



THE BANKRUPTCY ADVISOR



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Local Rules Revision Deadline Extended

Due to a reduction in staff resulting from sequestration budget deficits combined with the intercession of a government shutdown, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie has authorized an extension of the Local Rules Committee deadline for the current revision cycle. It is hoped that the added time for review will allow the update to be more complete.

If you would like to share your input with the committee, please send all comments to William "Bill" Miller at billmillerlaw@gmail.com by January 31, 2014. A redline version of the Rules containing changes proposed thus far may be found on the Court's website at

www.flnb.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/local_rules/2013_draft_localrules_comment.pdf.

Permissive Use of Negative Notice List Updated

The "Permissive Use of Negative Notice" list has been updated to include these additional motions which may be filed on negative notice:

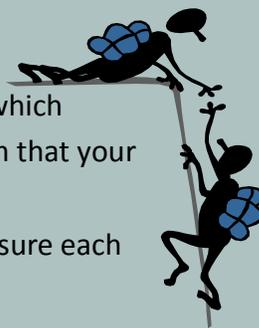
- Motion to Deem Mortgage Current
- Motion to Confirm Priority of Modified Mortgage
- Motion by Chapter 7 Trustee for Authority Interim Distribution to Creditors and Pay Administrative Expenses
- Motion Objecting to Discharge per Rule 4004(a) re Sect. 727(a)(8), (a)(9), or 1328(f)
- Motion to Offset Funds (filed by Trustee)
- Motion for Relief from Stay (*requires filer to agree to waive the 30-day hearing requirement*)

For a complete list of motions for which it is permissible to file on negative notice and in what chapters, please see [the Permissive Use of Negative Notice](#) list on our website.

HELP DESK HINTS... Proposed Order Upload Issues

The link to Submit a Proposed Order in CM/ECF will open a pop-up window through which the proposed order is to be submitted to the Court. Please check your settings to confirm that your browser will allow pop-ups before attempting to submit a proposed order.

If you have multiple toolbars installed (e.g., IE, Ask, Google, Yahoo, etc.), you must ensure each one is set to allow pop-up windows.



Deadlines to Submit Proposed Orders

Pursuant to Local Rule 9072-1 E., all orders are to be submitted **within three (3) business days after the date of the hearing or expiration of the response deadline** with the exception of proposed orders on negative notice motions with no objection, as noted below.

Rule 2002-2 C. (2) directs that the movant shall submit a proposed order **not later than fourteen (14) days after the expiration of the objection period** or the Court may enter an order denying the motion without prejudice for lack of prosecution.

Proposed orders may be submitted electronically at the time the motion is filed. The Case Administrator to whom the case is assigned will “hold” the proposed order until after the expiration of a response or objection deadline at which time it will be forwarded to Chambers for review.

Board Of Advisors

The next meeting of the FLNB Board of Advisors will be held January 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. ET/1:00 p.m. CT. Members of the Bar are encouraged to contact Board members directly or submit topic requests through the court’s website. Click [here](#) for a list of current Board members. The topic request form can be found [here](#).

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS 2013-2014

The Office of the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court will be closed on the following dates:

Tuesday, December 24 - Close at noon

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Wednesday, January 1 - New Year’s Day

Monday, January 20 - Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monday, February 17 - Washington’s Birthday (President’s Day)

We wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

The Clerk's Corner

By Traci Abrams, Clerk of Court



There has been a lot of news lately about the ineffectiveness of federal government employees. Unfortunately, this news has completely overshadowed federal organizations producing positive outcomes. As Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida (FLNB), it is my duty and privilege to express a counterpoint to these reports and to applaud the efforts of my staff which has worked so hard to keep our court operating and operating very well.

The Clerk's Office consists of three departments including Administration, Operations, and Systems & Operations Support (SOS). Our current goal is to focus on streamlining internal processes to allow us to better serve you. Several of these efforts and the people behind them are detailed below. Note that these are but a sampling of our current projects.

