



Clerk's Notes



March 2009

Below is an update of recent changes and suggestions for practicing in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

I. Getting CM/ECF passwords will become easier!

We are no longer requiring attorneys to attend live training classes in order to receive a CM/ECF password. Instead, practitioners may complete the on-line training modules located on the court's website. The court will also give passwords to attorneys who have completed CM/ECF training in any federal court in the country.

The modules that must be completed are:

- Voluntary Petition
- Adversary Proceedings
- Motions /Applications
- Notices of Hearing with Certificate of Service
- Objections to Motions
- Proofs of Claim

The modules are located at www.laeb.uscourts.gov under "Training and Manuals". We welcome your suggestions for additional learning modules.

Classroom training will continue to be available at the direction of the court, and by request from attorneys when special circumstances are indicated.

II. Section 341 meetings

Continuances

Requests to continue 341 meetings should first be made with the United States Trustee's Office. If the request is denied, a motion to continue may be filed with the court and set for hearing.

Motions to waive appearance at 341 meetings

Section A - Motions to waive appearance should be filed with the court and set for hearing.

Section B - The staff in Section B will notify the attorney that the request should be filed first with the U.S. Trustee's Office. If the request is denied by the U.S. Trustee's Office, the motion to waive may then be filed with the court and set for hearing.

III. Renovations of the courtrooms

Our courtrooms are being renovated so as to be equipped with new audio-visual equipment. The first phase is ongoing. The second phase is planned to be completed in October.

The work is being scheduled so that there will always be one available courtroom. When both courts are in session, we will use a courtroom in the district court.

When noticing matters for hearing, use the courtroom number for the section assigned to the case. We will have signs posted outside the courtrooms that will indicate which courtroom will actually be used on a particular day and will direct the public to the correct courtroom.

IV. Privacy Issues

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the filer to comply with the privacy rules and to ensure that personal identifier information is redacted from court filings. *See Fed.R.Bankr.P. 9037.*

V. Duplicate notice to joint debtors is eliminated.

The Bankruptcy Noticing Center is no longer sending a separate notice to joint debtors if they have the same address and the name and address contains no more than 5 lines. Instead, a single copy of each notice is sent in a jointly addressed envelope. This change was made in a December 2008 revision to Director's Form B201 - Notice to Individual Consumer Debtor.

Joint debtors who would like to receive a separate copy of all notices must file a request with the court.

VI. Finally . . .

Check our website for updates on a regular basis – <http://www.laeb.uscourts.gov>. If you have suggestions on issues that you would like to see addressed in future newsletters, please call Marla Hamilton, Clerk of Court, 589-7820.