

## LOCAL RULES REVISION PROJECT

- ▶ Judge Specie, her Law Clerks, Clerk's Office staff, and the attorney committee members have worked very hard on this revision project.
- ▶ Final Rule Revisions Currently Being Applied
- ▶ Committee Notes Added/Adjusted
- ▶ Once Draft Finalized – 30 Day Public Review Period Commences



Traci Abrams, Clerk of Court

**[Presenter: Traci Abrams, Clerk of Court]** I'd like to talk with you all about how the Local Rules revision cycle works and where we are in that cycle.

The Local Rules Committee is composed of attorney volunteers. Aided by Clerk's Office staff, committee members review the rules in detail and provide amendment recommendations to Chief Judge Specie.

Judge Specie and her Law Clerks also review the rules and create amendments. Amendments are consolidated into a single document for final committee review. We are at this stage of the process right now.

In addition to amended text, the committee is responsible for providing committee notes to explain revisions. Committee notes for this revision cycle have been drafted and will be adjusted as needed once the final review copy has been approved.

After the review process has been completed, the draft will be posted on the Court's website for a 30-day public comment period. All comments received by the Clerk's Office will be referred to the committee. The committee will recommend changes based on these comments to Judge Specie.

## LOCAL RULES REVISION PROJECT

- ▶ Finalized Rules Provided to Chief District Judge for Approval
- ▶ Rules Provided to Circuit Judicial Council for Approval
- ▶ Rules to be Hosted on Website Only (Cost Containment)
  - ▶ Initially as text PDF
  - ▶ Later as Searchable Web Text



The finalized rules are then sent to the Chief District Judge for approval.

Once approved, the Chief District Judge sends the document to the Circuit for Circuit Judicial Council Approval.

In years past, the approved Local Rules were printed and offered in booklet form. To contain costs and reduce waste, the revised Local Rules will only be available on the Court's website.

Initially, the format will be a text-searchable PDF. Later, the text will be searchable through the website's keyword search feature.

## LOCAL RULES REVISION PROJECT

- ▶ Four Types of Amendments:
  - ▶ **Text:** Substantive updates and clarification of existing language
  - ▶ **Formatting:** Standardized, renumbered, justification, Website references
  - ▶ **New Rules**
  - ▶ **Stricken Addendums:** Outdated or reiteration of District LR text



Four types of amendments appear in the latest working draft Local Rules including text, formatting, new rule text, and stricken addendums.

Text amendments represent substantive changes to a rule or clarification of existing text.

Formatting changes were required in order to have one standard format for the entire Local Rules document; something the current document does not have.

The committee also agreed to update the way in which the Court's website is referenced in various rules so that URLs do not become broken over time as web resources change names or locations.

New rules are self explanatory.

Existing addendums were stricken in some cases because they reiterated, verbatim, language found in the District Court Local Rules and/or contained outdated language.

## LOCAL RULES LINKS

- ▶ A Table Designed to Augment the Local Rules
- ▶ Will Contain Direct Links (URLs) to Related Resources Including Forms
- ▶ URLs Maintained by Clerk's Office Staff

Local Rule	Description	Website References
1001-1	Introduction and General Statement of Adoption and Application of Local Rules	N/A
1005-1	Petition - Caption	N/A
1006-1	Filing Fee	N/A
1007-1	Lists, Schedules, Statements, and Other Documents	<a href="http://www.flrb.uscourts.gov/forms">http://www.flrb.uscourts.gov/forms</a> <a href="#">Form LF-2 Corporate Ownership Statement</a> <a href="#">LF-16 Statement of No Employer Income</a> <a href="#">Form B 121 Your Statement About Your Social Security Numbers</a> <a href="#">Form B 201A Attachment to Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filings for Bankruptcy Under Chapter 11</a>



One change to help resolve the broken web link problem is the introduction of Local Rules Links. The Local Rules Links document cross references the Local Rules and provides the user with direct links to resources found on the Court's website such as forms and instructions.

This document will be made accessible from the Court's Home page along with the Local Rules. Links will be maintained by Clerk's Office staff.

## LOCAL RULES TEXT AND FORMAT UPDATES

Slides Available on Website Listing Local Rules by Number and Title

Categorized as "Text" and "Format" Changes

*Per the Latest Draft*

Changes are Not Yet Final

(Slides May Become Invalid)

Slides will be posted to the Court's website that list the Local Rules and their titles that have received either text or formatting updates per the latest draft. Note that the draft is still considered a "working draft" at this point. Thus, some of these slides may become invalid over time if additional changes are made.

Now, I'd like to introduce you to Janet Weems. Janet is the Courtroom Deputy to Judge Specie and your resource for courtroom questions.