

FLNB Board of Advisors Meeting Summary

January 14, 2014 – 2:00pm Eastern/1:00 pm Central
Tallahassee Division Bankruptcy Courthouse 2nd Floor Conference Room

Attendees

Traci Abrams (Summary), Bill Miller, Bob Bruner, Kathryn Hathaway, Tracy Strom, Steven Jurnovoy, Mary Beth Colón, and Jeffrey Dollinger

Updates re Old Business

Chapter 13 *Ad Hoc* Committee re Process Streamlining Effort

- The AO is developing a national, mandatory Ch. 13 Plan.
 - Latest September 2012 draft emailed to Board members.
 - Comments may be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USC-RULES-BK-2013-0001-0001>
 - The draft Plan form may be found within the draft amendment document located at <http://www.regulations.gov/contentStreamer?objectId=09000064813b2b48&disposition=attachment&contentType=pdf>
- Discussion re how to proceed with committee work from this point forward. The *ad hoc* committee will review the draft Chapter 13 Plan and will provide feedback through the above Website. All other items on the subcommittee's agenda will be tabled until after the Local Rules Committee has completed its work.

Local Rules Committee

- Consists of Bill Miller, Brian Rich, Rick Savage, Michael Moody, Jeff Childers, Karin Garvin, Roland Kiehn, and Sharon Sperling.
- Comment period reopened until 1/31/2014. The redlined draft version is available on the court's Website which has been redesigned as to that page to make the draft more accessible.
- Judge Specie's goals: 1) To receive an annotated draft with sections specifically marked for her review, approval and final decision; and 2) for the draft to include all desired yet feasible updates in order to extend the "life" of the revised Rules.
- Bill Miller will inform Traci Abrams of the Committee's future plans and deadlines.

FY2014 Budget Outlook

- The Judiciary received additional funding through the Continuing Resolution, and FLNB should receive full expected funding for the second half of the fiscal year. In addition to unexpected

funding for telephony costs, we are in good shape with no furloughs, buy-outs or early-outs planned during FY2014.

FY2015 Budget Outlook

- Overall FY2015 funding is unknown at this time except to say that at present it appears that we will suffer a further reduction in funding due to a Shared Administrative Services provision which will negatively impact our authorized work units (AWU) formula by approximately 4.72%. A court's AWU number is used as a multiplier when determining various budget allotments.

Brown Bag Luncheons

- Judge Specie had asked the Board to inquire of constituents to see if they are interested in participating in "brown bag" lunches. The lunches could be held at local restaurants or in a location that permits participants to bring their own lunch in various divisions on an occasional basis.
- Jeff Dollinger received a number of responses from the Gainesville division. A luncheon or possibly a brown bag "coffee and snack break" will be scheduled sometime after February 10, 2014.

New Business

2014 Newsletter Articles by Board Members

- Articles are encouraged and can be submitted at any time to Julie Gibson at Julie_Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov for publication in the subsequently scheduled newsletter.

Paralegal Seminar for 2014

- FLNB will not host a seminar during 2014 due to staffing and available planning time.
- Judge Specie has asked that Board members reach out to members of the Bar asking that a trustee Q&A session be included in the 2014 Bar Seminar agenda as that was the most popular portion of the court's last seminar. Trustees might be more amenable to participate on the panel if their seminar fee could be reduced.

Court Attorney Surveys

- The Clerk's Office will no longer publish this annual survey due to staff time constraints and low participation. Instead, surveys will be used on an as needed basis when the court is seeking feedback about a specific matter.

Clerk's Office and Chambers re Efficiencies

- Clerk's Office staffing - we have more work than employees or time. As a result, I have asked Operations staff to focus internally on updating, streamlining and codifying procedures in an effort to continue to provide excellent service to court customers.

- Systems and Operations Support (SOS) is working with Operations and Chambers to implement software called Chambers Automation Program (CHAP) as a means of creating additional efficiencies within Chambers and between Chambers and Operations.
- Judge Specie has asked the Clerk's Office to assist with the creation of template orders to be posted on the court's Website as a means of making proposed order submissions more accurate, consistent and easier for attorneys and their staff. If Board members have examples they have used in other districts, please provide copies or links to Traci Abrams.

Negative Notice List Updated

- Located at http://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/filing_requirements/negative_notice.pdf
- Revised on 12/13/2013 to include additional items.

CourtCall

- CourtCall works very efficiently for telephonic hearings, but is extremely sensitive to participants using cell phones or speaker phones. These introduce static on the line making the sound less clear for Judge Specie and other participants. For this reason, the use of cell phones and speaker phones is not permitted when participating by CourtCall.
- Judge Specie intends to have CourtCall identify, if possible, anyone using a cell phone rather than a land line. Please share this information with your colleagues.
- Bob Bruner noted that it is difficult to hear CourtCall participants while attending in the Tallahassee courtroom. Traci will inform IT staff of the problem to see if anything can be improved in regard to the court's sound system.

Digital Court Reporting

- The Clerk's Office will be implementing digital court reporting this fiscal year as a means of solving the problem of securing court reporters and cancelling court reporter reservations with limited notice.

New \$176 fee for Motion to Sell Free and Clear of Liens Under Section 363(f)

- Effective on December 1, 2013.
- Cannot be waived.

Martie Kantor's Retirement

- Judicial Assistant Martie Kantor retired on January 3, 2014. We are pleased to introduce Judge Specie's new JA, Lisa Murrill, who will begin on February 10, 2014. Ms. Murrill has worked as JA to Bankruptcy Judge Margaret Mahoney, ALSB, for the past eight years, and we are looking forward to having her join our court family.

Mortgage Modification Mediation Program

- Florida Southern Bankruptcy (FLSB) released a user survey covering all three Florida programs. Results were either favorable or inconclusive for FLNB as some of the comments submitted using the FLNB survey link pertained to FLMB's program.
- Survey results will be analyzed and a report provided to each district by FLSB.

Board Member Term Extensions

- The terms of all Board members except Mary Beth Colón expired as of December 31, 2013. All members agreed to extend their service through December 31, 2014, unless any other member of the Bar expressed interest.

Board Member Feedback and Open Forum

- No additional comments tendered.

Meeting Adjourned