

## Consumer Bankruptcy Circle Agenda

### 1. Introductions/attendance

- Attending:
  - Reece Petrik
  - Kirsten Wilkinson
  - Judge Hercher
  - Judge Pearson
  - Grace Kaeserman
  - Judge McKittrick
  - Zoë Habekost
  - Ann Chapman
  - Jonas Anderson
  - Catherine Jedlicka
  - Robert Reeves
  - Judge Renn
  - Chris Kane
  - Naliko Markel
  - Jonas Anderson
  - Zach Conway
  - Rex Daines
  - Griffin Butler
  - David []
  - Larua Zaro
  - Brian Wheeler
  - Natalie Lenard
  - Andra Breinholdt
  - Carla McClurg
  - David Cross
  - Russ Garret
  - Mike O'Brien
  - Rex Daines
  - Jeffrey []
  - Brian Sunderland
  - John Kooney
  - Sally Leisure
  - Rich Parker
  - Laura Donaldson

### 2. Clerk's office update

- Chief Deputy Clerk has returned to state court – out in Bend.
  - Robert Reeves has been promoted from divisional office manager to new Chief Deputy Clerk
- Please check out the ORB Website – published the rules and forms – proposed changes for December 1, 2025

- Different this year: pushed it forward a month faster than usual – open now to public comment.
- Deadline: October 6, 2025 – Comments appreciated on multiple changes that are proposed
- Budget: federal agencies facing large cuts. Fiscal year starts in three weeks and no updates on what is going on with appropriations. Making educated guesses right now for FY 2026 – going to likely be like sequestration of 2012
  - One person recently left; Two retirements upcoming (Batina and Jan) – can't backfill those positions at this time
  - May seem some changes in turnaround time – to be determined
  - Going down to 2 CAs in Portland
- Judge Brown will be on Recall through October 2026 – another short request for remainder of 2026
- Watch for news and announcements section on ORB website / emails from the court regarding upcoming changes.

### 3. Judges' update

- Judge Renn:
  - We are expecting to lose 4 people in the clerk's office / have only 2 CAs in Portland – impossible to maintain the same level of service – we just don't have the budget
  - Kudos to Kirsten especially for involvement in budget committees in 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit
  - Judge Renn's term ends end of this month – intended to end October 27; request for an extension on the term to allow for the new judge to be onboarded. Extension granted until earlier of 180 days or date new Judge gets sworn in, but no later than April 21, 2026
    1. Judge McKittrick the new chief judge as of October 1, 2025
    2. Estimated 6 months for background check on new Judge
- Judge McKittrick:
  - Things will be moving slower through the clerk office
  - Local rule – Contact Chambers when something is filed 3 days within a hearing, but there are circumstances where there is a motion to extend or shorten time that is time sensitive – if so, please contact chambers to let them know so they can expedite it.
  - On Website – looking for new term clerk, to start Fall 2026
    1. Tom Ratts just published an article in ABI re: liens and tax credits
- Judge Hercher:
  - Re: fewer resources – CAs spend a lot of time on helping lawyers understand deficiencies in filings. We may not be able to spend as much time doing that moving forward. A lot of the things are "knowable" through forms and rules, so please review those carefully to not rely unnecessarily on the CAs
  - For changes to forms and rules - everyone is welcome to make suggestions. Reach out to the Committee or Kirsten re: ideas or changes. Please don't hesitate to bring up ideas
- Judge Pearson:

- Re: rules and forms – changes seem to be very drastic, but three main changes:
  1. Citing to District court rules à now incorporating them into Local Bankruptcy Rules
  2. Clarified attorney admission; how to be admitted and withdrawn
  3. Went through and clarified how things are electronically filed – technical changes that might not impact lawyers very much
- If you are a trustee, look at changes to Meeting of Creditors rules – more deference; process changes, especially for chapter 7 trustees.

4. UST update

- Re: federal funding cuts. Been under restriction from backfilling empty positions for quite some time (5-7 years); no anticipated changes to that
  - 171 government buyouts from UST program nationwide (none in Oregon)
- Previously discussed: Director received a termination notice; removed from her office. Had been operating with general counsel serving. Recently AG appointed Ramona Elliot as Acting Director. 31 years of service; mostly with UST office.

5. Updates from other trustee offices

- Nothing from Ken Eiler's office – but please try to get documents in at least one week before they are needed for a hearing / 341
- Naliko Markel
  - Shortened deadline to respond to motions to dismiss or convert – 14 days. Be cognizant of that shortened deadline. If you submit a modified plan, and deadlines running, submit request for a hearing to avoid missing the deadline
  - Having debtors have issues with connectivity on Zoom / please make sure clients can be still and ready to testify with good internet (i.e., not a car or walking).

6. IRS updates

- N/A

7. ODR updates

- N/A

8. ODOJ updates

- N/A

~~9. Next Generation of Bankruptcy Lawyers update~~

10. Updates from anyone else?

- Rich Parker:
  - Some cars create connectivity issues if you call into 341s in cars
  - Student loans – for those who think they have qualified for forgiveness (e.g. public sector work) – Currently on a pause for counting months for credit; we don't know when that will end. Process is in complete chaos now.
- Reece Petrik:
  - Annual Conference in Eugene coming up. Please register if you haven't already.
  - If you are a speaker, you are not getting automatically registered; please call the state bar CLE service to do so.

11. Select next date/who's bringing food

- November 12, 2025 – 4:30 PM

12. Anything for the good of the order?

- N/A

13. Adjourn