

The Disclosure Statement

A publication of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Florida

Chapter 13 Debtor's Attorney Fee Increase

On November 16, 2023, Chief Judge Karen K. Specie signed Administrative Order [23-006](#) Increasing Presumptively Reasonable Debtor's Attorney Fees in Chapter 13 Cases, increasing the fee to a maximum of \$5000.00 and augmenting attorney fee requirements stated in [Standing Order No. 19](#) regarding Chapter 13 Attorneys Fees, Adequate Protection Payments, Annual Statements, Form Plan, and Tax Returns.

Changes to the Mandatory Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing Threshold

Effective December 1, 2023, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts ("AO") has designated any entity that has been sent 25 or more paper bankruptcy notices by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) in a single calendar month as a high-volume paper-notice recipient pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9036(b)(2)(B) (as amended effective December 1, 2021) (the "Rule"). The threshold number of paper notices that will cause a notice recipient to be designated as a high volume paper-notice recipient pursuant to the Rule will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted once a year, effective on December 1st of each year. See our website at <https://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/bnc-information> for more information.

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Holiday Closures

The Court will be closed
Monday, December 25, 2023 in
observance of Christmas Day
and Monday, January 1, 2024 in
observance of New Year's Day
pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 610.(b)
and/or Executive Order 11582,
February 11, 1971.

*Happy Holidays from our
family to yours.*

News & Views from the Bench
Honorable Karen K. Specie, Chief Bankruptcy Judge

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It is almost unbelievable that a new year is around the corner. On behalf of our entire Court, I wish each and every one of you, your families, and staff a happy and healthy holiday season, safe travels, and a wonderful beginning to the new year!

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS IN FLNB

Total case filings are up 22% for the 12-month period ending on November 30, 2023. Our percentage of pro se filings remains high, at 10%. Our Chapter 11 filings have increased by 100% over last year for the same period. This Court's number of weighted cases per authorized judgeship was higher, by far, than any other single judge bankruptcy court, and exceeded FLMB at the end of October.

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL

THE COURT IS GRATEFUL FOR ALL PRO BONO SERVICES BY ATTORNEYS

These attorneys have handled, or are handling, cases pro bono so far this year: Robert Bruner, India Footman, Kathryn Hathaway, Samantha Kelley, and Trey Wright.

These attorneys have volunteered for the RAP (Reaffirmation Assistance Program), sponsored by the NDFLBBA: Robert Bruner, Marybeth Colón, Jodi Dubose, Kevin Forsthoefel, Samantha Kelley, Scott Manion, Michael Niles, Brian Rich, Logan Sliva, Trey Wright, and Michael Wynn.

Please join me in thanking these attorneys! Every time an attorney donates his or her time to a case or debtor, it benefits the Court and each of you. Please volunteer for the Pro Bono Initiative, by calling 866-944-6421. For more information, visit: <https://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/ndflbba-pro-bono-initiative>.

VETERANS FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

I AM VERY PROUD OF AND GRATEFUL TO THE NDFLBBA! On December 9, 2023, the NDFLBBA, in partnership with the Florida Bar Business Law Section ("BLS"), presented a Veterans Financial Literacy Program in Pensacola, Florida. I gave the introductory remarks, followed by Hon. Gary L. Bergosh, Circuit Judge, First Judicial Circuit of Florida (Lt. Col. Ret., USMC), who spoke about the Escambia County Veterans Court, over which he presides. Veterans then heard from representatives of Navy Federal Credit Union and the United Way. Douglas A. Bates organized a "suit drive" with CareerSource Escarosa to benefit veterans in need of professional clothing for job interviews, etc. The following attorneys took time out of their busy schedules and away from their families to attend and provide services: Douglas A. Bates, Carrie Cromey, Sheree Lancaster, Logan Sliva, Travis Morock, Kristin Northrup, and Byron "Trey" Wright. The program was a great success. Special thanks to Clark Partington Pensacola for hosting this program, with refreshments, gifts for attendees, and several staff members to make all go smoothly. Thank you also to the NDFLBBA ad hoc committee members who worked tirelessly to make this event a success: Byron Wright, III, Travis M. Morock, Douglas A. Bates. We are excited about expanding this program in 2024 to include active military and their families.

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"Last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice." ~ T.S. Eliot

HEARING CALENDAR CHANGES & REMINDERS

CALENDAR CHANGES: To achieve our continuing goal to make the Court's hearing calendar more efficient for all, we expect to schedule routine hearings by chapter or case type, rather than on different days for each division. With some exceptions:

- Chapter 7 cases and adversary proceedings will be heard on Tuesday mornings; Chapter 11 cases will be heard Tuesday afternoons.
- Chapter 13 cases will be heard Wednesday mornings.
- Evidentiary hearings and trials will be scheduled on Thursdays.
- All hearings will be noticed in Eastern Time, regardless of the division.
- To facilitate accurate timekeeping for a mandatory Bankruptcy Case Weighting Study, between January 8 and March 17, 2024, expect all matters, including those filed on negative notice, to be heard.