The FLNB Operations staff, led by Director of Court Operations Melissa McClure and including Lisa Davis, Janet Nah, Latonia Isom, Claire Bikowitz, Ne'Shoni Love-Beane, Carolyn Romine, Monica Broussard, and Ann Laritz, with the assistance of Julie Gibson, have embarked on a mission to reformat and update our internal procedural documents. The process will allow Melissa and her staff to identify inefficiencies, such as procedures once required that can now be discarded in order to save time. Melissa and Janet also work directly with Judge Specie and Julie Gibson to refine case management, scheduling or courtroom procedures.

Finance & Budget Administrator Donna Faircloth's role is integral to Operations in that, among other tasks, she ensures the payment of fees and brings fee issues to the attention of the Director of Court Operations or the judge. Bankruptcy fee payments are important to the federal Judiciary since they provide almost 80% of the Judiciary's non-appropriated funding. It was these funds that allowed us to remain in operational status during the recent government shutdown. Donna has also been instrumental in the process of migrating to a new financial management system developed by Virginia Eastern Bankruptcy and is considered a national subject area expert in financial systems and matters.

Our SOS department, under the direction of Chief Deputy Clerk Paul Neely, is hard at work on in-house (i.e., court developed) software implementation and maintenance aimed at improving or aiding the case management process. Paul is keenly interested in ensuring that all staff has the technology needed to perform their various roles and continuously reinforces this outlook when working with his staff. With the assistance of Melissa McClure, Julie Gibson and Bruce Justham are working towards the implementation of a chambers automation program called CHAP developed by the Utah Bankruptcy Court and used throughout the nation. In addition, Bruce routinely works with Operations staff and Julie to program, maintain and administer our automated case management assistance program called 5Alpha. This program was originally developed by Texas Northern but has been highly modified by Bruce to fit our needs. Finally, programmer Wade Feltman works with Julie and Melissa to develop Automated Docketing Interface (ADI)

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The Clerk's Corner (continued):

routines designed to automatically perform certain docketing in CM/ECF based on events that happen in a case. All routines are severely tested by Wade and Julie before being released into live operations within CM/ECF. To date, our court has 23 different ADI routines in place; the highest count in the nation.

One might wonder why we have placed such an emphasis on case management automation. The answer lies in our statistics. The Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) recently released a ranking of filings per judgeship for bankruptcy courts within each of the 94 judicial districts. The results for Florida Northern Bankruptcy were impressive. During the twelve month period ending June 30, 2013, our court ranked 29th in the nation for total filings per judge. Specifically, FLNB was ranked 66th in the nation for Chapter 13 filings, 21st in the nation for Chapter 7 filings, and a staggering 8th in the nation for Chapter 11 filings. These rankings translate into heavy judicial and administrative workloads.

For example, each Clerk's Office Case Administrator is currently responsible for monitoring case proceedings in an average of 693 cases at any one time. The concept is mindboggling to say the least considering that a majority of case management tasks require human eyes and human interactions. Fortunately, there are some routine tasks that can be automated which is the reason why the Operations-SOS team model is so important and so effective. Without this close relationship between technology and case management staff, I am certain that case processing delays would be encountered. It is my hope that the United States Congress and the Judicial Conference continue to recognize the unique systems-driven operational environment found in most, if not all, bankruptcy courts so that our successes may continue into fiscal 2015 and beyond.

I hope this glimpse into the Clerk's Office has provided you with a renewed perspective on our operations and technologies. Further, I hope I have left you with a sense that not all federal employees are the same. The effectiveness of any federal agency is predicated on its people and the cultural environment which has been fostered by organizational leaders. Leaders within the Third Branch of government have and will remain cognizant of this fact and will continue to allow individual courts to foster the positive, forward-looking local cultures which uniquely characterize the federal court system as a whole.

