

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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Order Vacated

Date: January 8, 2021

Judge: 

In re:
EMERGENCY MEASURES
DUE TO HURRICANE
SALLY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 20-0011

EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING FILING PAPERS
FOR PANAMA CITY AND PENSACOLA DIVISION CASES
AND PROCEEDINGS DUE TO HURRICANE SALLY

Attorneys and parties in and around Pensacola, Florida are still dealing with significant aftermath of Hurricane Sally, which made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane September 16, 2020, causing, among other things, epic proportion flooding. Streets and properties remain flooded and strewn with debris; power and internet are still unavailable in some areas. Clean-up is proceeding but will undoubtedly take a long time; officials' latest estimate is \$183 million in damage in Escambia County so far.¹

¹ Jim Little, *Escambia County has \$183 million in damage so far as it recovers from Hurricane Sally*, Pensacola News Journal, <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2020/09/22/hurricane-sally-escambia-county-has-183-million-damage-so-far-recovers/3493016001/> (last visited September 23, 2020).

The Arnow Bankruptcy Courthouse has suffered significant damage and will be closed for an indefinite period. District court judges and staff that previously worked in Arnow have relocated to the renovated district court building at 1 N. Palafox Street, Pensacola.

Attorneys and parties in Pensacola and Panama City Division cases customarily file bankruptcy papers for those cases electronically, or by delivering them to the bankruptcy clerk's office in the Arnow building. Initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and now due to Hurricane Sally, Pensacola bankruptcy clerk's staff may work remotely only for the foreseeable future, leaving attorneys and parties without power or internet no readily available means to file papers in bankruptcy cases and proceedings.

The Court deems the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office in the Pensacola Division inaccessible.

For these reasons, it is

ORDERED:

1. Until further order of the Court, attorneys and parties may file papers in bankruptcy cases and proceedings by delivering them nonelectronically to the clerk of the District Court for

the Northern District of Florida, One North Palafox Street,
Pensacola, Florida 32502.²

2. A bankruptcy paper delivered to the district court, “shall, after the date of its receipt has been noted thereon, be transmitted forthwith to the clerk of the bankruptcy court.”³
3. In the interest of justice, any paper delivered to the clerk of the district court shall be deemed filed with the clerk of this Court as of the date of its original delivery.⁴
4. Parties and attorneys not resident in the Pensacola Division but who have been adversely affected by Hurricane Sally are eligible to file papers pursuant to this Order.

DONE and ORDERED on September 23, 2020.



KAREN K. SPECIE
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

² See, Fed. R. Bankr. P. 5005(a)(2)(A).

³ Fed. R. Bankr. P. 5005(c).

⁴ *Id.*