REMINDERS:

- CHAPTER 11: Chapter 11 confirmation hearings - N.D. Fla. LBR 3018-1, requires the plan proponent to file a Chapter 11 Ballot Tabulation no later than three (3) days prior to the confirmation hearing. The Court may cancel and reschedule a confirmation hearing if the ballot tabulation is not filed timely.
- EXHIBITS for trials and evidentiary hearings: **describe each exhibit:**

WRONG

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT C

RIGHT

EXHIBIT A – Promissory Note

EXHIBIT B – Mortgage

EXHIBIT C – Assignment

N.D. Fla. LBR 9070-1 applies. Exhibits provided to the Court should be in a binder with tabs for each exhibit.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- **2024 Florida Bar Business Law Section (BLS) Winter Meeting** — January 17–18, 2024, Orlando, FL.
- **FSU Law Bankruptcy Symposium: Perspectives on Bankruptcy Law** — January 26, 2024, Room 208 of the main classroom building of Florida State University College of Law, 425 West Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EST). CLE credit will be available to attendees. The symposium will be immediately followed by a reception in the Rotunda of the same building where food and drinks will be served. All are invited. More information to be provided at: <https://www.fsubusinessreview.com>.
- **2024 Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar** — February 15–16, 2024, the Westin Tampa Waterside, Tampa, FL.


CELEBRATIONS-CONGRATULATIONS*



CELEBRATION: Please join us in congratulating **Kent Rosenbaum**, our Court's Systems Manager, and his wife, Nancy, on the adoption of their first child, a beautiful baby girl, Nora Evelyn Rosenbaum, born October 16, 2023. We are excited for Kent and Nancy as they begin the journey of parenthood and wish them well getting accustomed to sleep deprivation!

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News & Views from the Bench—continued from page 3

GRATITUDE: Lauren Green, the wife of our Court's Chief Deputy Clerk Travis Green, does tremendous work providing resources to students and families at Global Learning Academy, a Title 1 elementary school in Pensacola. Lauren works tirelessly as a social services School Navigator to offer or coordinate emergency food assistance, clothing, medical care, counseling, employment, and housing support services to families at risk. The items and services that Lauren provides are generally donated by individuals and community partners. Lauren recently worked with school leadership and the Escambia County school board to develop a cooperative agreement for donation of leftover school food items to Pensacola Caring Hearts Food Pantry. Lauren also serves the community as a member of the city-county Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, and she is on the Board of Directors for the Central Gulf Coast CDF Freedom School summer enrichment program. Lauren improves the lives of individual students, removes hurdles from their educational paths, and strengthens a community foundation for the next generation. Thank you, Lauren! Anyone wishing to donate items to help Global Learning Academy can contact Lauren at lauren.green@chsfl.org. 

**If you have a family or professional event or milestone that you would like to share, please submit a brief article (maximum 120 words) and photo (optional) to Julie Gibson at Julie.Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov. We will not publish information that we feel may create a personal safety issue for you or your family.*

Changes to Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule Effective December 1

The Judicial Conference approved inflationary adjustments to the following items on the Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule (28 U.S.C. § 1930) effective December 1, 2023:

Item No.	Description	New Fee Amount
1b	For reproducing and transmitting a copy of an electronic record stored outside the court's electronic case management system	\$33.00
2-A	Certification	\$12.00
2-B	Exemplification	\$24.00
3	For reproduction of an audio recording of a court proceeding	\$34.00
4	Amended Bankruptcy Schedules	\$34.00
5	Record Search	\$34.00
7	For filing any document that is not related to a pending case or proceeding	\$52.00
12-A	For retrieval of one box of records from a Federal Archives Center, National Archives, or other storage location removed from the place of business of the court	\$70.00
12-B	For retrievals involving multiple boxes	\$43.00
12-C	For electronic retrievals	\$11.00
14-B	Additional fee upon notice from the court of appeals that a direct appeal or direct cross-appeal has been authorized	\$307.00
19	For the filing of the following motions: - To terminate, annul, modify or condition the automatic stay; - To compel the abandonment of property of the estate; - To withdraw the reference of a case or proceeding; - To sell property of the estate free and clear of liens under [sec. 363(f)]	\$199.00
20	Claims Transfer	\$28.00
21	Motion to Redact	\$28.00

For a complete list of fees and fee amounts, visit our website at www.flnb.uscourts.gov/fees.

