

Consumer Bankruptcy Circle Agenda

1. Introductions – go around and introduce selves

Reece Petrik	Kirsten Wilkerson	Judge Hercher
Zoe Habekost	Chris Coyle	Russ Garrett
Zoe Wild	Judge Pearson	Learon Bird
John Kuni	Lars Olsen	Laura Zaro
Naliko Markel	Darren Gee	Andrea Breinholt
Laura Donaldson	Rich Parker	Adam Weiner
Griffin Butler	Christian Torimino	Kent Anderson
Jonas Anderson	Ted Piteo	Chief Judge Renn
Zach Conway	Ian Wallace	Brian Wheeler
Scott Hutchinson	Stephen Raher	Chris Kane
Caroline Smale		

2. Clerk's office update

Kirsten briefly reviewed the same discussion items that she addressed in Saturday session.

Budget: House passed CR for the fiscal year. Trying to get through senate now. If it doesn't go through, we will be in a phase 1 shutdown by Saturday. We would continue to operate even in a shutdown.

There will be significant budget cuts even if the CR goes through.

Operations updates: Kirsten explained that the executive orders don't address us directly but do influence us. A prime example of this is all the firings at GSA has resulted in us having no local GSA contacts.

During Saturday session telephonic/video hearings were discussed. They invited further discussion about it. The judges requested that people discuss/decide sooner than 10 minutes before hearings are scheduled to start.

Judge Pearson noted that she will be out the last week of March and has a very large Chapter 13 calendar on the 31st so since CM/ECF will be down, she requested all efforts be made to get everything to her the week before the shut down for the best chance she will see it before the 31st

3. UST update

Introduction of Griffin, the new addition to the Eugene office. He did a bankruptcy clerkship in Idaho and before that in Florida.

Government shutdown also impacts trustees – if no CR then they go into shutdown mode which means they are operating on a limited basis.

Last week received a termination notice for the director Tara Tooney (SP?). The acting director is Ramona Elliot (SP?) who has been acting director in the past. She is the general counsel and works in their executive office.

The trustee office mission and direction has not changed even with all the changes coming out of the executive branch.

Approaching one year since implementation of Zoom 341 meetings. They welcome any feedback, particularly any problems or issues they can address. Have seen a tendency for these meetings to fall short in terms of meeting decorum. They seek to have them resemble in-person meetings in terms of decorum and they are seeing a degradation in terms of what people are wearing including an attorney showing up to a 341 meeting while on a boat and wearing a swimsuit. (Nobody in this meeting) just a reminder to consider it an in-person meeting in terms of dress and behavior.

4. Updates from other trustee offices

No updates

5. IRS updates

No updates

6. ODR updates

No updates

7. ODOJ updates

No updates

8. Next Generation of Bankruptcy Lawyers update

April 3 at 4pm partnering with legal aid to host a panel followed by a reception to honor volunteers of the bankruptcy clinic.

Reece explained more about the next gen of bankruptcy lawyers committee and noted we would have a standing agenda item for the group.

9. Saturday session update

10. Updates from anyone else?

Lars Olsen – in wait and see mode in terms of student loan dischargeability. Attestation program has worked well but are waiting to see about taking on new clients as the attestation program may not be around in the next couple of weeks.

There are hopes it will remain because it was started during Trumps first administration. Public service loan forgiveness is on hold as is disability. Bankruptcy may be the only remaining option.

Wayne Godare's office is looking more closely at the budget the debtor files to account for refunds.

Their analysis is the same as Naliko's office where they analyze projected income and tax withholdings.

If they show the budget looks like there will be a refund, they expect the plan payment to increase or check the box to send refund to case – mostly in above income cases.

11. Select next date/who's bringing food

Reece suggests June 11th at 4:30 and no objections

Zoey is going to provide food the next time

12. Anything for the good of the order?

13. Adjourn