Statewide Summit on Residential Mortgage Modification Mediations

If you are a mediator, residential mortgage lender, creditor attorney, debtor attorney, Chapter 13 trustee, staff, or just interested in the programs developed to help parties modify residential mortgages, you may want to attend to discuss what is working well and why throughout Florida.

If you would like to attend or are interested in helping plan the Summit, please contact Laurie Weatherford at lauriew@ch13orl.com.

Date: February 27, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Where: Jury Assembly Room, U.S. District Court

First Floor, 401 West Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801

ECF Essentials

Withdrawal of Document via Paperless Entry Now Limited Use

Effective January 1, paperless withdrawals will be permitted only if the document is being withdrawn for one or more of the following reasons:

- ◇ Case closed
- ◇ Case style and/or party name(s) incorrect
- ◇ Objection to claim moot - Claim amended or withdrawn
- ◇ Document formatting errors
- ◇ Document not signed and/or dated
- ◇ Duplicate filing
- ◇ Failed to include Certificate of Service
- ◇ Filed in wrong case
- ◇ Filed incorrectly. Court required refileing.
- ◇ Incomplete/illegible PDF
- ◇ Incorrect PDF attached
- ◇ Matter resolved/no longer in dispute
- ◇ Scrivener's or typographical error
- ◇ To be amended
- ◇ To be refiled on negative notice
- ◇ Withdrawn per agreement or order

Withdrawal for reason(s) not listed above will require that you attach a pleading when filing.

NOTE: This event may not be used to withdraw a Proof of Claim or a Transfer of Claim.

Best Wishes to Martie Kantor

Congratulations to Martie Kantor on her retirement after more than three and a half decades of service to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida. Martie's last day will be January 3, 2014. Greetings and well wishes may be sent to Martie at 110 E. Park Ave., #100, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Lisa Murrill, currently the Judicial Assistant to Judge Margaret Mahoney in the Southern District of Alabama, will join us in the Northern District of Florida as Judicial Assistant to Judge Specie on January 27.



E-Filing of Proofs of Claims and Financial Management Certificates



We offer the ePOC and eFinMgt programs on our website for quick filing of a Proof of Claim or the debtor's financial management course certificate. The ePOC program is a webform which will create and file a Proof of Claim. The eFinMgt program is available to financial management course providers to file the debtor's certificate of completion. Use of these programs does not require a login to CM/ECF and will generate a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) to CM/ECF-users in the case. For more information, please visit our website:

www.flnb.uscourts.gov/online-filing#poc
www.flnb.uscourts.gov/online-filing/efincert

Academies, Conventions, Conferences, Seminars...

Please visit the websites of [The Florida Bar](http://www.flbar.org) and [The Florida Bar Business Section](http://www.flbar.org/business-section) for information on training and conference opportunities available to attorneys in Florida.

