sleeper for agreeing to see this project through, despite their recent retirements.
- Judge Cary informed the committee that the court is looking to rescind and/or vacate the majority of the current Standing Orders. A new Standing Order will issue that carries forward three specific issues that will need to be addressed by the committee in the next calendar year.

5. **New Business/Matters/Issues.** None

6. **Scheduling Next Meeting.** February 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.