

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
STANDING LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES REVISION COMMITTEE
DISTRICT OF COLORADO, BANKRUPTCY COURT

A regular meeting of the Standing Local Bankruptcy Rules Revision Committee was called to order at 12:02PM on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, by Chair Ted Hartl.

Attendance: The following Members, Ex-Officio Members and Judicial Advisors attended by phone or a Zoom conference call:

Members

Ted Hartl, Chair
Michael Suchoparek, Vice-Chair
Tara Salinas, Secretary
Thomas Arany
Bonnie Bell Bond, Whip
Ted Hartl
Steven Mulligan
Jared Walters

Judge Romero

Ex-Officio Members

Samuel Boughner
Adam Goodman
Laura Guice
Doug Kiel
Margaret Muff
Trish Turner
TJ Vincent
Deanna Westfall

Judicial Advisors

Items

1. Vote on approval of minutes from last meeting held on May 9, 2023.
 - (a) Judge Romero moves to approve. Tara Salinas seconds, Approved.
2. Report of Committee Chair.
 - (a) Tentatively proposing we have quarterly meetings.
 - (b) Discussion of whether to have meetings in person or via Zoom, general consensus is that Zoom is more convenient.
3. Report of Judicial Advisors, Judge Romero.
 - (a) Nothing from the Court.
4. Pending and New Committee Matters:
 - (a) Welcome to Thomas A. Arany, Watton Law Group, chapter 13 and chapter 7 practitioner. He has been with Watton Law Group since 2014.
 - (b) Welcome to Samuel Boughner from the US Trustee's office.

- (c) Ted requested committee members consider other potential Committee participation for consumer bar/El Paso County.
 - (d) Status of Committee updates/reports for Court's website: <https://www.cob.uscourts.gov/local-rules>. Michael Suchoparek explained rationale for having meeting minutes and committee contacts on site. Discussion of need to update member list on site and post minutes. Laura Guice stated that the clerk's office would assist with updates as needed.
 - (e) Minor changes to Local Rule 4001-1. Steve Mulligan introduced the proposed changes to L.B.R. 4001(c)(1) to clarify the requirement that parties exchange lists of witnesses no later than 24 hours prior to preliminary hearings. Jared Walters proposed added the same language to L.B.R. 4001(c)(2).
 - (i) Steve Mulligan moved for modification of 4001(c), Bonnie Bell Bond seconded. Approved.
 - (ii) Ted Hartl will distribute a corrected redline version to the committee.
 - (iii) Judge Romero will take the proposed change to the judges' meeting.
 - (iv) Reminder, the committee makes recommendations to our judges, if our judges approve of the recommendations, they are submitted for consideration and approval by the District Court.
5. Miscellaneous and Potential Committee Matters:
- (a) E-signatures (revisited); Local Rule 4001-6; open for suggestions. Discussed a possible revisit for an e-signature rule, specifically that the ability to work with debtors across the state in an economically feasible manner. It would be of great assistance to both debtors' attorneys and debtors, providing greater access to counsel and the courts. Example that both Nebraska and the Eastern District of Wisconsin employ a local rule to permit electronic signatures. Laura Guice noted that the topic is being considered by the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. Committee agreed that consumer attorney members would work together to provide a broader summary of the current status of the rules across the country and report back at next meeting.
6. Scheduling Next Meeting. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 6, 2024 at 12:00 pm via Zoom.
7. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 pm.