

Note: the minutes were amended on Oct. 9, 2002, to include the "New Business" item included below.

**LAWYER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JUNE 27, 2002  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

Chairperson Nancy Isaacson opened the meeting with Chief Judge Gambardella and Judges Ferguson, Lyons, and Stern in attendance. Absentees included: Bruce Buechler, Debbie Reperowitz, John Morton, Dean Sutton, and Frank Vecchione.

Chief Judge Gambardella announced that this was Nancy's last meeting as the Chair and recognized her invaluable service with the presentation of a plaque. Nancy will remain on the LAC for an additional 1-year term. Judge Gambardella also welcomed Linda Schwimmer as the new Chair.

The minutes from the meeting of April 25, 2002, were adopted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Electronic Procedures Committee-** Jim Waldron reported that the new case management and electronic filing system (CM/ECF) continues to operate well with improvements being made daily. Three popular petition software programs (Bankruptcy 2002, Best Case Bankruptcy, and EZ Filing) are now certified for use with the system. Of the approximate 60,000 monthly docket entries, about 12% are now being submitted electronically. He thanked the trustees who have endured many bugs and have carried the e-filing load. He noted that we are the only court to implement e-filing on such a broad scale and also the largest court currently live on the system. The initial success has been possible only through the patience and support of the judges, trustees, and other participants and the hard work of the clerk's office staff; however, more attorneys must participate. Jim said that he and his staff are available to assist local bar associations with training programs and the Court may have to consider other steps to encourage greater participation.

**Reaffirmation Agreement-** Judge Ferguson reported that the new local Reaffirmation Agreement form, based on the national B-240 form, has been approved by the Board of Judges and will be included in the Court's list of local forms. Judges Ferguson and Gambardella thanked John Morton and his committee for developing this form.

**Ongoing Oversight of Local Rules-** Joe Casello reported that the committee is developing proposed changes to eight local rules. The proposals will be disseminated for comment. In addition, the committee is considering the issue of responses to cross motions. Joe and Jim Waldron discussed the new procedure adopted by the court for a more structured and open process for developing and amending local rules. The procedure is posted on the Court's website.

**Local Chapter 11 Rules Committee-** Nancy Isaacson reported that the committee met by video conference from the clerk's offices in Trenton and Newark. Four subcommittees have been formed:

**First Day Orders** - Bruce Buechler, Howard Greenberg, Michael Sirota

**Case Management of Large Chapter 11's** - Bruce Levitt, Richard Hill, Joseph Casello, Arthur Abramowitz

**Retention and Compensation of Professionals** - Robert Underhill, Robert Wasserman, Joseph Markowitz

**The Confirmation Process** - Bill Lyons, Simon Kimmelman, William Katchen, Frank Vecchione

Information and drafts have been posted on the website. Work products need to be finalized by September. It was stressed that suggestions and comments need to be made before the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

**Chapter 13 Standardized Plan-** The committee proposed two alternative plans - one with an interest calculation and one without. The full LAC approved the latter for submission to the Board of Judges. John Scura and his committee were applauded for their outstanding work on this project.

**Chapter 13 Rules Committee** - Linda Schwimmer reported that the new Chapter 13 Rules Committee is currently working on relief from stay motions, rules and procedures, dismissal and conversion issues, and Rule 4001 and Form 16 amendments.

**Clerk's Report:** Jim Waldron reported on the important work of the District Court Historical Society and the latest project chronicling the "Camden 28" trial. He announced that the US Supreme Court Historical Society will make it's first visit outside of the District of Columbia when it participates in this presentation in Camden in the fall. LAC members are encouraged to join the Society. Jim also reported on recent efforts to publicize the LAC. Notices have been sent to the legal publications and an LAC website has been created on the Court's website.

**Liaison to District Court Report:** no report.

**New Business:** A new committee was formed to look into issues surrounding creditors' inability to issue periodic billing statements without violating the stay. Members include Nona Ostrove, Leonard Wizmur, Mary Ellen Tully, and John Morton.

Judge Gambardella and Nancy Isaacson announced that Dean Sutton's and Robert Underhill's terms on the LAC were ending with this meeting and thanked them for their service to the LAC.

The next Judge's Meeting is scheduled for September 12th.

**The next LAC meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2002, location TBA.**