

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULES**

**Proposed  
December 17, 2018**

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## **LBR 1001-1. Scope of Rules**

- (a) **Scope of Rules.** These local rules govern practice and procedure in all bankruptcy cases and proceedings in the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands. They may be cited as “LBR.”
- (b) **Effective Date.** Unless the court orders otherwise, these rules apply to all bankruptcy cases and proceedings pending on the date of adoption. These rules supersede all previous local bankruptcy rules of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.
- (c) **Definitions.** As used in these rules:

  - (1) “all creditors” – when used with respect to service of documents - includes parties in interest, parties who have requested notice in a case, any trustee and committee appointed in a case, and the Office of the United States Trustee;
  - (2) “Bankruptcy Division” means the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands exercising the jurisdiction of a bankruptcy court of the United States pursuant to 48 U.S.C § 1822;
  - (3) “Bankruptcy Rule” refers to a rule of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure; and
  - (4) “clerk” means the Clerk of Court, or the Clerk of Court’s designee, of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Bankruptcy Division;
  - (5) “CM/ECF” means the Case Management/Electronic Case Files system used in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Bankruptcy Division;
  - (6) “court” means the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Bankruptcy Division, and does not refer to any particular judge of the court;
  - (7) “debtor” includes the joint debtor, if any;
  - (8) “district court” means the District Court for the District of Northern Mariana Islands;
  - (9) *Italicized titles* - Unless otherwise noted, italicized titles in these rules refer to local forms created by the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Hawaii, available at [http://www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index\\_forms\\_menu.htm](http://www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index_forms_menu.htm). Debtors, creditors, and interested parties are encouraged to use the District of Hawaii forms. Filings that substantially conform to the appropriate District of Hawaii form will be acceptable.

- (10) “judge” means any United States District Court Judge or a judge sitting by § designation;
  - (11) “LR” or “local rule” refers to the Local Rules of the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands;
  - (12) “§” refers to a section under title 11 of the United States Code, unless another title is cited.
- (d) **Modification and Applicability of Rules.** In any case or proceeding, the court may direct that provisions of these rules be modified or suspended, or that certain local general or civil rules of the district court be made applicable.

#### **LBR 1005-1. Petition – Caption**

**Other Names Used by Debtor.** If the petition lists other names used by the debtor that are modified by a term indicative of an artificial entity, such as “Inc.” or “LLC”, the debtor must file with the petition a declaration, stating that the name was used as a trade name but does not identify a separate legal entity. Absent such a declaration, the clerk will not include such a name as an alias or “dba” in the case information and notices sent by the court.

#### **LBR 1007-1. Lists, Schedules, and Statements**

(a) **Case Opening Documents.**

- (1) **Definition.** The case opening documents that are subject to this subdivision include the schedules and statements required to be filed with the court under § 521(a), other than copies of payment advices; the certificate from an approved nonprofit budget and credit counseling agency required to be filed under § 521(b); and any other document required to be filed with the petition or within a specified number of days thereafter, under a statute, rule, or order.
- (2) **Dismissal Upon Failure to File Case Opening Documents.** In a voluntary case where case opening documents are not filed with the petition, the clerk is authorized to issue an order to satisfy the deficiency and to give notice that failure to file the subject documents within a specified number of days after the date the petition was filed, or some later date as the court directs, may result in dismissal of the case without further notice, unless on or before the filing deadline the court enters an order extending the time to file the documents. An order dismissing the case under this provision may include a 180-day bar to refiling a subsequent petition under § 109(g)(1).
- (3) **Extension of Time to File Case Opening Documents.** A debtor may request an extension of time to file case opening documents by filing with the court a *Debtor’s Motion to Extend Time to File Case Opening Documents* that states

the date the petition was filed, the date set for the first meeting of creditors, the new deadline being requested, and the reason for the extension. Consideration of the motion may be expedited if it contains the signature of an authorized representative of the Office of the United States Trustee in a chapter 11 case or the Chapter 13 trustee in a chapter 13 case indicating that there is no objection to an extension.

**(b) Payment Advices.**

- (1) Non-Filing of Payment Advices.** Unless the court orders otherwise, the copies of payment advices or other evidence of payment received by the debtor from any employer described in § 521(a)(1)(B)(iv) may not be filed with the court. If the court permits the filing, the filing party is responsible for redacting any confidential information, such as all but the last 4 digits of the debtor's social security number and any financial account numbers.
  - (2) Submission to Trustee.** The copies of payment advices or other evidence of payment described in § 521(a)(1)(B)(iv) must be submitted to the trustee in a case under chapter 7, 12, or 13, or the Office of the United States Trustee in a case under chapter 11, not later than 7 days before the date first set for the first meeting of creditors under § 341, or 45 days after the date of the filing of the petition, whichever is earlier. The debtor may offer an explanation why payment advices are not being submitted by providing to the trustee or the Office of the United States Trustee a *Debtor's Statement Regarding Payment Advices, Tax Returns, and Domestic Support Obligations*.
  - (3) Failure to Submit.** If the debtor fails to submit to the trustee the copies of payment advices or other evidence of payment within the time specified in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, the trustee may request an order dismissing the case by filing a *Trustee's Ex Parte Motion to Dismiss Case Under 11 U.S.C. § 521(i)(2)* or, in the alternative, a motion for an order declining to dismiss the case for the reasons stated in § 521(i)(4). In the absence of such motions, the court will presume that the debtor has submitted these documents timely to the trustee and that the debtor's case is not subject to dismissal under § 521(i)(1) or (2). A party in interest other than a trustee requesting dismissal under § 521(i)(2) for failure to file payment advices must file and serve on the debtor and all creditors a motion to dismiss with the trustee's declaration that the trustee did not receive any payment advices or any statement by the debtor regarding the failure to submit such information.
- (c) Motion to Reconsider Dismissal.** A debtor whose case has been dismissed for failure to file required documents may request the court to reconsider the order dismissing the case by filing the required documents and then filing a *Debtor's Motion for Reconsideration of the Dismissal*.

## **LBR 1007-2. Mailing Matrix**

- (a) **Requirement to File.** The clerk may reject for filing a voluntary petition submitted without a creditor list, i.e. the list of names and addresses of entities included or to be included on Schedules D, E, F, G, and H.
- (b) **Format of Names and Addresses.** Names and addresses must be complete with full name, address, state or territory and zip code.
- (c) **Digital File Format.** Depending on the number of creditors, the clerk may require an electronic version of the mailing matrix on media (CD, USB drive, etc.).
- (d) **Verification.** The creditor list must be accompanied by the debtor's verification that all entities included on Schedules D, E, F, G, and H have been listed in the creditor list (*Debtor's Verification of Creditor List*).
- (e) **Amended Creditor List.** The debtor must file an amended creditor list to reflect any changes or additions to the names and addresses of entities included on Schedules D, E, F, G, or H, including a change of address of the entity or the entity's attorney, or the addition of an entity or an entity's attorney. An amended list is subject to the requirements of subdivisions (b) and (c) of this rule. The debtor is responsible for serving the notice of bankruptcy case, meeting of creditors, and deadlines, as well as any other notices sent by the clerk, on the parties listed in the amended list. The amended list should attach a cover sheet and certificate of service. (*Cover Sheet for Amendments*).

## **LBR 1007-3. List of 20 Largest Creditors in Chapter 11 Case**

In a voluntary chapter 11 case, the list containing the name, address, and claim of the creditors holding the 20 largest unsecured claims—Official Form 104 (individual debtors) and 204 (non-individual debtors)—must include the email address of the creditor or agent of the creditor, if known to the debtor.

## **LBR 1009-1. Amendments to Lists and Schedules**

- (a) **In General.** Unless the originally filed document exceeds 15 pages, an amendment to a list, schedule, or statement must replace in its entirety, rather than supplement, the originally filed document. If the originally filed document exceeds 15 pages, the amendment must clearly indicate that it is supplemental in nature.
- (b) **Cover Sheet with Declaration.** A party filing an amended list, schedule, or statement pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1009(a) must attach a cover sheet (*Cover Sheet for Amendments*), containing the debtor's declaration that the information in the amendments is true and correct. If the amendments are filed electronically, the debtor

must submit to the court, not later than 7 days after the date of electronic filing, an originally signed declaration (*Declaration re: Electronic Filing*).

- (c) **Notice.** Whenever Schedule D, E, F, G, or H is amended to add a creditor or party in interest, the debtor must serve a copy of the notice of commencement of the bankruptcy case, the meeting of creditors, and any deadlines set by the court upon all added entities. The debtor must file a certificate of service to show compliance with this provision.

#### **LBR 1009-2. Correction of Social Security Number**

- (a) **Amended Statement of Social Security Number.** The debtor must promptly submit an amended Statement About Your Social Security Numbers (Official Form 121) upon becoming aware that an incorrect number was provided at the time of filing the petition, whether the petition was filed electronically or on paper. The amended statement must be submitted on paper with the debtor's original signature and must indicate conspicuously that it is an amended statement intended to correct the number previously provided to the court. It is not necessary for the debtor to file an amended petition to correct the last 4 digits of the number showing on the petition.
- (b) **Notice to Creditors.** Upon submitting an amended Statement About Your Social Security Numbers, the debtor must give notice of the correct number to all creditors and parties in interest by sending a notice of the amended number (*Notice of Corrected Social Security Number*). The debtor must also send the notice to the major credit reporting agencies whose names and addresses are included on the form. This notice must include the debtor's full (9-digit) Social Security Number but will not be filed, in order to protect the debtor's privacy.
- (c) **Certificate of Service.** The debtor must file a certificate of service (*Certificate of Service: Notice of Corrected Social Security Number*) to show compliance with the notice requirement of this rule. The certificate of service must not include the debtor's full Social Security Number or attach a copy of the notice that was served, in order to protect the debtor's privacy.

#### **LBR 1015-1. Joint Administration**

- (a) **Motion.** A motion by one or more debtors requesting joint administration, but not substantive consolidation, of related cases, pursuant to Rule 1015(b), may be presented to the court ex parte, provided that the court may set the matter for hearing after notice to parties in interest.
- (b) **Case Dockets.** Unless the court orders otherwise, all documents must be entered on the docket of the case designated as the lead case.
- (c) **Notice List.** The clerk will maintain a single, consolidated list of names and

addresses of creditors and parties requesting notice in the lead case.

- (d) **Claims Register.** Unless the court orders otherwise, the clerk will maintain a single claims register in the lead case. All proofs of claim and interest must be filed in the lead case but must indicate the particular debtor against whom the claim or interest is asserted.
- (e) **Separate Accounts and Reports.** Unless the jointly administered cases are also substantively consolidated, the debtor in possession or trustee must maintain separate accounts of property and distributions of each estate, and must report on each estate separately. All monthly operating reports and interim and final reports by a trustee or debtor in possession must be filed in the lead case but must clearly identify the separate estate involved.

#### **LBR 1017-1. Conversion of Chapter 7 Cases**

**Motion and Notice.** A chapter 7 debtor seeking to convert a case to one under another chapter pursuant to § 706(a) must file a motion and give notice. (*Debtor's Motion to Convert Chapter 7 Case to Another Chapter*). Notice is sufficient if given to the Office of the United States Trustee, the case trustee, and all parties receiving notice electronically through the court's transmission facilities. The notice must advise that the court may enter an order granting the motion without further notice or hearing if no objection to the motion is filed within 14 days after the date that the motion was filed.

#### **LBR 1072-1. Places of Holding Court**

The court shall be in continuous session in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### **LBR 1074-1. Corporations and Other Artificial Entities**

- (a) **Authority to File Petition.** When a voluntary petition is filed by an entity other than a natural person, a copy of the document authorizing the filing of the petition, such as a resolution of the board of directors of a corporation, must be attached to the petition as an exhibit.
- (b) **Designation of Responsible Individual.** Every debtor that is an artificial entity must designate a natural person to be responsible for performing the debtor's duties in bankruptcy. The responsible individual must reside in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, unless the court orders otherwise. The designation must be filed within 14 days after the date the petition is filed and must include the individual's name, position, address, telephone number, and email address, and must include the individual's consent. If more than one individual is designated, the designation must specify each individual's responsibilities.

