

# FLNB Attorney Board of Advisors

## Meeting Summary for October 22, 2007

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*Attendees: Sherry Chancellor, Jason Egan, Jim Sorenson, Luke Adams, Bill Blevins and Kevin Davis. Sharon Sperling attended by telephone.*

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### 1. Follow-up from previous meeting.

- A. Improving communications. Several ideas were discussed as to how to get attorneys and creditors to maintain a current email address. Kevin noted that another court has written a script to electronically determine which email accounts are invalid and then send a hard copy notice to those account holders advising their ECF account may be suspended. Bill suggested we acquire the script to determine how many invalid addresses are attorney users versus creditor users. Sherry suggested we include a statement in the newsletter and that trustees distribute the information during 341 meetings. Sherry also noted that some attorneys have an email address on their pleadings but the email address is ignored or full. Sharon noted we could require by Standing Order that attorneys list a valid email address on pleadings. The idea of developing an attorney page for communication was also discussed.
- B. Modifying docket text. The idea of adding modifiers to the docket text is under review.
- C. SpeedClaims. Kevin noted that the feature was disabled on 7/27/07 and then reinstated in August. It was also noted that the feature is available with trustee access.
- D. HelpCenter. The new version of the HelpCenter is expected to be complete in March, 2008. The members discussed possible names for new and improved product. Some of the names preferred by members included CourtConnect, Easy Access, ACT and CasePoint. It was decided that several names would be posed to the bar as part of a larger survey expected later this year.
- E. Template and forms for routine orders. Kevin noted that a list of nine proposed forms has been developed and will be submitted to the ECF group for further consideration. The list includes those forms request by the Board members at the previous meeting.
- F. Orders on certain motions and objections. Kevin noted that the Order on Motion to Modify Plan is prepared by the Clerk's Office and the Order on Objection to Claim is prepared by the prevailing attorney.

### 2. CM/ECF version 3.2. Kevin noted that a new version of ECF is due to be received by the Clerk's Office in March, 2008 and that we anticipate having it available to users in April or early May. The new product contains new drop-down menus as well as an event search feature. The Board members were asked their opinion as to the type of training the Clerk's Office should sponsor to get attorneys and their staff acquainted with the product. In light of the fact that the changes are relatively minor in

3. terms of functionality, the majority of the members voiced that a demonstration would be preferred over a formal training session.
4. Chapter 13 procedures and committee. Bill noted that a conference call was held with interested attorneys to discuss the chapter 13 uniform plan. From the call there were a few attorneys who agreed to form a committee to re-write the uniform chapter 13 plan to make it better and possibly reduce the length of the plan. Those expressing an interest in serving on the committee were: Dennis Levine, Alan Turnage, Hoke Smith and Martin Lewis. Bill outlined the path for them to submit proposed changes in order to get it approved by Judge Killian. Bill requested any proposed changes to the plan be submitted to him by December 1. There was some discussion among the Board members about creating a "ListServ" for issues like this to be discussed by members of the bar and to monitor what is being considered.
5. Changes to rules and forms. Kevin noted that changes in the Federal Rules and Official Bankruptcy Forms are effective on December 1, 2007 and that the link to the items can be found in the September newsletter. Kevin also noted that the changes to Form 22 (Means Test / Monthly Income) have been reversed and the changes to that particular form will not take effect in December as previously announced.
6. Court services web page. The court services department will have a new web page in two weeks. The new web page will contain statistics, FAQ's, training information and other helpful information from the court.
7. Procedure for access to transcripts. Kevin and Bill noted that the Judicial Conference has created a policy which gives court reports a 90-day exclusivity period for providing copies of transcripts. This court is developing a procedure regarding transcripts which includes a restrictive docket entry. The formal procedure will be provided at a later date.
8. Customer service "theme" for 2008 and survey. Kevin and Bill noted that the Clerk's Office is interested in stepping up the type and level of service offered beginning in 2008. The Clerk's Office will be marketing itself as a customer-focused organization and will offer more site visits, additional training opportunities and will be asking for feedback from the attorneys. In an effort to gauge the interest and needs of the bar, a survey will be conducted later this year.
9. Items from Florida-Middle. Bill noted that he has been in communication with the Clerk's Office at Florida-Middle in an effort to become more consistent in the filing of Form 22 and Form 23 in order to benefit those attorneys who file in both districts. Bill indicated that Judge Killian has approved the concept of filing Form 22 with the petition. Bill sent an email to the bar asking if there are objections. Unless more opposition is voiced, the procedure will probably change to allow the form to be filed in the same PDF as the petition. With regard to Form 23, Bill indicated that it is acceptable to file either

the Certificate of Financial Management Course or the Form 23 – we will no longer require both. He also noted that we will be looking at the case upload process for case opening.

10. CourtCall. Kevin distributed a copy of procedures for using the new telephonic court appearance service being facilitated by CourtCall on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The service will be available for attorneys in this district beginning on November 5. A copy of the procedures is also available on the court's web page.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, January 28, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Tallahassee