

United States Bankruptcy Court

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

CHAMBERS OF
SCOTT W. DALES
CHIEF JUDGE

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ONE DIVISION AVENUE NORTH
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503

January 31, 2019

Members of the Bar
United States Bankruptcy Court (W.D. Michigan)

Re: Revisions to Local Bankruptcy Rules (effective Feb. 1, 2019)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that my colleagues and I just signed Administrative Order 2019-1, which adopts our revised Local Bankruptcy Rules and makes them effective as of February 1, 2019. The final product reflects the hard work of the bar and the Local Bankruptcy Rules Advisory Committee, as well as comments we received during the public comment period. I encourage you to review the new rules, which are posted on the court's website, and share them with members of your staff.

My colleagues and I understand that it takes time to get used to any change affecting one's practice, and we expect the same can be said about the new rules. Indeed, we anticipate that the bankruptcy software providers will need some time to revise their approach to Official Form 121 (Statement about Your Social Security Numbers) to accommodate the requirement of a scanned signature, and I expect there will be hiccups, anticipated or not, that we will encounter as the new rules take effect. Therefore, for a reasonable time following the February 1, 2019 effective date, the court will strive to be flexible in applying the rule and form changes, while of course expecting everyone to get up to speed as soon as they can.

We can all be proud of the final product, even while recognizing that there will always be room for improvement. If, going forward, you have suggestions for improving the court's rules or procedures, please feel free to send a letter to me or the Clerk as ideas for future revision come to mind.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who served on the Advisory Committee and who otherwise participated in the revision process. I hope you will agree that their time was well-spent.

Very truly yours,



Scott W. Dales