(c) **Representation by Counsel.**

- (1) Chapter 11 Debtor in Possession. Every chapter 11 debtor in possession that is an artificial entity must be represented by an attorney whose employment is subject to court approval under § 327(a).
- (2) Contested Matters and Adversary Proceedings. Except for requesting an award of compensation as a professional, an artificial entity must appear through counsel when acting as a party in a contested matter or adversary proceeding.

**LBR 2003-1. Meeting of Creditors**

(a) **Attendance Required.** The following are required to attend the meeting of creditors held pursuant to § 341(a):

- (1) the debtor and the joint debtor, if any, or if the debtor is an artificial entity, the responsible individual designated under LBR 1074-1; and
- (2) an attorney representing the debtor and the joint debtor if the petition was filed through counsel.

(b) **Failure to Attend Meeting.**

- (1) **Debtor, Joint Debtor, or Designated Responsible Individual.** The trustee or United States Trustee may request dismissal of the case for failure of the debtor, joint debtor, or designated responsible individual to attend the meeting of creditors by filing and serving on the debtor and all creditors a motion and notice of hearing. (*Motion to Dismiss Case for Non-Appearance at Meeting of Creditors; Notice of Hearing*). If the case is dismissed, the order may bar the debtor(s) from filing a subsequent voluntary petition for 180 days, pursuant to § 109(g)(1).
- (2) **Attorney.** The trustee or United States Trustee may move for the imposition of monetary or other sanctions against the debtor's attorney of record if an attorney fails to appear at the meeting of creditors.

(c) **Meeting Held Open.** In a chapter 13 case, a meeting held open by the trustee does not extend the time for the debtor to file any unfiled tax returns in compliance with § 1308, unless the trustee explicitly directs that the meeting be held open for that purpose.

**LBR 2004-1. Rule 2004 Examination**

(a) **Examination Order Issued by Clerk.** A party in interest seeking to examine the debtor or other entity pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2004 may request an examination order by filing a *Motion for Rule 2004 Examination*. When the motion requests the clerk's action,

the clerk is authorized to issue an examination order requested by a party in interest who has complied with the requirements of this local rule. Such examination order will compel the attendance or production of documents by the debtor, or, if the examinee is not the debtor, will authorize the issuance of a subpoena substantially conforming to the *Subpoena for Rule 2004 Examination* in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9016 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 45. If the requirements of this rule are not satisfied, the clerk may issue an order denying the request for an examination order.

- (b) **Date, Time, and Place of Examination.** Prior to filing a motion for an examination order, the party seeking the order shall make all reasonable efforts to arrange a mutually convenient date, time, and place of examination. The motion for an examination order must be supported by a declaration stating either:
  - (1) that the proposed date, time, and place of examination have been agreed upon by all concerned; or
  - (2) that the parties could not agree to a date, time, and place of examination after all reasonable efforts were made, in which case the examination will take place with the moving party's proposed date, time and place of examination, but no earlier than 14 days after the filing of the motion for an examination order, and no earlier than 30 days after the date of issuance of the examination order or subpoena, whichever is later, if the motion requests production of documents or electronically stored information.
- (c) **Request Limited to Delivery of Documents.** Subdivision (b) of this rule does not apply to requests for production of documents or electronically stored information to be delivered to the requesting party so long as the deadline for delivery is not less than 30 days after the date of issuance of the examination order or a subpoena, whichever is later. The motion requesting an order for production of documents or electronically stored information by mail or similar delivery method may include a request for authority to issue a subpoena for a personal examination following review of the materials produced so long as the examination date is not less than 14 days after the date of issuance of the subpoena.
- (d) **Other Discovery Procedures Not Available.** The declaration supporting issuance of an order under Bankruptcy Rule 2004 must state that the requested examination does not involve pending litigation in which discovery is available under Bankruptcy Rules 7026, 9014, or other authority.
- (e) **Objections.** An examinee or party in interest objecting to an examination must file and serve on the examining party a motion for a protective order or, if a subpoena has been served, a motion to quash the subpoena.

#### **LBR 2014-1. Employment of Professional Persons**

A request for an order of employment, pursuant to Rule 2014, may be made by filing an *Application to Employ Professional*. The applicant shall either (a) submit a proposed order bearing the approval of the Office of the United States Trustee, (b) arrange for the Office of the United States Trustee to notify chambers that the Office of the United States Trustee does not object to the application, in which case the court may enter a text order granting the application, or (c) if there is an objection to the application, obtain a hearing date from the clerk and give notice of the hearing.

#### **LBR 2015-1. Trustees - Payment of Administrative Expenses**

- (a) Expenses Not Exceeding \$1,000.** The trustee may pay the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate, which may include but are not limited to rent, utilities, taxes, insurance, moving and storage costs, without a court order obtained in advance if:

  - (1)** the amount for any single item does not exceed \$1,000,
  - (2)** when all creditors and parties in interest are notified of the need to file a proof of claim, the notice advises that they may file an objection and request for a hearing on this procedure within 28 days after the date of the notice, and
  - (3)** the trustee obtains court approval before or at the time of the court's determination on the trustee's final application for compensation and reimbursement for expenses submitted with the trustee's final report.
- (b) Expenses Exceeding \$1,000.** The trustee may obtain an order approving the payment of administrative expenses exceeding \$1,000 by filing a *Trustee's Motion to Approve Payment of Administrative Expense and Notice of Opportunity to Object*, providing 14 days' notice of a deadline to file an objection. The trustee shall serve the motion and notice on all creditors and parties in interest.
- (c) Applicability of Rule.** Subdivisions (a) and (b) of this rule do not apply to the following:

  - (1) Use of Non-Estate Funds.** The trustee may pay administrative expenses from non-estate funds and later seek court approval for reimbursement under Bankruptcy Rule 2016.
  - (2) Operation of a Business.** The trustee may pay administrative expenses related to operating a business, including the leasing of real or personal property, if an order obtained under § 721 authorizes such payments.

## **LBR 2015-6. Mail Redirection**

- (a) **Consent of Debtor.** The filing of a petition under title 11 by a debtor engaged in business is deemed to be the debtor's consent to mail redirection by the interim trustee and the trustee.
- (b) **Objection by Debtor.** If the debtor does not consent to mail redirection, the debtor must file a written objection with the clerk. If the debtor files an objection, the court will promptly set a hearing on notice to the debtor, the trustee, and the United States Trustee. After the filing of the objection, and pending order of court, the redirection shall continue, but the trustee shall hold, and not open, the debtor's mail.

## **LBR 2015-7. Monthly Operating Reports**

- (a) **Cases in Which Reports Are Required.** Monthly operating reports shall be filed by the trustee or debtor in possession in the following cases:

  - (1) all cases under chapter 11;
  - (2) chapter 7 cases, where the trustee is operating a business; and
  - (3) chapter 12 and chapter 13 cases, if the court so orders.
- (b) **Filing Deadline.** Each required monthly operating report shall be filed not later than the 20th day of the month following the month to which the report pertains. A separate report must be filed for each calendar month, or portion thereof, during which the case is pending, up to and including the month in which an order of confirmation or dismissal is entered.
- (c) **Service of Reports.** A copy of each monthly report must be served, not later than the day upon which it is filed with the court, upon the Office of the United States Trustee, the chair and counsel of record of each committee of creditors and each committee of equity security holders appointed in the case, and such other persons or entities as may be ordered by the court. Reports in a chapter 12 or chapter 13 case must be served on the trustee.
- (d) **Form and Content of Reports.**

  - (1) Unless the court orders otherwise, monthly operating reports must include an accrual basis profit and loss statement, a balance sheet, and a statement of receipts and disbursements.
  - (2) Any motion to modify this requirement must be served on all parties upon whom the monthly operating report is required to be served.

- (e) **Certificate of Counsel.** Each required monthly operating report must be accompanied by a certificate of the debtor's or trustee's attorney that the attorney has reviewed the report and that it has been prepared in compliance with this rule. Counsel's certificate shall not be deemed a representation by counsel that the entries in the report are accurate or that the report has been prepared in compliance with applicable accounting standards and principles.

#### **LBR 2015-8. Debtor's Books and Records**

- (a) **Voluntary Cases.** In a case filed pursuant to § 301 or 302, the books and records of the debtor shall be closed on the day immediately preceding the day on which the petition is filed, whether or not a separate estate is created for tax purposes. Pre-petition liabilities must be segregated and reported separately from post-petition liabilities.
- (b) **Involuntary Cases.** In a case filed under § 303, the books and records of the debtor shall be closed on the day on which relief is ordered or an interim trustee is appointed, whichever occurs first. Notwithstanding the foregoing, liabilities incurred before the commencement of the case shall be segregated and, in the event relief is granted, reported separately from liabilities incurred after the commencement of the case.

#### **LBR 2015-9. Trustees – Interim Reports**

- (a) **Requirement to File.** Unless the trustee has filed a report of no distribution, a trustee appointed in a case under chapter 7 or chapter 11 must file an interim report in each case that has been pending under the same chapter for more than 2 years, and for which a final report has not been filed. Additional interim reports must be filed at least every 6 months thereafter. This requirement is in addition to any reporting requirements set by the United States Trustee.
- (b) **Content of Report.** The trustee may satisfy the reporting requirement of this rule by filing a report (*Trustee's Interim Report*), including:
  - (1) a brief description of the status of the case;
  - (2) the trustee's records of time spent administering the case during the reporting period;
  - (3) Form 1 – Individual Estate Property Record and Report; and
  - (4) Form 2 – Cash Receipts and Disbursements Record.

#### **LBR 2016-1. Compensation of Professionals**

- (a) **Application Requirements.** Unless these rules provide otherwise, an application for compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses under § 330, 331, or 503(b)(4)

must include the following:

- (1) the information about the applicant and the application, case status, project billing, and actual, necessary expenses as set forth in the *Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330*, 28 C.F.R. Pt. 58, App. A (“U.S. Trustee’s Guidelines”), contained in:
    - (A) Appendix A - Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 in (1) larger chapter 11 cases by those seeking compensation who are not attorneys, (2) all chapter 11 cases below the larger case thresholds, and (3) cases under other chapters of the Bankruptcy Code (except that the project billing format is required only if the professional's compensation is anticipated to exceed \$20,000); and
    - (B) Appendix B - Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed under 11 U.S.C. § 330 for Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases (including Exhibits A - E).
  - (2) a summary sheet (*Compensation Summary Sheet*);
  - (3) detailed time records unless the professional is an auctioneer, real estate agent, or other professional whose compensation is based on a commission percentage; and
  - (4) a certification by the applicant that:
    - (A) the applicant has reviewed the application;
    - (B) the amounts being requested are billed at rates no less favorable than those customarily employed by the applicant and generally accepted by the applicant’s non-bankruptcy clients; and
    - (C) to the best of the applicant's knowledge, information, and belief, the application conforms to the U.S. Trustee’s Guidelines, this rule, and any order of the court, except as specifically noted in the certification.
- (b) **Client Review of Application.** A debtor in possession, trustee, or official committee must exercise reasonable business judgment in monitoring the fees and expenses of the estate’s professionals. If a professional’s total fees are anticipated to exceed \$20,000 in a case, billing statements must be sent monthly to the client and include a cover letter with the following statement: “The court requires that a debtor in possession, trustee, or an official committee exercise reasonable business judgment in monitoring the fees and expenses of the estate’s professionals. Any objections, concerns, or questions about the services or amounts in this billing statement should be communicated promptly to the professional and may be shared with the Office of the United States

Trustee.”

- (c) **Foreign Currency Amounts.** Amounts requested in an application for compensation must be stated in United States currency. The application may request approval of compensation and expenses in a foreign currency amount as converted to United States dollars in an approximate amount in effect at the time the application is filed, e.g. ¥1,500,000 (approx. US\$13,800). Unless the court orders otherwise, the actual payment amount may be calculated using the conversion rate in effect at the time of payment.

