

United States Bankruptcy Court  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

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CHAMBERS OF  
SCOTT W. DALES  
BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503

February 1, 2016

Via ECF Notification

Members of the Bar  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
for the Western District of Michigan

Re: Revision of Local Bankruptcy Rules (the "Local Rules") and Nomination of Members  
for the Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee (the "Committee")

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Bar:

The court's practice historically has been to amend its Local Rules every five years or so. You may recall the last revision which took effect on August 1, 2012. Because the revision process requires considerable consultation between the court and the Bar, experience shows that it generally takes at least a year to complete. Accordingly, my colleagues and I have decided to reconstitute the Committee. To this end, we will accept applications for membership within the next thirty days.

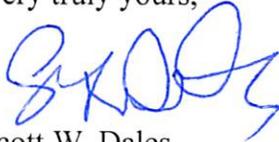
If you wish to nominate yourself or some other person to serve on the Committee, please send a letter to our Clerk, Dan LaVille, on or before February 22, 2016, identifying the nominee and describing his or her qualifications.

As we revise our Local Rules, we must keep in mind that the drafting process will not be a free-for-all or open season on Bankruptcy Code provisions, national rules, or even court decisions that may displease us. Instead, the Committee will be governed by the letter of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9029(a) and the spirit of the Rules Enabling Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2075. The Committee's task will be to revise and propose rules to govern *procedures* not already addressed in the national rules. In addition, I hope that we will remember the tradition in our District of having relatively few local rules and relying largely on the national rules to govern the practice in our court. This means, among other things, that if there are rules that have outlived their utility or purpose, we should not hesitate to eliminate or revise them.

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In every writing or other document there is always room for improvement, and our Local Rules as presently drafted are no exception. Their clarity, wisdom, and fidelity to federal law are essential to our collective ability to help those who turn to us for assistance. I look forward to your help in forming a productive and balanced Committee.

Very truly yours,



Scott W. Dales  
Chief Judge