

LAC MINUTES FOR MEETING ON OCTOBER 19, 2010

- I. **Call to Order**—Warren J. Martin called the meeting to order, his first as Chairman of the LAC. Warren welcomed everyone, especially new members of the LAC. Thanks were given to outgoing members of the LAC and the new Committee Chairs were recognized. The LAC presented recognition plaques to Jaime Finberg, Marie Ann Greenberg and Valerie Hamilton for their contributions during their terms.

- II. **Local Rules Subcommittee Report/Presentation of New Rules, Henry Karwowski, Chair**—Henry led a long and lively discussion of the initial draft of the Application of Guidelines for Distinguishing Between Matters Appropriate for Standing Orders and Matters for Local Rules. Copies of the initial draft were previously circulated to all members of the LAC for their review and comment prior to the LAC meeting. Many detailed comments were put forth by several of the LAC members, including the Judges in attendance, all of which are to be compiled and incorporated into a revised draft. The Subcommittee hopes to have a revised draft circulated for final comments shortly following this meeting and prior to the end of the year. The Subcommittees, led by their respective sub-chairs, examined the following areas:
 - (A) Chapter 11 General Orders – Henry Karwowski, Sub-Chair
 - (B) Chapter 13 General Orders – Marie-Ann Greenberg, Sub- Chair
 - (C) Electronic Filing and BAPCPA Orders – Glenn Troublefield, Sub-Chair
 - (D) Electronic Filing and Miscellaneous General Orders – Jeanne Naughton, Sub-Chair

- III. **Other Committee Reports**--Chapter 11 Sub- Committee – Mark Hall, Chair—identified two specific issues with regard to small business Chapter 11 cases and the filing of combined filing of plan and disclosure statements

- IV. **Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2010 Meeting**—Warren moved to approve the minutes from last meeting.

- V. **Clerk’s Report** - Jim Waldron reported that new filings were up. Additionally, issues have been raised as to access to audio recordings of hearings which the Clerk’s Office is investigating.

VI. Liaison's Reports: (A) District Court – Mike Sirota—Relay of the report given by Chief Judge Brown at LAC Meeting from District Court of New Jersey. Two District Judge vacancies are to be filled by Claire Cecchi and Esther Salas. Additionally, Mike reported on the potential amendments to Local Rule 6.1 with regard to (1) extension of initial answer period; (2) ability to file “motions as litigants see fit” without approval of the Magistrate/District Judge; and (3) increased access to oral argument.

(B) U.S. Trustee – Martha Hildebrandt/Rob Schneider—Noted that William K. Harrington has been appointed by Attorney General Eric Holder as U.S. Trustee for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island (Region 1), and he will assume his duties on November 8, 2010. Mr. Harrington replaces John P. Fitzgerald, who has served as Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 1 since March 2010. Mr. Harrington has served since October 2008 as the Assistant U.S. Trustee in Wilmington, Del., after joining the U.S. Trustee Program (USTP) as a trial attorney in March 2004.

(C) IRS - Wendy D. Gardner—nothing to report.

(D) N.J. Attorney General - Ramanjit Chawla—nothing to report.

(E) N.J. State Bar – LAC reminder that Judge Steckroth is honoree at Bar Dinner scheduled for 10/28/10 and encouraged all members of the bar to attend.

VII. New Business—A discussion was held regarding the withdrawal of motions without the debtor's consent and whether it was an acceptable practice. The issue is in need of further examination.

VIII. Advise of Next Meeting Date—Looking to have meeting after the holidays and not too far into 2011 as per consensus. Warren and Jim to coordinate and circulate proposed dates.