(d) **Standards for Reasonableness.**

- (1) **Compensation for Services.** In addition to the factors identified in the U.S. Trustee’s Guidelines, the court generally will apply the following in determining the reasonableness of an application for compensation.

(A) **Multiple Professionals.** Professionals must explain time spent in meetings and conferences or at hearings or depositions with other professionals or paraprofessionals in the same firm. Failure to justify this time may result in the allowance of fees limited to those requested at the lowest billing rate.

(B) **Multiple Cases.** Time claimed for periods of attendance at hearings, meetings of creditors, or other services involving more than one case must be prorated.

(C) **Administrative and Clerical Tasks.** Administrative and clerical services, such as photocopying, scanning, or faxing documents, filing papers with the court, or supervising such tasks performed by another, are not compensable.

(D) **Travel Time.** “Travel time” means time spent while traveling and not actually performing professional services for a client. A reasonable amount of travel time, not to exceed 8 hours per day, may be allowed for actual, necessary travel. If the travel also involves another case or client, the travel time must be prorated.

(E) **Privilege or Excise Taxes on Compensation.** Amounts attributable to privilege or excise taxes, but not income taxes, such as the Northern Mariana Islands Business Gross Revenue Tax, payable on receipts for compensation, may be included in requests for compensation if customarily charged to non-bankruptcy clients and to the extent that such taxes will actually be paid to a taxing authority.

- (2) **Reimbursement for Expenses.** In addition to the factors identified in the U.S. Trustee’s Guidelines, the court generally will apply the following in determining

the reasonableness of an application for reimbursement for expenses.

- (A) **Professional or Paraprofessional Services.** A professional employed under § 327 may not charge as an expense any fee payable to another professional or paraprofessional unless the employment of the other professional or paraprofessional (e.g., an expert witness) has been approved by the court prior to performance of the services.
- (B) **Meals.**
  - (i) **While Traveling.** Reimbursement may be sought for the reasonable cost of meals while away from the island (inside Northern Mariana Islands) or state or territory (outside Northern Mariana Islands) of the professional's office or principal place of business.
  - (ii) **While Working.** Working meals at a restaurant or private club are not reimbursable. Reimbursement may be sought for working meals only where food is catered to the professional's office in the course of a meeting with clients, such as a creditors committee, for the purpose of allowing the meeting to continue through a normal meal period.
- (C) **Transportation.** Air travel may be reimbursable using the actual cost or the amount of the economy class fare, whichever is lower. Automotive travel expense is limited to the actual cost of rental of an appropriate vehicle, together with insurance and fuel costs associated with the rental.
- (D) **Parking.** The actual cost of parking expenses may be reimbursable except for parking at the applicant's principal place of business and, for applicants whose principal place of business is on the island of Saipan, parking while attending a court hearing or a meeting of creditors.
- (E) **Amenities.** Amenities, including, but not limited to, charges for entertainment, alcoholic beverages, newspapers, dry cleaning and laundry, are not reimbursable.
- (F) **Privilege or Excise Taxes on Expenses.** Amounts attributable to privilege or excise taxes, but not income taxes, such as the Northern Mariana Islands Excise Tax, payable on expenses may be included in requests for expenses if customarily charged to non-bankruptcy clients and to the extent that such taxes will actually be paid to a taxing authority.
- (G) **Objection Ceilings for In-House Expenses.** The U.S. Trustee's Guidelines provide for the establishment of objection ceilings for in-house expenses that are routinely incurred and for which the actual cost cannot easily be

determined. The court generally will apply the following objection ceilings.

- (i) **Photocopies:** \$.20 per page.
  - (ii) **Faxes:** \$.20 per paper page for outgoing and incoming transmissions, except that \$1.00 may be charged for the first paper page of an outgoing transmission.
- (e) **Chapter 7 Trustees. Compensation Request in Final Report.** A chapter 7 trustee may seek court approval of a final application for compensation by including the request in the trustee's final report. The trustee may include in a compensation request an amount attributable to liability for taxes, such as the Northern Mariana Islands Business Gross Revenue Tax, to the extent that the total compensation request does not exceed the statutory limitation of § 326(a).
- (f) **Chapter 7 Trustee's Professionals.** A professional employed by a chapter 7 trustee may file an application for final compensation by a Professional Employed by Chapter 7 Trustee (*Final Application for Compensation by Professional Employed by Chapter 7 Trustee*) in lieu of an application conforming to the requirements of subdivision (a) of this rule.

#### **LBR 2070-1. Estate Administration**

**Funds of the Estate – Account Identification.** The signature card (or if there is none, the depository agreement) for any account containing funds which are the property of a bankruptcy estate must clearly indicate that the depositor or investor is a "debtor in possession" or a trustee in bankruptcy.

#### **LBR 2072-1. Notice to Other Courts**

- (a) **Notice of Bankruptcy Petition.** Notice of the filing of a bankruptcy petition in this district must be given to any federal or state court or administrative tribunal in which the debtor is a party to pending litigation or other proceeding. Notice must be given, at the earliest possible date, to the judge to whom the matter is assigned, the clerk of the court where the matter is pending, all counsel of record in the matter, and all parties to the action not represented by counsel. A debtor filing a petition without bankruptcy counsel shall give notice immediately to any attorney representing the debtor in pending litigation or other proceeding. Notice of a bankruptcy petition will not bar any conference in another court held to advise the court and the parties of the status of the bankruptcy case.
- (b) **Party to Give Notice.** In a voluntary case, the notice must be given by the debtor or the debtor's counsel. In an involuntary case, notice must be given by the petitioning creditors or their counsel.

- (c) **Effect of Not Giving Notice.** Failure to give the notice required by subdivision (a) of this rule may constitute cause for annulment of the stay imposed by § 362, 922, 1201, or 1301 and may also result in the imposition of sanctions.
- (d) **Notice of Order for Relief from Stay.** If an order terminating, annulling, modifying, or conditioning the stay imposed by § 362, 922, 1201, or 1301, will permit resumption of litigation or other proceeding, the party obtaining the order for relief from stay must give notice thereof to the parties noted in subdivision (a) of this rule.
- (e) **Notice of Other Order Affecting Litigation.** Notice of an order dismissing or closing a case, granting or denying a discharge, or otherwise affecting the resumption of litigation or any other proceeding, must be given by the debtor or the debtor's counsel to the parties noted in subdivision (a) of this rule. If the debtor or the debtor's counsel fails to give such notice promptly, the notice may be given by any party in interest with knowledge of the order affecting pending litigation or other proceeding.

#### **LBR 2083-1. Chapter 13 – General**

- (a) **Debtor's Notice of Conversion to Chapter 7.** A debtor may request an order converting a chapter 13 case, not previously converted from another chapter, to one under chapter 7 by filing and serving on the trustee and United States Trustee a *Debtor's Notice of Conversion of Case to Chapter 7*. Unless the court directs otherwise, a hearing is not required.
- (b) **Debtor's Motion to Dismiss Case.** A debtor may request an order dismissing a chapter 13 case, not previously converted from another chapter, by filing and serving on the trustee and United States Trustee a *Debtor's Motion to Dismiss Chapter 13 Case*. Unless the court directs otherwise, a hearing is not required.
- (c) **Debtor's Motion to Approve Sale of Property.** A chapter 13 debtor may request an order approving a sale of property by filing and serving on the trustee, the United States Trustee, and all parties claiming an interest in the subject property, a *Debtor's Motion to Approve Sale in Chapter 13 Case* in accordance with LBR 9013-1. The motion must include a report as to the status of title and liens for the subject property. The motion may include a request for approval of any compensation to be paid to the debtor's attorney for services related to the motion and payment of a commission or other fees to a sales agent, auctioneer, or other professional for services performed in connection with the sale.
- (d) **Debtor's Motion to Obtain Credit or Incur Debt.**
  - (1) **Form of Motion.** A chapter 13 debtor may request an order authorizing the debtor to obtain credit or incur debt by filing a Motion to Incur Debt. The motion may include a request for approval of any compensation to be paid to the

debtor's attorney for services related to the motion.

(2) **Notice.** The court may consider the request without notice to creditors if:

- (A) the collateral for the new debt is property that vested in the debtor upon plan confirmation or otherwise is not property of the estate;
- (B) the loan proceeds will be used to satisfy all remaining payments to the trustee due under the plan;
- (C) where a separate application for compensation will be made, any compensation for services of the debtor's attorney related to the motion will be paid into a client trust account, pending further court approval; and
- (D) the trustee's approval is evidenced by the trustee's signature on the motion or proposed order.

(3) **Plan Modification.** A debtor is not required to file a separate motion to modify confirmed plan if:

- (A) the sale or loan proceeds will be used to complete all remaining payments due under the confirmed plan; and
- (B) plan modification is limited to the acceleration of such payments.

(e) **Trustee's Motions to Dismiss.**

(1) **Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Feasibility.** If the trustee determines from the proofs of claims actually filed that the confirmed plan is not feasible, i.e. there will be insufficient funds to pay in full all administrative expenses, secured claims, priority claims, and any claims placed in a special class for full payment, the trustee may file and serve on the debtor a *Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Feasibility; Notice of Deadline*. Failure of the debtor to file, within 28 days after the date of filing of the motion, an objection to a claim, which, if sustained, would ensure feasibility, or a motion to modify the confirmed plan, may result in the court dismissing the case without further notice or hearing.

(2) **Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Make Plan Payment or Other Cause.**

- (A) **Motion and Service.** Unless these rules provide for a specific alternate procedure, the trustee may request an order dismissing a chapter 13 case by filing and serving on the debtor a *Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Case; Notice of Hearing; Certificate of Service*. The motion must be filed and served no later than 21 days before the hearing date.

- (B) **Conditional Relief.** The trustee's motion to dismiss may provide for dismissal of the case unless, within 21 days after the hearing on the motion or such other additional time agreeable to the trustee, the debtor satisfies the plan payment arrearage or other deficiency, or the debtor files a notice of conversion to a case under another chapter.

(f) **Operation of a Business.**

- (1) **Requirement for Reports.** Not later than 7 days before the meeting of creditors, the debtor must submit business reports to the trustee if requested by the trustee or if at least 2 of the following conditions exist:
  - (A) the business employs 3 or more individuals;
  - (B) the business earns monthly gross receipts exceeding \$10,000;
  - (C) the business produces net receipts comprising 50% or more of the debtor's income reported in schedule I.
- (2) **Content of Reports.** The business reports required under this rule must include:
  - (A) a projection of average monthly income and expenses;
  - (B) evidence of appropriate business insurance;
  - (C) inventory of goods as well as a list of furniture and equipment as of the date of filing of the petition;
  - (D) monthly income and expense statements for at least 6 months preceding the date of filing of the petition, including a statement regarding incurred and unpaid expenses, signed by the debtor under penalty of perjury; and
  - (E) any additional financial information specified by the trustee.
- (3) **Trustee's Duties.** If business reports are not required under this rule, the trustee is not required to perform any additional duties under § 1302(c) with respect to the debtor's operation of a business.

**LBR 2090-1. Attorneys – Admission to Practice**

- (a) **In General.** The local rules of practice of the District Court regarding attorney admission and practice apply in all bankruptcy cases and proceedings. See Title XI of the Local Rules for Admission and Practice Requirements.
- (b) **Pro Hac Vice.** Attorneys may request permission to appear *pro hac vice* in a bankruptcy case or proceeding in this court by filing an *Application to Appear Pro Hac Vice* and

submitting the assessment required by the district court. The assessment should be payable to “Clerk, U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.” An attorney admitted to appear *pro hac vice* in a bankruptcy case will also be admitted to appear *pro hac vice* in a case that has been consolidated or is being jointly administered with, or in any adversary proceeding related to, the case in which the application has been granted.

## **LBR 2091-2. Attorneys – Withdrawal and Substitution**

(a) Attorneys appearing in bankruptcy matters must comply with LR 83.4. .

