

INTRODUCTION TO 2022 LOCAL RULES CHANGES

Trevor A. Thompson, 2021 Cycle Chair

As Chair of the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Local Rules Committee (the “Committee”) for the 2021 revision cycle, I am pleased to introduce the 2022 proposed local rules for public comment. The Court will post a clean copy (“Clean Copy”) and a redline, *track-changes*, copy (“Comparison Document”). I strongly encourage you to read this letter before reviewing the proposed 2022 rules changes so you will understand the Comparison Document.

The Comparison Document is not a true *track-changes* document; it was generated using the “Compare” function of Microsoft Word, which compares two versions of a document and identifies the changes that it sees. While the “Compare” function does this in, as best as the Committee can tell, the least disruptive way possible, this function generates common issues of which the reader should be aware:

1. Occasionally, Word will put the number/letter heading in a different place in the Comparison Document than it appears in the Clean Copy.
2. Word sometimes interprets spacing, particularly in numbered lists, differently in the Comparison Document.
3. The Comparison Document does a good job identifying substantive changes; the Committee has not found any undisclosed material changes.

Because the Comparison Document occasionally shows changes in confusing ways, the reader should not rely exclusively on the Comparison Document. The Clean Copy is the definitive guide for all changes between the current proposed rules and the 2020 version published in March 2021.¹ The Committee recommends that readers consider temporarily alternating the Microsoft Word settings on their computer by using “Review,” “Track Changes,” and then switching between “all markup” and “no markup.” The following link provides an explanation of the “Track Changes” feature in Microsoft Word: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/track-changes-in-word-197ba630-0f5f-4a8e-9a77-3712475e806a>.²

If after using these suggestions you still have questions about the proposed 2022 local rules changes, please reach out to me or another committee member.

Sincerely,

Trevor A. Thompson

¹ The Committee has added comments after each rule change that appeared to need more explanation. These comments are intended to assist the reader in navigating the changes and are not exhaustive.

² In particular see the “Display changes and comments for specific reviewers” section, alternating between the “All Markup” and “No Markup.” Although the Committee is not aware of comparable resources for other software programs, it expects that most modern software capable of reading Word .docx files should be able to display the comparison.