QC Cues

Quality Control Reminders from the Case Administrators

- You must include the names and email addresses of electronic notice recipients, if applicable, on your Certificates of Service.
- Add or modify secondary email recipients on your CM/ECF account *in CM/ECF* (not PACER) via Utilities > Maintain Your ECF Account > Email information. Changes to your account's primary email address are to be made through PACER. Please review your account regularly to confirm that all email addresses are current and valid.



Transcript Rate Increase and Transcript Categories Renamed

Effective October 1, 2023, transcript rates and the names of the transcript categories were changed by the Judicial Conference of the United States:

Transcripts	Original	First Copy to Each Party	Each Additional copy to the Same Party
30-Day Transcript (Ordinary)	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$0.70
14-Day Transcript	\$4.70	\$1.00	\$0.70
7-Day Transcript (Expedited)	\$5.35	\$1.00	\$0.70
3-Day Transcript	\$6.00	\$1.20	\$0.85
Next-Day Transcript (Daily)	\$6.70	\$1.35	\$1.00
2-Hour Transcript (Hourly)	\$8.00	\$1.35	\$1.00
Realtime Transcript	One feed, \$3.40 pdf page, two-to-four feeds, \$2.35 per page; five or more feeds, \$1.65 per page		

For more information and transcript descriptions, please see the [Federal Court Reporting Program](#) page of the website of the United States Courts.

To order a transcript from a case in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida, visit the new [Ordering Transcripts & Recordings](#) page of our website for information, instructions, and order forms.



Better Sound Quality During Hearings

Our IT team requests that you please direct your voice toward the microphone when speaking during court and that you speak clearly. When attending virtually, do not use a cell phone, if possible, and consider having a headset, earbuds, or similar device at hand in case your audio is not sufficient for you to hear the other participants or for the court and court reporter to hear and understand you.

Public Comment Period for Proposed Amendments to Rules and Official Forms

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedures has published for public comment the following proposed amendments to existing Rules, official bankruptcy forms, and a new Civil Rule:

- Appellate Rules 6 and 30
- Bankruptcy Rules 3002.1 and 8006
- Official Bankruptcy Forms 410, 410C13-M1, 410C13-M1R, 410C13-N, 410C13-NR, 410C13-M2, and 410C13-M2R
- Civil Rules 16, 26, and new Rule 16.1

The proposed amendments, supporting materials, and instructions to submit or review comments are available at <https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/proposed-amendments-published-public-comment>. The comment period is open from August 15, 2023—February 16, 2024.

Understanding Notations on the Matrix

When reviewing the Official Mailing Matrix produced in CM/ECF, take note of the following local and/or national notations and designations used by the system. These notations can help you reduce mailing costs and assist with determining recipients for limited mailing, when permitted.



- * The asterisk *before* a name indicates that the person has filed a Notice of Appearance or a Request for Notice in the case * John Smith
- + The plus sign *after* a name indicates that this person or entity will receive electronic notice of the filing (i.e., the NEF) John Smith +
- (p) The address provided on the matrix is the *preferred address* registered with the National Creditor Registration Service and was substituted for the address originally provided in the case. (p) ABC Bank
- (d) Duplicate. A single listing of creditors with the same name and address remain on the matrix with all duplicates designated as such at the end of the document. (d) ABC Bank

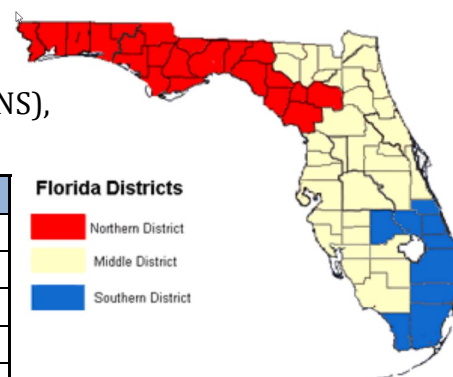


Brenda Lee, 79, became the oldest living person to have a song hit Billboard's "Hot 100" with "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" when it landed at No. 1 on the singles chart for the first time ever the week of December 5, 2023. The song was written by Johnny Marks and recorded by Lee in 1958 when she was 13 years old, taking it a whopping 65 years to climb the charts. The song has sold more than 25 million copies around the world, and is the fourth most downloaded Christmas single in digital sales.

See [NPR.org](https://www.npr.org) and [Billboard.com](https://www.billboard.com) for more information.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida 2023 Caseload Activity through November 30, 2023

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida is comprised of 23 counties in the panhandle and "big bend" region of the state, separated into four divisions: Gainesville (GVL), Pensacola (PNS), Tallahassee (TLH), and Panama City (PCY).



