

## PRIVACY-RELATED BANKRUPTCY RULES CHANGES

Barring Congressional action, on 12/1/2003 amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the Official Bankruptcy Forms will take effect.

The privacy amendments allow the court to collect a debtor's full Social Security Number but display only the last four digits in the public records.

Key changes include the following:

The Petition (Official Form 1) will contain only the last four digits of each debtor's Social Security Number.

Rule 1007 will be amended to require each debtor to submit a verified Statement of Social Security Number (Official Form 21) containing his/her full nine-digit Social Security Number.

The *new* Statement of Social Security Number (Official Form 21) **must** be filed with the court and will be available **only** to the court. It *will not* be filed in the case and *will not* become part of the case file available to the public at the court or over the internet.

Rule 2002 will be amended to require the Clerk to include each debtor's Social Security Number in the copy of the Section 341 Meeting of Creditors notice (Official Form 9) sent to creditors, debtors, the trustee, and the U. S. Trustee. This is the only notice the creditors will receive of the debtor's full social security number.

The copy of the Section 341 notice included in the court case file will contain *only the last four digits* of the debtor's Social Security Number.

The Proof of Claim (Official Form 10) will be amended to require a wage creditor to disclose only the last four digits of the creditor's Social Security number.

Filers, *not clerks*, will be responsible for redacting Social Security Numbers and other personal identifiers such as dates of birth, financial account numbers, etc. in documents they file with the court.