FLNB Resources

Rev. 12/2013

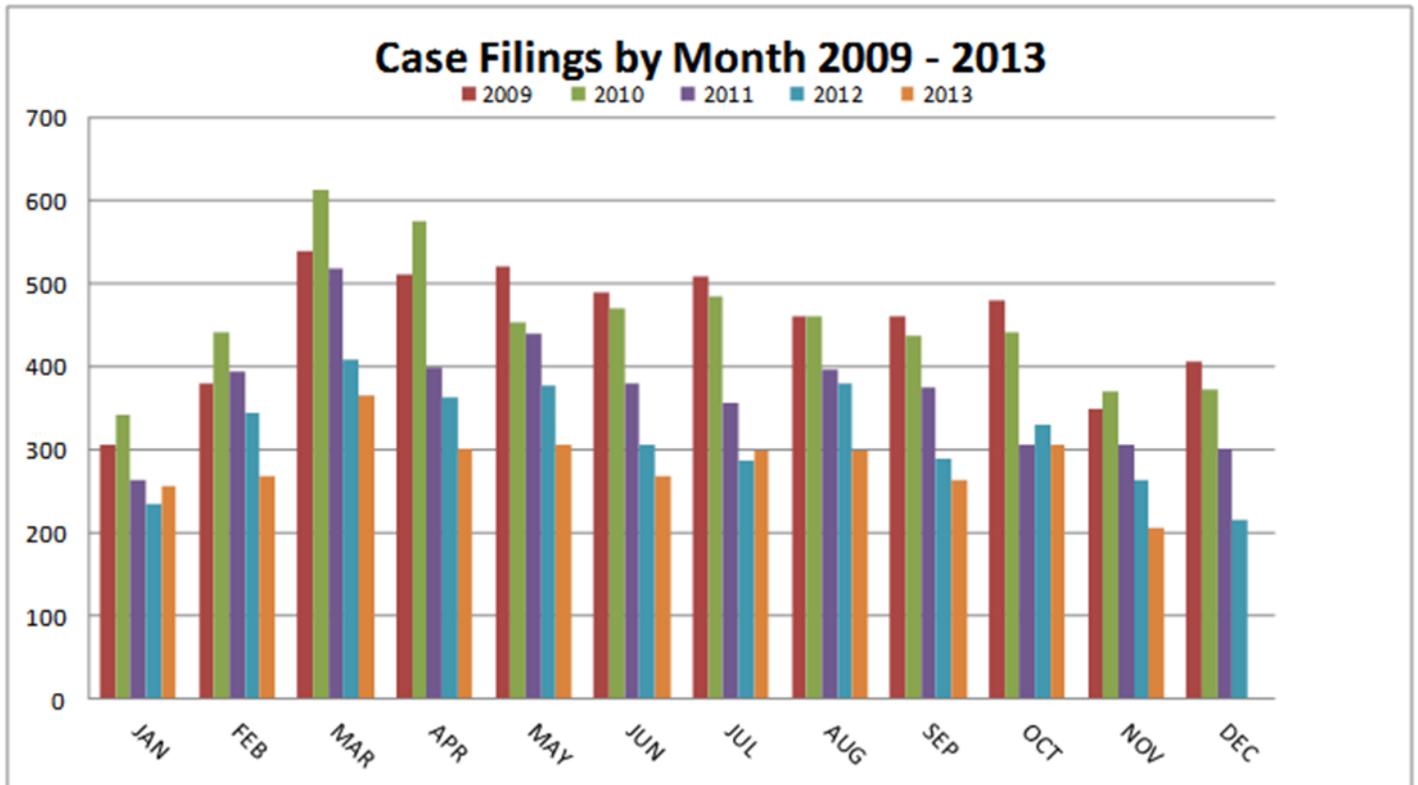
Cases in the Northern District of Florida are randomly assigned to Case Administrators throughout the district shortly after filing. The name of the Case Administrator to whom a particular case is assigned is located at the top of the docket report in CM/ECF.

Ann Laritz (850) 470-3060	Latonia Isom (850) 521-5012	Janet Nah Courtroom Deputy & Calendar Clerk (850) 521-5009	Ne'Shoni Love-Beane CM/ECF Login & Password (850) 521-5001 (866) 639-4615
Carolyn Romine (850) 470-3062	Lisa Davis (850) 521-5010	Melanie Lawrence (407) 237-8021 <i>for cases assigned to Judge Jennemann (FLMB) only</i>	Help Desk (850) 521-5001 (866) 765-1752
Claire Bikowitz (850) 521-5016	Monica Broussard (850) 470-3061		

The Clerk's Office phones are answered from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Please feel free to call the Case Administrators with your procedural questions. The Clerk's Office is not permitted to answer legal questions nor can they provide guidance as to the content or types of documents that may be required.

CMECF_HelpDesk@flnb.uscourts.gov

Please visit us on the web at www.flnb.uscourts.gov



The monthly filing and closing [statistics](#) for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida are posted to the Court Resources page of our website at www.flnb.uscourts.gov. Statistical information will be available by the 15th of each month.