

Statement from Linda J. Schwimmer, Chair of Lawyers' Advisory Committee

Thank you for your interest in the Lawyers' Advisory Committee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey ("LAC"). The LAC is a group of attorneys that are appointed by the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court to serve for a three-year term. In addition, the members of the LAC include designated members that are appointed by the New Jersey Attorney General, the United States Internal Revenue Service, the Office of the United States Trustee, and a liaison to the LAC for the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. A complete list of members can be found on this web site.

The LAC meets quarterly. The Clerk of the Court James Waldron, Chief Judge Gamberdella, Judge Ferguson (who is the liaison between the Board of Judges and the LAC) and often times at least two other Judges are in attendance at the meetings.

The purpose of the LAC is to provide the Court with insight and assistance on matters affecting the practice of bankruptcy law in this District. The members express the Bar's opinions and suggestions about various issues to the LAC and Judges. In addition, the Judges also raise issues that they would like the members to work on. Subcommittees are formed to deal with these issues and to propose and draft new local rules, if necessary. Currently, there are four subcommittees of the LAC: Oversight of Local Rules (Chair, Joe Casello); Chapter 11 Rules (Chair, Nancy Isaacson); Chapter 13 Rules (Chair, Linda Schwimmer); Creditor Notification Issues (Chair, Nona Ostrove). These Committees are currently working on such issues as: standard orders of dismissal or conversion of a case, new procedures for relief stay motions, and stream-lining first day orders in chapter 11's.

The LAC welcomes your comments and input. Certainly, we can better assist the Court if the members of the Bar know about us and look to us as an effective route to communicate with the Court and improve the bankruptcy practice in New Jersey. To that end, please email your comments or suggestions to this mailbox. In addition, you can write to or call me or any members of the LAC to express your opinion or raise new issues for us to consider and bring to the Judges. Again, thank you your interest in the LAC.