### **(b) Withdrawal of Counsel.**

#### **(1) Bankruptcy Cases.**

- (A) Motion Required.** An attorney seeking to withdraw as counsel in a bankruptcy case must file and serve on the debtor, the trustee, the Office of the United States Trustee, any committee appointed in the case, and parties to any pending contested matters in which the attorney has participated, a motion and notice of hearing.
- (B) Form of Motion.** The motion must include a statement explaining the reason for withdrawal, unless that would violate the rules of professional conduct, and must indicate whether the client agrees with the withdrawal. If the client is not an individual, the motion must advise the client that an artificial entity may only appear through counsel and that adverse consequences may result if legal representation is not retained promptly.

#### **(2) Adversary Proceedings.**

- (A) Court Approval Required.** An attorney seeking to withdraw as counsel for any party in an adversary proceeding must obtain court approval by filing a motion, as described in subparagraph (b)(1) of this rule.
- (B) Service of Motion.** The withdrawing attorney must serve the motion and notice of hearing on the client, all other counsel of record, and all other unrepresented parties in the adversary proceeding.
- (C) Statement of Non-Representation.** An attorney representing a debtor in the bankruptcy case whose services in related adversary proceedings are not included in the attorney-client agreement, and who has not made an appearance in the adversary proceeding, is not required to seek court approval but must promptly file a statement of non-representation in the adversary proceeding and serve it on all counsel of record.

**(c) Substitution of Counsel.**

**(1) In General**

- (A)** A substitution of counsel is the contemporaneous replacement of one attorney by another attorney authorized to practice in the District Court for the District of Northern Mariana Islands.
- (B)** All substitutions in this court require court approval pursuant to LR 83.3(c).
- (C)** Motions for substitution must contain the signatures of the clients and attorneys involved.

**(2) Bankruptcy Cases.**

- (A)** If employment of the attorney terminating representation requires court approval under § 327, the substitution of counsel will become effective only upon the entry of an order granting an application to employ the substituting attorney.
- (B)** Notice must be served on the debtor, trustee, the Office of the United States Trustee, any committee appointed in the case, and parties to any pending contested matter in which the client is involved, and submitted to the judge for approval.

- (3) Adversary Proceedings.** Notice must be served on other counsel of record in the proceeding and any unrepresented parties in the adversary proceeding.

- (d) Change of Address or Firm Affiliation.** Attorneys must provide notice about a change in business address or firm affiliation by filing a *Notice of Change of Address or Firm Affiliation* within 14 days of the change. The notice must be filed in each case and proceeding in which the attorney has appeared and the attorney must change the office, address, phone and email information in the attorney's user CM/ECF user account.

**LBR 3001-1. Requests to Pay Administrative Expenses**

- (a) Applicability.** Unless the court orders otherwise, this rule governs all requests for payment of administrative expenses under § 503(a), except for:
  - (1)** Compensation and expenses awarded under § 330(a), and
  - (2)** Administrative expenses incurred in the ordinary course of business to the

extent authorized under § 364(a).

**(b) Form of Request.**

- (1) Requests for Interim Payment.** An entity seeking payment for an administrative expense prior to confirmation of a plan or the filing of a trustee's final report must file a motion for allowance and payment of an administrative expense in accordance with LBR 9013-1. Payment may be made only upon order of the court allowing the expense and approving an interim payment.
- (2) Requests for Payment in the Ordinary Course of Distributions.** An entity seeking payment for an administrative expense through distributions under a confirmed plan or by the trustee after the filing of a final report may file a *Request for Payment of Administrative Expense*. Absent a timely objection to plan confirmation or a final report, payment may be made through a distribution under a confirmed plan or as part of the trustee's distribution of estate assets, without entry of a separate order allowing the expense.

**(c) Timing of Request.** Unless the court otherwise sets a deadline, a request for payment of an administrative expense is timely if filed:

- (1)** In a case under chapter 11, 12, or 13, by the later of:
  - (A)** 28 days prior to the date of the plan confirmation hearing; or
  - (B)** 28 days after the occurrence of the last event giving rise to the expense;
- (2)** In a case under chapter 7, by the later of:
  - (A)** the deadline for filing a proof of claim;
  - (B)** 28 days after the occurrence of the last event giving rise to the expense;  
or
  - (C)** For expenses arising from the use of premises by a trustee or debtor in possession, 28 days after surrender of the premises by the trustee or debtor in possession.

**(d) Notice.** An entity requesting payment of an administrative expense under this rule must give notice of the request to the trustee or debtor in possession, the Office of the United States Trustee, and, in a chapter 11 case, any committee appointed in the case, or if no committee has been appointed, the holders of the 20 largest unsecured claims.

**LBR 3002-1. Electronic Filing of Proof of Claim**

A proof of claim submitted under Bankruptcy Rule 3002 and documents submitted in compliance with Bankruptcy Rule 3002.1 may be filed electronically using the electronic proof of claim application. Documents submitted using this system and in compliance with all instructions and procedural requirements issued by the clerk shall have the same force and effect as if the submitting individual had signed a paper copy of the document.

#### **LBR 3002-2. Extension of Time to File Claim**

As provided in Bankruptcy Rule 3002(c)(6), a creditor may request an extension of time to file a proof of claim by filing a motion. (*Motion to Extend Time to File Proof of Claim*).

#### **LBR 3003-1. Chapter 11 Claims Bar Date**

Unless the court orders otherwise, proofs of claim or interest required to be filed in a chapter 11 case under Bankruptcy Rule 3003 must be filed within 90 days after the first date set for the meeting of creditors called under § 341.

#### **LBR 3004-1. Claims Filed on Behalf of Creditor**

- (a) **Notice.** A party filing a proof of claim on behalf of a creditor under Bankruptcy Rules 3004 or 3005 must serve the creditor with a copy of the filed proof of claim, and a *Notice of Claim Filed on Behalf of Creditor*. The filing party must promptly file a certificate of service showing when, how, and on whom service was made.
- (b) **Amended Claim Filed by Creditor.** When a proof of claim has been filed on behalf of a creditor under Bankruptcy Rule 3004 or 3005, the creditor may file an amended proof of claim within 30 days after service of the notice required under subdivision (a) of this rule. Unless the court orders otherwise, the amended proof of claim filed by the creditor will supersede the proof of claim filed by another entity.

#### **LBR 3007-1. Claims – Objections**

- (a) **Matter Set for Hearing.** A party filing an objection to a claim must obtain a hearing date and time from the clerk's office.
- (b) **Form of Objection.** Parties may object to a claim and must entitle the pleading *Objection to Claim*. The objection must not give less than 30 days' notice of the deadline to respond.
- (c) **Deadline to Respond.** A response is due 7 days before the scheduled hearing. If notice was sufficient and the claimant fails to file a timely response, the court may cancel the hearing and sustain the objection by default. In that event, the objecting party may request an order sustaining the objection by filing a *Declaration and Request for Entry of*

Order and submitting to chambers a proposed *Order Sustaining Objection to Claim*.

- (d) **Objection Requiring Adversary Proceeding.** An objection to claim that includes a demand for relief of a kind specified in Bankruptcy Rule 7001 shall be converted to an adversary proceeding. Unless the court orders otherwise, the claimant will be considered the plaintiff and the objecting party will be considered the defendant.
- (e) **Attorney Fees.** Any request for an award of attorney fees and costs for prosecuting or opposing an objection to claim requires a separate motion, filed and served in the manner provided for service of a summons and complaint by Bankruptcy Rule 7004 and LBR 7004-1.

#### **LBR 3010-1. Dividends – Small**

- (a) **Chapter 7 Cases.** The trustee in a chapter 7 case may pay dividends in amounts less than \$5.
- (b) **Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Cases.** The trustee in a chapter 12 or chapter 13 case may distribute payments in amounts less than \$15.

#### **LBR 3011-1. Unclaimed Funds**

- (a) **Form of Application.** A party seeking a disbursement of unclaimed funds that have been deposited with the clerk must file an *Application for Unclaimed Funds*.
- (b) **Proof of Entitlement.**
  - (1) **Application by Claimant.**
    - (A) **Individual Claimant.** An application by a claimant who is an individual must be accompanied by a copy of a valid photo identification issued by a government agency, such as a driver's license or a passport.
    - (B) **Artificial Entity.** An application by a claimant that is a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other artificial entity must be accompanied by documentation showing authority to make the application, such as articles of incorporation, board meeting minutes, or other documentation.
  - (2) **Application by Legal Representative.** An application by a claimant's legal representative, including a funds locator, must be accompanied by an original, notarized power of attorney that clearly authorizes the representative to act on behalf of the claimant. If the claimant is deceased, an application must be accompanied by a certified copy of a letter of administration, probated will, or other document that clearly authorizes the representative to file the application

on behalf of the claimant's estate.

- (3) **Application by Successor in Interest.** An application by a party asserted to be the successor in interest to the original claimant must be accompanied by documentation that clearly establishes a right to payment of the unclaimed funds.
- (4) **Address.** The application must state the claimant's address at the time the claim was made and provide either documentation identifying the claimant as having resided or conducted business at that address at the time, or a declaration to that effect.
- (c) **Competing Applications.** If there are competing applications for the same unclaimed funds, payment will be made to the original claimant over a representative asserting to be the claimant's legal representative. If there is more than one party claiming to be the claimant's legal representative, the earliest application will be given priority, unless the court orders otherwise.
- (d) **Service on United States Attorney.** An additional copy of the application for unclaimed funds must be sent to the Office of the United States Attorney, District of the Northern Mariana Islands. Unless the court orders otherwise, disbursement of any unclaimed funds requires a statement of no objection by the United States Attorney.
- (e) **Payment.** If the application is made by the claimant's legal representative, the clerk will make the check payable to the claimant but will send the payment to the applicant's address.

#### **LBR 3015-1. Chapter 13 – Plan**

- (a) **Form Plan.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a plan filed in a chapter 13 case must substantially conform to the local form plan (NMI Chapter 13 Form Plan). The form plan's text and order presenting information may not be altered. The debtor may propose additional or different plan provisions only by setting them out in the "Nonstandard Plan Provisions" section of the plan.
- (b) **Dismissal Upon Failure to File Plan.** If a plan is not filed with a chapter 13 petition or prior to an order converting the case to chapter 13, the clerk is authorized to issue an order to satisfy the deficiency. The order may include a notice that failure to file the plan within 14 days may result in dismissal of the case without further notice, unless on or before the deadline the court enters an order extending the time to file the plan. An order dismissing the case under this provision may include a 180-day bar to refile a subsequent petition as authorized by § 109(g)(1).
- (c) **Extension of Time to File Plan.** A debtor may request an extension of time to file a plan by filing and serving on the trustee and United States Trustee a *Debtor's Motion to*

*Extend Time to File Case Opening Documents.* Consideration of the motion may be expedited if the motion includes the trustee's signature indicating that there is no objection to the request.

- (d) **Motion to Reconsider Dismissal.** A debtor whose case has been dismissed for failure to file a plan may request the court to reconsider the order dismissing the case by filing a proposed plan and a *Debtor's Motion to Reconsider Order Dismissing Case*.
- (e) **Request to Value Collateral to Determine Amount of Secured Claim.**
  - (1) **Secured Claim of a Non-Governmental Unit.** If the plan includes a request to value the collateral of a non-governmental unit under § 506(a), the plan must include an addendum (*Attachment A: Addendum to Section 4.5*). Any supporting documents, such as appraisals, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda, shall be identified appropriately and appended to the addendum. Each addendum is limited to a single piece of real or personal property unless all interests being determined are secured by the same aggregate of collateral. Otherwise, requests involving different collateral must be made in additional, separate addenda.
  - (2) **Secured Claim of a Governmental Unit.** A request for valuation under Bankruptcy Rule 3012(c) to determine the amount of a secured claim held by a governmental unit must be made by a *Motion to Value Claim of Governmental Unit*. The determination sought in a motion involving a claim by a governmental unit must be consistent with any determination involving nongovernmental creditors' claims secured by the same collateral. The motion must be filed and served at the same time the related plan is filed and served. The governmental unit may object to a motion to value collateral by filing a single pleading objecting to the motion and confirmation of the related plan. Such objections must be filed not later than the deadline to file an objection to plan confirmation.
- (f) **Request to Avoid a Lien.** If the plan includes a request to avoid a lien under § 522(f), the plan must include an addendum (*Attachment B: Addendum to Section 4.7*). Any supporting documents, such as appraisals, declarations, exhibits, and memoranda, shall be identified appropriately and appended to the attachment. Additional requests to avoid liens must be made in additional, separate addenda.
- (g) **Service of Plan.**
  - (1) **Debtor Required to Serve Plan.** The debtor must serve the plan and any amended plan on the trustee, and all creditors and parties in interest when it is filed with the court.
  - (2) **Manner of Service.** The debtor shall serve the plan in the same manner as required for giving notice under Bankruptcy Rule 2002 of the time fixed for filing

objections to confirmation of the plan. If the plan includes a request to avoid a lien or to determine the value of the collateral of a non-governmental unit, the plan and addenda must be served on each affected creditor in the manner provided for service of a summons and complaint by Bankruptcy Rule 7004 and LBR 7004-1.