BK Case Openings	GVL	PNS	TLH	PCY	TOTAL
Ch 7	159	621	317	132	1229
Ch 11	6	18	16	5	45
Ch 12	0	0	0	0	0
Ch 13	57	222	142	60	481
Ch 15	0	0	0	0	0
Total	222	861	475	197	1755

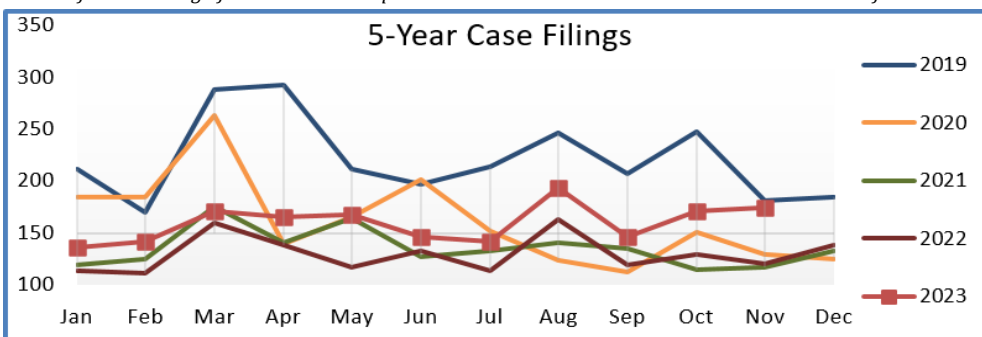
BK Activity	GVL	PNS	TLH	PCY	TOTAL
Reopenings	2	6	7	2	17
Split Cases	0	0	0	0	0
Interdistrict Transfer	1	0	3	1	5
Intradistrict Transfer*	0	1	0	0	1
Conversions	1	13	13	0	27
Stay Motions	34	99	87	40	260

BK Case Closings	GVL	PNS	TLH	PCY	TOTAL
Ch 7	141	586	268	128	1123
Ch 11	3	7	12	3	25
Ch 12	0	0	0	0	0
Ch 13	49	153	138	49	389
Ch 15	0	0	0	0	0
Total	193	746	418	180	1537

Adversary	GVL	PNS	TLH	PCY	TOTAL
Case Openings	6	14	10	6	36
Case Closings	3	10	8	3	24

Pro se Cases Filed:	GVL	PNS	TLH	PCY	Total
Ch 7	14	29	53	9	105
Ch 11	0	0	2	0	2
Ch 12	0	0	0	0	0
Ch 13	15	35	20	8	78
Ch 15	0	0	0	0	0
Total	29	64	75	17	185

*Transfers occurring after the case was opened in another division within the Northern District of Florida.



FLNB County	YTD
Alachua	156
Bay	97
Calhoun	12
Dixie	13
Escambia	487
Franklin	7
Gadsden	64
Gilchrist	15
Gulf	9
Holmes	14
Jackson	41
Jefferson	11
Lafayette	4
Leon	309
Levy	30
Liberty	10
Madison	10
Okaloosa	135
Santa Rosa	173
Taylor	12
Wakulla	50
Walton	66
Washington	22
Outside District	6
Outside Florida	3
Outside U.S.	0
Total Filings	1756
Gainesville Div.	221
Pensacola Div.	861
Tallahassee Div.	476
Panama City Div.	198



U.S. Bankruptcy Court Northern District of Florida

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie
Traci E. Abrams, Clerk of Court
110 East Park Avenue, Suite 100
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(850) 521-5001 / (866) 639-4615

Please direct questions or comments about this newsletter to Julie.Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov.

*"Be at war with your vices,
at peace with your neighbors,
and let every new year
find you a better man.
~ Benjamin Franklin*

Upcoming Federal Holidays

The Court and Clerk's Office will be closed on the dates listed below in observance of the following national holidays*:

December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	B'day of Martin Luther King, Jr.
February 19*	Washington's Birthday
May 27	Memorial Day
June 19	Juneteenth Nat'l Indep. Day
September 2	Labor Day
October 14	Columbus Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 28	Thanksgiving
December 25	Christmas Day

*Observance of a holiday that falls on a Saturday or Sunday pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 6103(b) and/or Exec. Ord. 11582, Feb. 11, 1971.

Contact Us

Audrey Thurman, Case Administrator (850) 470-3061
Carolyn Romine, Case Administrator (850) 470-3062
Janet Weems-Cainion, Courtroom Deputy & Calendar Clerk (850) 521-5009
Jestin Hawkins, Case Administrator (850) 521-5016
Latonia Isom, Operations Team Leader (850) 521-5012
Sloane Akinsanya, Case Administrator (850) 521-5010
Tammi Boswell, Director of Operations (850) 521-5011
Clerk's Office Main Line (850) 521-5001
Help Desk (850) 521-5001 or (866) 639-4615
Help Desk Email CMECF_HelpDesk@flnb.uscourts.gov

*Clerk's Office phones are answered 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays or other days the court is closed. Case Administrators may assist with procedural or CM/ECF questions only. **We are not permitted to answer legal questions or to provide guidance as to the content or types of documents that may be required.***