**(3) Certificate of service.**

- (A) Local form.** The debtor shall promptly file a certificate of service.
- (B) Timeliness.** The debtor shall serve the plan at least 28 days before the date of the confirmation hearing. The debtor shall file a certificate of service not later than 7 days before the confirmation hearing. (*Certificate of Service – Chapter 13 Plan*).

- (4) Consequences of deficient service.** If the debtor fails to meet the timeliness of service requirements under this rule, the court may not schedule a confirmation hearing, or may cancel or continue the confirmation hearing, deny confirmation without a hearing, issue an order to show cause why the case should not be dismissed or converted for unreasonable delay prejudicial to creditors, or grant any other appropriate sanctions or other relief.

**(h) Interest Rate Paid on Certain Claims.**

- (1) Standard Interest Rate.** Except for interest on tax claims and on administrative tax expenses governed by § 511, the court will use the standard interest rate, published by the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Hawaii, applicable to secured and other claims under a confirmed chapter 13 plan. The setting of a standard interest rate does not bar a debtor or creditor from proposing a different interest rate. The standard interest rate in effect at the later of the filing of the petition or the conversion of the case to one under chapter 13 will remain in effect for the duration of the plan.

**(2) Interest Rate Calculation.**

- (A)** For plans in cases commenced under or converted to chapter 13 between December 1 in one year and May 31 of the following year, the standard interest rate is the national prime rate of interest, as published in the Wall Street Journal on the first business day of that period, plus 1.5%.
- (B)** For plans in cases commenced under or converted to chapter 13 between June 1 and November 30 of the same year, the standard interest rate is the national prime rate of interest, as published in the Wall Street Journal on the first business day of that period, plus 1.5%.

## **LBR 3015-2. Chapter 13 - Plan Amendment and Modification**

### **(a) Amendment of Plan Before Confirmation.**

- (1) Amended Plan.** The debtor may file an amended chapter 13 plan anytime before confirmation by filing and serving on all creditors a plan substantially conforming to the local form plan (NMI Chapter 13 Plan). The debtor must check the box labeled “Amended” and indicate the date of the plan on the first page.
- (2) Plan Motions.** If the terms of an amended plan are inconsistent with any plan motions filed with the original plan, the debtor must file an amended plan motion.
- (3) Objections.**
  - (A) Prior Objection Deemed Moot.** An objection to a chapter 13 plan becomes moot upon the filing of an amended plan. If a party remains opposed to confirmation of an amended plan, the party must file a new objection.
  - (B) Deadline to Object.** An objection to an amended plan must be filed not later than the time specified in LBR 3015-3(a).
- (4) Amendments Stated Orally at Confirmation Hearing.** The trustee may request that the court confirm a chapter 13 plan with amendments stated orally at the confirmation hearing if the amendments do not prejudice any creditor.

### **(b) Modification of Plan After Confirmation.**

- (1) Debtor’s Motion.**
  - (A) Form of Motion and Notice.** The debtor may request modification of a confirmed plan by filing a *Motion to Modify Confirmed Plan; Notice of Hearing*. A copy of the entire plan as modified need not be filed so long as the motion describes with specificity the proposed modifications to the plan then in effect.
  - (B) Service.** A debtor’s motion and notice must be served promptly on the trustee and:
    - (i)** all creditors and parties in interest; or
    - (ii)** if the motion is filed after the deadline to file a proof of claim, only those parties who have filed a proof of claim.

(C) **Objections.** An objection to a debtor's motion to modify a confirmed Chapter 13 plan must be filed not later than 7 days before the motion's hearing date.

(2) **Motion by Trustee or Creditor.** A motion to modify a confirmed chapter 13 plan brought by a party other than the debtor, including the *Trustee's Motion to Extend the Plan's Duration*, must be made pursuant to LBR 9013-1, except that a response to the motion must be filed not later than 7 days before the hearing date. The trustee may request a plan extension up to 60 months after the time the first payment was due under the confirmed plan by filing a *Trustee's Motion to Extend Plan; Notice of Hearing*. The trustee is not required to file a certificate of service if the clerk serves the trustee's motion and notice using the court's transmission facilities.

### **LBR 3015-3. Chapter 13 – Confirmation**

(a) **Objection to Confirmation.** A party objecting to confirmation of a chapter 13 plan or a plan motion must file an objection by the later of:

- (1) 7 days before the date of the confirmation hearing or continued confirmation hearing, and
- (2) 21 days after the date of filing of the plan, amended plan, or plan motion.

(b) **Lack of Objections.** In the absence of any timely filed objections to confirmation and any plan motions, the court may cancel the confirmation hearing, confirm the plan, and determine any plan motions.

(c) **Confirmation Orders.** Unless the court directs otherwise, the trustee will prepare a confirmation *Order Confirming Chapter 13 Plan*, attaching the plan as an exhibit, and any *Order Granting Plan Motion to Avoid Lien* or *Order Granting Plan Motion to Value Collateral*. The trustee may delegate the responsibility to prepare an order to the debtor or the debtor's attorney.

(d) **Procedure Upon Denial of Plan Confirmation.**

(1) **Action Required Within 14 days.** An order denying plan confirmation may provide that the case may be dismissed unless, within 14 days after the entry of the order denying confirmation, the debtor:

- (A) files an amended plan and any plan motions, or
- (B) converts the case to a case under another chapter.

(e) **Multiple Denials of Confirmation.** If two or more plans have been denied confirmation in a case, the trustee may include in an objection to any subsequent plan a motion to

dismiss the case for prejudicial delay to creditors. Separate notice of the request for dismissal is not required.

#### **LBR 3017-1. Disclosure Statement – Approval**

- (a) **Motion and Notice Required.** A plan proponent seeking approval of a disclosure statement related to a chapter 11 plan must file a motion for approval with the disclosure statement attached as an exhibit. Except as provided in LBR 3017-2, the moving party must immediately obtain a hearing date and promptly give at least 28 days' notice of the hearing to all parties in interest (*Notice of Hearing on Disclosure Statement*).
- (b) **Objections.** A party objecting to approval of the disclosure statement must file a written objection not later than 7 days before the hearing date. The objection should specify why the disclosure statement (rather than the proposed plan) is objectionable. The court generally will not entertain arguments about plan confirmation at the disclosure statement hearing.
- (c) **Intention to Proceed.** Not later than 3 days prior to the hearing (and any continued hearing), the plan proponent shall advise the court by telephone or e-mail whether the proponent intends to go forward with the hearing.
- (d) **Duty to Confer.** If an objection to the proposed disclosure statement is filed, the plan proponent and the objecting party must confer in a good faith attempt to resolve the dispute.
- (e) **Request for Continuance.** A plan proponent desiring a continuance of the hearing on a disclosure statement shall appear at the scheduled hearing to request a continuance.
- (f) **Adequate Information.** A plan proponent may establish that the proposed disclosure statement contains adequate information through offer of proof, declaration, or, if the court so requires, live testimony. In all cases, a witness competent to testify must be present. The plan proponent is not required to file briefs or memoranda.
- (g) **Confirmation Hearing.** At the conclusion of the disclosure statement hearing, counsel for the plan proponent shall be prepared to advise the court of the amount of court time the confirmation hearing will require. If a contested confirmation hearing is anticipated, the court will entertain requests that scheduling procedures be established concerning the filing of briefs, exchange and marking of exhibits, disclosure of witnesses and discovery.
- (h) **Order Approving Disclosure Statement.** If the disclosure statement is approved at the hearing, the plan proponent must promptly prepare and submit for signing a proposed order (Official Form B313: Order Approving Disclosure Statement and Fixing

Time for Filing Acceptances or Rejections of Plan, Combined with Notice Thereof). The proposed order must attach the approved disclosure statement as an exhibit.

#### **LBR 3017-2. Disclosure Statement – Small Business Case**

In a small business case governed by § 1125(f), a plan proponent may file an ex parte motion to seek (i) approval of a disclosure statement, (ii) conditional approval of a disclosure statement subject to final approval after notice and a hearing, or (iii) a determination that the plan itself provides adequate information and that a separate disclosure statement is not necessary. Any disclosure statement for which conditional or final approval is sought must be attached as an exhibit to the motion.

#### **LBR 3018-1. Ballots – Voting on Plans**

- (a) **Service.** The plan proponent must file a certificate identifying the parties served a chapter 11 Ballot for Accepting or Rejecting Plan of Reorganization (Official Form 314). The certificate of service may be combined with the certificate showing service of the disclosure statement and plan.
- (b) **Ballots to Be Returned to Plan Proponent.** Completed ballots must be returned to the plan proponent or its agent, not the court.
- (c) **Ballot Report.** Not later than 7 days before the confirmation hearing, the plan proponent must file a ballot tabulation report that:
  - (1) shows the percentages of acceptances and rejections for each impaired class, in number and dollar amount;
  - (2) identifies any unimpaired classes with an explanation why such classes are unimpaired under § 1124;
  - (3) identifies any ballots received after the voting deadline set by the court and whether such ballots are included in the tabulation; and
  - (4) attaches all ballots as exhibits (unless there is an unusually large number of ballots).

#### **LBR 3020-1. Chapter 11 – Confirmation**

- (a) **Service of Disclosure Statement and Plan.** The plan proponent must file a certificate identifying the parties served the disclosure statement and plan. The certificate of service must be filed promptly after service was made.
- (b) **Objections to Confirmation.** Unless the court otherwise orders, objections to confirmation of the plan must be filed not later than 7 days prior to the confirmation

hearing.

- (c) **Duty to Confer.** The plan proponent and any party objecting to confirmation must make a good faith effort to confer prior to the confirmation hearing regarding disputed issues and the conduct of the confirmation hearing.
- (d) **Status Report.** Not later than 3 days prior to the hearing (and any continued hearing), the plan proponent must advise the court whether the proponent intends to go forward with the hearing.
- (e) **Request for Continuance.** A plan proponent wishing to continue the confirmation hearing must appear at the scheduled hearing to make the request.
- (f) **Confirmation Requirements.** If the plan has been accepted by the requisite majorities and no objections to confirmation have been filed, the plan proponent may establish that the plan meets the applicable requirements of chapter 11 by offer of proof, declaration, or, if the court so requires, live testimony. In all cases, a witness competent to testify must be present.

#### **LBR 3022-1. Chapter 11 – Final Decree**

After the entry of a plan confirmation order, the debtor in possession or trustee in a chapter 11 case may request entry of a final decree by filing and serving on the United States Trustee, any committee appointed in the case, or if no committee was appointed, the holders of the 20 largest unsecured claims, an application for a final decree closing the case and discharging the trustee, if one has been appointed. If no objection is filed within 30 days after the date of filing of the application, the clerk may enter a final decree without further notice or hearing.

#### **LBR 3070-1. Chapter 13 – Payments**

##### **(a) Plan Payments to Trustee.**

- (1) **Form of Payment.** Plan payments must be made in a form acceptable to the trustee.
- (2) **Wage Orders.** The debtor may request an order directing the debtor's employer to make plan payments directly to the trustee (a "wage order") by submitting an *Application for Order to Employer to Pay Funds to Trustee*. The trustee may request that the court issue a wage order if the debtor fails to make timely plan payments. The debtor may request an order vacating a wage order by submitting an ex parte *Motion to Vacate Order to Employer to Pay Funds to Trustee*.

- (b) **Pre-Confirmation Lease Payments.** Pre-confirmation payments due under personal property leases governed by § 1326(a)(1)(B) may be made directly by the debtor to the

lessor only if the plan so provides or if no plan provision addresses payment of the debtor's lease obligation. If the plan provides for payment of the lease obligation by the trustee, the debtor must make the payment as part of the total payment to the trustee, and the trustee will pay the lessor, both before and after confirmation, upon the filing of a proof of claim by the lessor.

- (c) **Pre-Confirmation Adequate Protection Payments.** Pre-confirmation adequate protection payments governed by § 1326(a)(1)(C) may be made directly by the debtor to the secured creditor only if the debtor's plan so provides or if no plan provision addresses payment of the adequate protection. If the plan provides for payment of the secured claim by the trustee, the debtor must make the adequate protection payment as part of the total payment to the trustee, and the trustee will pay the secured creditor, both before and after confirmation, upon the filing of a proof of claim by the creditor.

## **LBR 3070-2. Chapter 13 – Distributions**

### **(a) Need to File Claim.**

- (1) **Need to File Proof of Claim.** A creditor must file a timely proof of claim (Official Form 410) in order to receive distributions under the plan.
- (2) **Need to File Administrative Claim.** A debtor's attorney must file a request for payment of an administrative expense for compensation and reimbursement of expenses to be paid through plan distributions. The request may be made by filing in the claims register a *Request for Payment of Administrative Expense: Compensation for Debtor's Attorney in Chapter 13 Case*.

- (b) **Arrearage Portion of Secured Claim.** Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 3002(a), the holder of a secured claim must file a timely proof of claim in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 3002(c) in order to receive plan distributions for a prepetition arrearage or default. If the plan provides for payment of an "arrearage," the trustee shall make a distribution according to the amount stated on the proof of claim as "Amount of arrearage and other charges at time case filed included in secured claim," unless the court orders otherwise. The trustee will make no distribution on the secured portion of a claim that states the amount of the arrearage is \$0.00, none, or the like, or if the arrearage amount is left blank.

- (c) **Untimely Claims.** Unless the court orders otherwise, claims filed after the time periods stated in Bankruptcy Rule 3002(c) will not receive distributions under the plan. The court may consider a stipulation to allow an untimely claim without notice to other creditors if executed by the debtor and the trustee.

- (d) **Debtor's Duty to Examine and Object to Claims.** Upon the expiration of the claims bar date for non-governmental creditors, the debtor is responsible for reviewing all claims

and filing an objection to any claim with which the debtor disagrees and which has not yet been determined by the court.

- (e) **Trustee's Notice of Filed Claims and Intent to Make Distributions.** The trustee must file and serve on the debtor a notice of claims filed and intent to make distributions. The notice must list the claims filed and advise that distributions under the plan will be made according to the classification and amount of claims as filed, unless the court already has decided the value of collateral securing a debt, avoided a lien, or otherwise disallowed or modified a claim by specific order. The notice may state that the actual distributions will be subject to changes including, but not limited to, determinations of objections to claims, amended claims, stipulations allowing untimely claims, and awards of attorney compensation. The trustee shall serve the notice of claims filed and intent to make distributions by the later of:
  - (1) 28 days after the latest claims deadline stated in Bankruptcy Rule 3002(c), and
  - (2) 60 days after the entry of the plan confirmation order.
- (f) **Determination of Claimant's Address for Distribution.** The trustee shall make distributions in accordance with the name and address of the claimant stated on the proof of claim, subject to any amendment, assignment, transfer, change of address, or any other information filed with the court as part of the individual case record. The trustee shall not make a distribution to a claimant or address other than that stated on the proof of claim unless the notice of a change is filed with the court. A claimant may give notice of an address change by filing a *Notice of Change of Address (Proof of Claim)*.
- (g) **Claims Amended, Assigned or Transferred After the Deadline to File a Claim.** If a claim is amended, assigned, or transferred after the deadline to file a claim under Bankruptcy Rule 3002, the creditor amending the claim, the assignee, or the transferee must file promptly with the court the document amending, assigning or transferring the claim.
- (h) **Distribution on Disputed Claim.** To suspend distribution on a disputed claim, the debtor must file and serve an objection to claim on the claimant not later than 28 days after the filing of the trustee's notice of filed claims and intent to make distributions. The objection must comply with procedures stated elsewhere in these rules. Pending a determination of an objection, the trustee shall cease making a distribution on the disputed claim. If the objection is overruled, at the request of the claimant or the trustee, the court may make provision for payment of any dividends not paid while the objection was pending. Nothing in these rules prevents the debtor, the trustee, or other party in interest from objecting to a claim after the deadline specified in this paragraph. However, unless the court orders otherwise, an objection that is untimely under this subdivision and that is sustained shall not result in a refund of amounts already paid on the disputed claim.
- (i) **Relief from Stay.**

- (1) **Order Granting Relief from Stay.** If an order granting relief from the automatic or codebtor stay unconditionally permits the secured creditor to foreclose on or repossess its collateral, the trustee shall cease making payments as soon as practicable to all creditors whose claims are based entirely on a secured interest in the collateral being foreclosed on or repossessed.
- (2) **Stipulation or Order Regarding Relief from Stay.** If a stipulated order on relief from stay or other order provides that an arrearage in post-petition payments will be added to the prepetition debt amount paid through the plan, the creditor must file an amended claim to show the adjusted total amount due.

(j) **Payment of Debtor's Attorney Fees.**

- (1) **In General.** Plan distributions on account of compensation and reimbursement of expenses of attorneys for chapter 13 debtors will be made before or at the same time of each payment to creditors. Upon entry of an order allowing fees and expenses, an attorney must draw on any funds being held in a client trust account before accepting any plan distributions. Unless the court orders otherwise, the following provisions govern distribution amounts for payment of attorney fees.
- (2) **Compensation Allowed by Application and Order Under LBR 2016-1(a).** For compensation that is or will be allowed upon entry of an order on an application made under LBR 2016-1(a), the trustee shall reserve 50% (or such other amount as the court orders) of the total plan payments received from the debtor prior to the entry of the confirmation order ("50% reserve"). If the debtor's attorney fails to file an application for compensation and reimbursement of expenses within 60 days after the date of entry of the confirmation order or if the court orders otherwise, the trustee shall distribute the 50% reserve to creditors according to the plan. If the debtor's attorney files a timely application, the trustee will continue holding the 50% reserve pending a determination of the application. Upon the entry of an order allowing attorney fees and expenses, the trustee shall pay the attorney the 50% reserve if so entitled and shall distribute to the attorney, until the fees and expenses are paid in full, the lesser of 50% of each monthly plan payment after confirmation or \$450 per month of each plan payment after confirmation. For additional fees allowed after the initial application, the trustee shall disburse monthly to the attorney the lesser of 50% or \$450 of each monthly plan payment, commencing with the first distribution period after the entry of the order allowing the additional compensation.

**LBR 4001-1. Automatic Stay – Relief From**

**(a) Motion and Supporting Documents.**

- (1) Motion.** A motion requesting relief from the automatic stay imposed by § 362(a) must state the basis under § 362(d) for the relief being sought. Except for related relief from a codebtor stay under § 1201(a) or 1301(a), the motion may not include requests for other relief.
- (2) Cover Sheet.** The motion must attach a cover sheet (*Cover Sheet - Motion for Relief from Stay*) summarizing the factual basis for the request.
- (3) Declaration.** A motion for relief from the automatic stay or codebtor stay must be accompanied by admissible evidence supporting the factual basis for the motion.

**(4) Account Statement.**

**(A) When Statement Required.** If the motion alleges that the debtor has defaulted in making payments to the moving party, the motion must include an account statement and an admissible declaration attesting to the statement's accuracy. The statement must cover the entire period during which the moving party contends that the debtor has been in default. The statement and declaration must be written in language comprehensible to a lay person, and must include the following information:

- (i) a description of the accrued and unpaid obligations, including the nature of the obligation (e.g., principal and interest, escrow, etc.) and the date on which it accrued;
- (ii) the amount of any payments during the period of the statement; and
- (iii) the date of receipt and posting of each such payment.

**(B) When Statement Not Required.** An account statement is not required if the debtor has indicated in the Chapter 7 Individual Debtor's Statement of Intention or in a Chapter 13 plan that the property which is the subject of the motion will be surrendered to the moving party.

**(b) Hearing.**

- (1) Preliminary Hearing.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a motion for relief from the automatic or codebtor stay will be scheduled for a preliminary hearing in accordance with LBR 9013-1. The moving party must contact the clerk's office prior to filing the motion in order to obtain a hearing date that meets the requirements of § 362(e). Failure to obtain a hearing date in compliance with

this rule will be deemed to be the moving party's consent to extend the automatic stay beyond 30 days, pending the conclusion of a final hearing and determination under § 362(d).

- (2) **Continuance of Hearing.** A preliminary hearing may be continued or consolidated with a final hearing if the moving party, the debtor, and all other parties responding to the motion agree to the continuance or consolidation and the extension of the 30-day period for the entry of an order under § 362(e). The parties do not need to appear at the initially scheduled hearing if the moving party contacts the clerk's office, represents that all parties consent to the change, obtains a new hearing date and time, and promptly files and serves a notice of the continued preliminary hearing or the final hearing.
- (3) **Oral Testimony.** Unless the court orders otherwise, no oral testimony will be received by the court at any hearing on a motion for relief from the automatic or codebtor stay.

(c) **Notice.**

- (1) **Form of Notice.** The moving party must file and serve a *Notice of Hearing*, which provides explicit notice of the deadline to file an opposition statement and that the court may grant the relief without a hearing in the absence of a timely filed opposition statement.
- (2) **Separate Document.** The notice must be filed as a separate docket entry.

(d) **Service.** The moving party must serve, promptly after filing, a copy of the motion and the notice on:

- (1) the debtor;
- (2) the debtor's attorney;
- (3) any trustee appointed in the case;
- (4) any committee appointed in the case under § 705 or 1102, or its attorney, or, if no committee of unsecured creditors has been appointed in a chapter 11 case, the creditors included on the list filed pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1007(d);
- (5) if the motion seeks to enforce a lien, all other parties, known to the moving party, who claim an ownership or security interest in the same collateral;
- (6) if the motion concerns a codebtor stay, the codebtor; and
- (7) if the motion concerns the commencement or continuation of a judicial,

administrative, or other action or proceeding, all parties to the action or proceeding.

**(e) Opposition Statement and Reply.**

- (1)** Deadlines to file and serve an opposition or reply regarding a motion requesting relief only from the automatic stay under § 362:
  - (A)** Opposition or other responsive statement: 14 days before the hearing date;
  - (B)** Reply by moving party: 7 days before hearing date;
- (2)** Deadlines to file and serve an opposition or reply regarding a motion including a request for relief from the codebtor stay under § 1201 or 1301:
  - (A)** Opposition or other responsive statement: 7 days before the hearing date;
  - (B)** Reply by moving party: 3 days before hearing date.

**(f) Order Granting Relief.**

- (1) Relief Granted by Default.** If no timely opposition has been filed, the moving party may request the entry of an order by filing a *Declaration and Request for Entry of Order*. The section regarding the Service Members Civil Relief Act of 2003 must be completed.
- (2) Form of Order.** The moving party may obtain the relief requested by submitting a proposed *Order Granting Relief from Stay*. At a minimum, the proposed order must include the following provisions unless the court directs otherwise:
  - (A)** No deficiency judgment or other money judgment may be entered against the debtor unless and until the court enters an order
    - (i) denying the debtor a discharge;
    - (ii) determining that the debt owed to the moving party is not dischargeable;
    - (iii) dismissing the case prior to the entry of a discharge; or
    - (iv) expressly authorizing the entry of such a judgment;
  - (B)** If the subject property is sold and the proceeds exceed the amount of the

secured claim(s), the moving party must turn over the surplus proceeds to the trustee;

- (C) The secured portion of any proof of claim filed by the moving party with respect to the subject property is deemed withdrawn and the moving party may seek collection of any unsecured deficiency amount only by filing a proof of claim under § 501, or by amending a previously filed proof of claim;
- (D) The order will remain effective despite the conversion of the case to one under another chapter;
- (E) The order is limited to granting relief from the automatic stay and/or the codebtor stay under the Bankruptcy Code and does not determine any issues concerning any rights, claims, remedies, or defenses of the moving party, the debtor, or any other party; and
- (F) In a chapter 13 case, as soon as practicable after the trustee receives notice of this order, the trustee shall cease making distributions on all claims secured by the property described above except for funds then being held by trustee for distribution.

(3) **Special Provisions.** The order may include the following special provisions only if the motion specifically requested such relief and provided an adequate factual and legal basis therefor:

- (A) inapplicability of the stay provided under Bankruptcy Rule 4001(a)(3);
- (B) “in rem” relief, where the order is binding with respect to the subject property in another bankruptcy case that has been or may be filed;
- (C) retroactive relief or annulment of the stay; and
- (D) with respect to relief from the codebtor stay under § 1201 or 1301, a provision for a deficiency judgment against a codebtor without further order of the court.

(g) **Stipulations.** The court will consider granting relief from the automatic or codebtor stay, without the filing of a motion, upon submission of a stipulation for the relief if signed by the debtor, the party seeking relief, the trustee, and any party in interest, including a codebtor. In a chapter 11 case where no trustee has been appointed, the stipulation must be signed by the members of the unsecured creditors committee or its attorney. In a chapter 11 case where no trustee or unsecured creditors committee has been appointed, notice of not less than 21 days of the stipulation and an opportunity to object must be given to the holders of the 20 largest unsecured claims.

#### **LBR 4001-2. Cash Collateral and Post-petition Financing**

- (a) Scope of Rule.** This rule applies to all requests for authority to use cash collateral and all requests for authority to incur debt in cases under chapter 7, chapter 11, and chapter 12 (“Financing Motions”).
- (b) Contents of Motion.** All Financing Motions must include a budget covering the time period during which the order will remain in effect.
- (c) Effect of Noncompliance.** The court may deem unenforceable any provision not described, explained, or identified as required by Bankruptcy Rule 4001(c)(1)(B).
- (d) Interim Relief.** Absent extraordinary circumstances, the court will not approve an interim order on a Financing Motion that contains any of the provisions described in Bankruptcy Rule 4001(c)(1)(B).

#### **LBR 4001-4. Rent Deposit**

- (a) Deposit with Initial Statement About an Eviction.** The clerk shall not accept a deposit of rent under § 362(l)(1)(B) unless all the following requirements are met.
  - (1)** The debtor must file an Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You (Official Form 101A) with the petition at the commencement of the case.
  - (2)** The debtor must attach to the Initial Statement a copy of the judgment for possession or eviction that was entered prior to the filing of the bankruptcy petition.
  - (3)** The Initial Statement must be signed by the debtor(s), contain the landlord's name and mailing address, and have the boxes checked which certify that:
    - (A)** under applicable state or non-bankruptcy law, the debtor has the right to stay in the residence by paying the landlord the entire delinquent amount; and
    - (B)** the debtor is depositing the rent that would be due during the 30 days after filing the bankruptcy petition.
  - (4)** The rent deposit must be in the form of a certified or cashier's check or money order, payable to the landlord.
- (b) Service of Initial Statement on Landlord.** The debtor must mail a copy of the Initial Statement on the landlord and file a certificate of service.

- (c) **Statement About Payment of an Eviction Judgment.** Upon payment in accordance with § 362(l)(1)(B)(2) of the entire amount owed as stated in the eviction judgment, the debtor must:
- (1) certify full payment of the judgment amount in a Statement About Payment of an Eviction Judgment Against You (Official Form 101B), filed within 30 days after filing the bankruptcy petition;
  - (2) file *Notice of Deadline to Object to Certification Regarding Rent Payment*, providing the landlord notice of a 14-day objection deadline; and
  - (3) file a certificate of service on the landlord for the Statement About Payment of an Eviction Judgment and the Notice of Deadline to Object.
- (d) **Non-Compliance.** Failure to comply with the certification requirements in the relevant statutory provisions and this rule will result in the clerk's transmittal to the landlord of a certified copy of the docket indicating the absence of the debtor's certifications and a notice regarding applicability of the automatic stay provision of § 362(b)(22).

**LBR 4001-5. Automatic Stay – Extending or Imposing Stay; Confirming No Stay in Effect**

(a) **Motions to Extend or to Impose Stay.**

- (1) **Motion Required.** A party requesting an order to extend the automatic stay under § 362(c)(3)(B), or to impose the stay under § 362(c)(4)(B), must file a motion.
- (2) **Contents.** The motion must state whether relief is sought with respect to all creditors or only specified creditors, who must be identified by name. The motion must set forth facts, supported by declarations as appropriate, showing that the filing of the present case is in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed and describing the circumstances that led to dismissal of any prior case(s) by the debtor.

(3) **Notice and Hearing.**

- (A) **Motion to Extend Stay.** A party seeking to extend the stay under § 362(c)(3)(B) must obtain a hearing date that is not later than 30 days after the date of filing of the petition. A request to shorten time is not required if the motion is filed and served not less than 14 days before the hearing date. The motion must include a notice that any response to the motion must be filed and served on the moving party not less than 7 days before

the hearing date. The moving party is not required to file a reply but may do so not less than 3 days before the hearing date. Absent a timely response, the moving party may file a declaration (*Declaration and Request for Entry of Order*) and submit a proposed order granting the motion. The court may either cancel the hearing and enter the order or direct that the hearing be held. The moving party may request that a matter remain on calendar even if no objection is filed by filing such a request not later than the deadline for filing a response to the motion.

- (B) **Motion to Impose Stay.** A motion to impose the stay is governed by LBR 9013-1 and, if shortening of time is sought, by LBR 9006-1(b).

**(b) Motions to Confirm Termination or Absence of Stay.**

- (1) **Motion Required.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a party requesting an order to confirm that the automatic stay has been terminated or is not in effect under § 362(h)(1) or (j) must file a motion.

**(2) Contents.**

- (A) **Motions Under 11 U.S.C. § 362(h)(1).** A motion to confirm termination of the automatic stay filed under § 362(h)(1) must set forth facts, supported by declarations as appropriate, describing the personal property that is the subject of the motion and the actions taken by the debtor and the moving party with respect to the debtor's statement of intention filed pursuant to § 521(a)(2), and any proposed reaffirmation under § 524(c). A copy of the debtor's statement of intention must be attached as an exhibit to the motion.

- (B) **Motions Under 11 U.S.C. § 362(j).** A motion to confirm the termination or absence of a stay under § 362(j) must set forth facts, supported by declarations as appropriate, regarding the dismissal or closing of any prior cases, the time any discharge was granted or denied, and any other facts pertinent to the motion.

- (3) **Notice and Hearing.** Motions to confirm the termination or absence of a stay are governed by LBR 9013-1 and, if shortening of time is sought, by LBR 9006-1(b).

- (c) **Service.** A motion and notice governed by this rule must be served on the debtor, the debtor's attorney, any creditors or parties in interest affected by the motion, the United States Trustee, and any trustee or committee appointed in the case.

**LBR 4003-1. Exemptions**

- (a) **Itemization.** The exemption list in Schedule C – Property Claimed as Exempt must

itemize, describe, and separately value each item claimed as exempt, except for household goods with an aggregate value not exceeding \$500.

**(b) Amendment of Schedule C.**

- (1) Amendment Not Supplemental.** An amended Schedule C – Property Claimed as Exempt should replace in its entirety, not supplement, the originally filed schedule. Unless an amended Schedule C is clearly marked as supplemental, the debtor is deemed to have withdrawn any claims of exemption made in the originally filed schedule.
  - (2) Service.** The debtor must serve a copy of any amendment to Schedule C on all creditors, and promptly file a certificate of service to show compliance.
- (c) Objection to Claim of Exemption.** A party may object to a debtor's claim of exemption by filing and serving on the debtor, the debtor's attorney, and the trustee an objection and notice of hearing in accordance with LBR 9013-1.
- (d) Extending Deadline to Object.** A party may request an extension of the deadline to object to a debtor's claim of exemption by filing and serving on the debtor, the debtor's attorney, and the trustee a *Motion to Extend Time to File Objection to Exemptions; Notice of Hearing*.
- (e) Order Setting Apart Exempt Property.** If no objection to a claim of exemption in a chapter 7 case has been made within the time provided in Bankruptcy Rule 4003(b), the court may, at any time, without a hearing and without reopening the case, enter an order approving claimed exemptions and setting apart exempt property as claimed.

**LBR 4004-3. Discharge of Individual Debtor**

**(a) Chapter 7.**

- (1) Eligibility for Discharge.** The court may grant a discharge to an individual chapter 7 debtor who is otherwise eligible to receive a discharge, unless a statement is filed alleging that § 727(a)(12) applies to the debtor. Such a statement must be filed no later than the deadline to file a complaint objecting to the debtor's discharge stated in Bankruptcy Rule 4004(a) or other time set by the court.
- (2) Notice to Creditors.** The clerk will include notice of this rule in the notice given under Bankruptcy Rule 2002(a)(1) to the parties identified in the debtor's creditor matrix.

**(b) Chapter 11.**

- (1) **Discharge After Completion of All Plan Payments.** Upon completion of all payments due under a confirmed plan, a debtor in a chapter 11 case who is an individual must file and serve on all creditors a certification and notice of completion of plan payments (*Chapter 11 Individual Debtor's Certification of Eligibility for Discharge; Notice of Deadline to Object*). The certification must include a statement that § 1141(d)(5)(C) does not apply to the debtor. Any objection to the certification and the granting of a discharge must be filed within 30 days after the date of filing of the certification and notice.
- (2) **When Motion Required.** A debtor in a chapter 11 case who is an individual may request the granting of a discharge without completion of all payments under the plan, as provided under § 1141(d)(5)(A) and (B), by filing and serving on all creditors a motion in accordance with LBR 9013-1.

**(c) Chapter 12 and Chapter 13.**

- (1) **Discharge After Completion of Plan Payments.** Upon completion of all payments due under a confirmed plan, a chapter 12 or chapter 13 debtor must file with the court a Form B2830, Chapter 13 Debtor's Certifications Regarding Domestic Support Obligations and Section 522(q). If the certification indicates that the debtor is eligible for a discharge with respect to § 1228(a) and (f) or § 1328(a) and (h), the clerk will serve on all creditors a notice that any objection to the certification and the granting of a discharge must be filed within 30 days after the date of the notice. If a debtor fails to file the certification under this rule by 30 days after the date of filing of the trustee's final report and account, the clerk may close the case without the granting of a discharge.
- (2) **When Motion Required.** A debtor in a chapter 12 or chapter 13 case may request the granting of a discharge without completion of all payments under the plan, as provided under § 1228(b) or § 1328(b), by filing and serving on all creditors a motion in accordance with LBR 9013-1. Unless the court orders otherwise, the granting of a discharge under this provision remains subject to the requirements to file a certification of eligibility under paragraph (1) and, in a chapter 13 case, to have completed an instructional course concerning personal financial management.

**LBR 4008-1. Reaffirmation**

- (a) **Reaffirmation Agreement Deficiency.** If a reaffirmation agreement is not accompanied by the Reaffirmation Agreement Cover Sheet (Official Form 427) required under Bankruptcy Rule 4008(a), or if the cover sheet or the reaffirmation agreement is incomplete, the court may not consider a reaffirmation agreement for approval, or may find, without a hearing, that a presumption of undue hardship has not been rebutted to the satisfaction of the court. The cover sheet is incomplete if it does not contain the

debtor's income and expenses as stated in the reaffirmation agreement and as stated in schedules I and J, together with an explanation of any differences between these amounts.

- (b) **Extension of Deadline to File Reaffirmation Agreement.** A debtor's request to defer entry of a discharge and to extend the time to file a reaffirmation agreement by filing a *Debtor's Motion to Defer Entry of Discharge and Enlarge Time to File Reaffirmation Agreement* generally will be considered ex parte. A motion for such relief by a party other than the debtor must comply with LBR 9013-1.

#### **LBR 5001-2. Clerk - Location**

- (a) **Address of Clerk's Office.** The clerk's office is located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The mailing address is: United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Bankruptcy Division, P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950.
- (b) **Website.** This District's local rules, forms, court calendars, and other information are available through the Internet at [www.nmid.uscourts.gov](http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov). District of Hawaii local forms, are available at [www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index\\_forms\\_menu.htm](http://www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index_forms_menu.htm).
- (c) **CM/ECF and PACER.** Documents may be filed and viewed through the Internet by using the federal judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files ("CM/ECF") and Public Access to Court Electronic Records ("PACER") systems, which require accounts for access. Contact the clerk's office for a CM/ECF account. PACER can be accessed at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov).

#### **LBR 5005-1. Filing Papers – Requirements**

- (a) **Filing.** Documents to be filed in a bankruptcy case or proceeding must be filed with the clerk.
- (b) **Caption Requirements.** In addition to the information generally required by these rules, a party filing a document with the clerk must include the following in the document's caption:
  - (1) the chapter of the Bankruptcy Code under which the case is currently pending;  
and
  - (2) if the document is the subject of a hearing or trial,
    - (A) the date and time of the hearing or trial, and
    - (B) the name of the presiding judge.

**(c) Defective Pleadings and Papers.**

- (1)** The clerk may reject without filing a petition that is submitted:
  - (A)** by a person who may not file a voluntary petition pursuant to an order of this court or any other federal court;
  - (B)** in paper form without the original signature of the debtor and, if any, the joint debtor and the attorney for the debtor(s); or
  - (C)** without a creditor list.
- (2)** The clerk may reject without filing any document, including a petition, that is submitted:
  - (A)** without the fee required to be paid at the time of filing by 28 U.S.C. § 1930(a) or (b), in a manner acceptable to the clerk;
  - (B)** in paper form without the original signature of the individual submitting the document;
  - (C)** without the verification or declaration required under Bankruptcy Rule 1008; or
  - (D)** for filing in a closed or non-existent case in this court, unless the document's purpose is to commence or reopen a case.
- (3)** The clerk shall give prompt notice to the party whose document has been rejected for filing, including a specific description of the deficiency.
- (4)** Any party affected by the rejection of a document may file a motion for judicial action within 7 days after the date of the clerk's rejection notice. The moving party must serve notice of a motion for such review on all parties affected by the document subject to the motion. If judicial review results in a determination that the rejection was improper, the document will be deemed filed as of a date and time set by the court.

**LBR 5005-2. Filing Papers – Number of Copies**

- (a) Documents for Filing.** Any party filing a document in paper form must submit to the clerk one copy of the document with an original signature. Upon request, the clerk will affix the date and time of filing stamp on a reasonable amount of additional copies.
- (b) Copy for Chambers.** A paper copy of a filed document should only be submitted to the judge's chambers if:

requested by the clerk or chambers staff.

#### **LBR 5005-4. Electronic Filing**

- (a) **Scope of Electronic Filing.** Documents may be filed, signed, verified and served by electronic means, in accordance with the procedures promulgated by the court in Appendix A of the Local Rules. The court has assigned all cases and proceedings to the CM/ECF system. Unless otherwise expressly provided in these rules, LR 5.3 or Appendix A of the Local Rules, all documents required to be filed with the court in connection with a case or proceeding must be electronically filed in the CM/ECF system.
- (b) **CM/ECF Eligibility, Registration, Passwords.**
- (1) **Eligibility.** An individual entitled to file documents with the court electronically is referred to as an ECF User. All attorneys permitted to practice before the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to be ECF Users.
  - (2) **Registration.** An individual eligible to be an ECF User must complete a registration form in accordance with Appendix A of the Local Rules. The District Court and the Bankruptcy Division have different electronic filing systems, so separate registration forms are required. Signing the registration form constitutes consent in writing to receive service and notice by electronic means to the full extent permitted under the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and a waiver of the right to receive service and notice on paper. An ECF User may only withdraw from participation in the CM/ECF system in accordance with procedures prescribed in the Local Rules.
  - (3) **Login and Passwords.** Upon the acceptance of an individual's registration request, the clerk will issue a login and password to the ECF User. The password may be changed by the ECF User after the initial access to the system. Use of the ECF User's login and password constitutes the signature of that individual, as provided further in this rule and the Local Rules.
  - (4) **Email filing.** The clerk will accept filings by e-mail from pro se parties except for the filing of the petition and all filings requiring payment of a fee. See Section 1 of LR Appendix A. Any party who wishes to e-mail filings must review LR Appendix A and submit a "User Agreement for E-mail Filing." E-mail filings from attorneys will only be accepted when an attorney is prohibited from CM/ECF access, such as in a sealed matter, or with prior approval from the court when good cause is shown. E-mailed filings will be deemed filed on the day and time received by the clerk. E-mail filings must comply with LR Appendix A and be sent to [prosefiling@nmid.uscourts.gov](mailto:prosefiling@nmid.uscourts.gov) and specify in the subject line "For Docketing in Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Title of the motion or document for filing. For example, "Motion to Dismiss and Exhibits A-D").

**(c) Consequences of Electronic Filing.**

- (1) Entry on the Docket.** Electronic transmission of a document to the CM/ECF system consistent with these rules, together with the transmission of a Notice of Electronic Filing from the court, constitutes filing of the document for all purposes of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and the local rules of this court, and constitutes entry of the document on the docket kept by the clerk under Bankruptcy Rule 5003.
- (2) Official Record.**

  - (A) Document electronically filed.** When a document has been filed electronically, the official record is the electronic recording of the document as stored by the court, and the filing party is bound by the document as filed. A document filed electronically is deemed filed at the date and time stated on the Notice of Electronic Filing from the court.
  - (B) Document submitted in paper form.** When a document submitted in paper form has had its image electronically recorded, the official record is the electronic recording of the document as stored by the court, and the filing party is bound by the document as so filed. A document submitted in paper form is deemed filed at the earlier of (i) the date and time stated on the Notice of Electronic Filing from the court or (ii) the date and time stamp affixed by the clerk. The clerk is not required to retain any paper document after making an electronic recording thereof consistent with the technical standards, if any, established by the Judicial Conference of the United States and the requirements, if any, prescribed by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- (3) Deadlines.** Filing a document electronically does not alter the filing deadline for that document. Filing must be completed by 11:59 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time (i.e., Saipan local time) as recorded by the court's CM/ECF server in order to be considered timely filed that day.
- (4) Virtual Documents.** The court may create certain text-only entries on the docket for selection by an ECF User that consist entirely of the text contained in the docket entry and for which there is no separate electronically recorded image. Such virtual documents are fully effective despite the absence of a document image linked to the entry.

**(d) Entry of Court-Issued Documents.**

- (1) In General.** All orders, decrees, judgments, and proceedings of the court will be filed in accordance with these rules, which will constitute entry on the

docket kept by the clerk under Bankruptcy Rules 5003 and 9021. Any order or other court-issued document filed electronically without the original signature of a judge or clerk, including a document that is a virtual document or a text-only docket entry, has the same force and effect as if the judge or clerk had signed a paper copy of the order and it had been entered on the docket in a non- electronic manner.

- (2) **Summons.** The court may sign, seal (by electronic graphical embossing) and issue a summons electronically. However, a summons may not be served electronically. If a summons was issued electronically by the court, the party must print the electronically-embossed summons and effect service in the manner in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and Fed. R. Crim. P. 4(c).
- (e) **Attachments and Exhibits - Excerpts.** Attachments and exhibits should contain only those excerpts of the referenced material that are directly germane to the matter under consideration by the court. Excerpted material must be clearly and prominently identified as such. A party filing excerpts of a document under this rule does so without prejudice to the right to file timely additional excerpts or the complete document. A responding party may file timely additional excerpts or the complete document that the party believes to be directly germane to the subject matter.
- (f) **Signatures.**
- (1) **ECF User.** Use of the ECF User's login and password or a Filing Agent's login and password constitutes the signature of the ECF User for all purposes, including those under Bankruptcy Rule 9011 and 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and has the same force and effect as if the ECF User had affixed his or her signature on a paper copy of the document being filed.
- (2) **Retention of Originally Signed Documents.** The originally signed paper copies of a bankruptcy petition and accompanying papers required to be verified under Bankruptcy Rule 1008 and any declaration made by any party under penalty of perjury in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746 must be retained by the ECF User until one year after the date that the case or proceeding is closed. The court, on its own motion or on the request of a party in interest, may require the production of any originally signed document. In lieu of producing an originally signed paper document, an ECF User may produce the document's scanned image with the digital file's "date modified" information attached.
- (3) **Sanctions.** Failure to comply with the provisions of this rule regarding signatures and retention of originally signed documents may result in dismissal of a case or proceeding and the striking of documents without further notice or hearing, and the imposition of monetary and other sanctions on the ECF User and Filing Agent.

- (4) **Other Requirements.** The court may adopt further requirements regarding signatures through issuance of administrative procedures.
- (g) **Service and Notice by Electronic Means.** Electronic transmission through the CM/ECF system of a notice of electronic filing and, unless the document is virtual or a text-only docket entry, a link to the image of the document that has been filed constitutes service and notice of the entry of that document in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9022 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b)(2)(E) to those persons who consented in writing to accept electronic service or notice.
- (h) **Filing Prevented by Technical Failures.** If a filing is made untimely as the result of a technical failure (e.g., unavailability of the Electronic Filing System, extended local power outage, typhoon, Internet service outage beyond the Filing Party's control), the party may seek appropriate relief from the court. The court has discretion to grant or deny relief in light of the circumstances.
- (i) **Hyperlinks.** Electronically filed documents may contain hyperlinks. Section 15 of Appendix A of the Local Rules applies.

#### **LBR 5009-1. Order Declaring Lien Satisfied**

- (a) **Form of Motion.** In accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 5009(d), a chapter 12 or chapter 13 debtor may request entry of an order declaring a lien satisfied under the terms of a confirmed plan by filing and serving a *Motion for Order Declaring Lien Satisfied*.
- (b) **Service.** The motion must be served on the holder of the claim in the manner provided for service of a summons and complaint by Bankruptcy Rule 7004 and LBR 7004-1.
- (c) **Hearing and Deadline to Respond.** The motion is governed by LBR 9013-1.

#### **LBR 5073-1. Photography, Recording Devices & Broadcasting**

Local Rule 83.2 applies to all bankruptcy proceedings.

#### **LBR 5077-1. Transcripts and Recordings**

- (a) **Requests for Transcripts and Recordings.**
  - (1) **Transcripts.** A transcript of a court proceeding may be ordered by filing a Transcript Order form (AO 435).
  - (2) **Audio Recordings.** An audio recording of a proceeding may be ordered by filing an Audio Recording form (AO 436) of Hearing.
- (b) **Delivery of Transcript to Clerk.** The transcriber may deliver a certified copy of a

transcript to the clerk in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 753 by filing such a copy electronically in the court's CM/ECF system.

- (c) **Restricted Access Period.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a transcript will not be made electronically available to the general public via the Internet until at least 90 days after the date the transcript is filed. During the 90-day restricted access period, a printed copy of the transcript may be obtained directly from the transcriber. After the 90-day period, the transcript will be available for printing for a fee at public computer terminals in the clerk's office, and may be viewed for a fee through the Internet using the federal judiciary's Public Access to Court Electronic Records ("PACER"). The transcript may be viewed at public computer terminals in the clerk's office at any time without a fee.
- (d) **Notice of Filing.** Upon the electronic filing of a transcript, the clerk will serve a notice of filing of transcript on each party noted in the transcript as making an appearance.
- (e) **Responsibility to Review.** Each party attending the hearing is responsible for reviewing the transcript for compliance with the privacy protections of Bankruptcy Rule 9037(a). A party is responsible for reviewing the following:
  - (1) opening and closing statements made on the party's behalf;
  - (2) statements of the party;
  - (3) the testimony of any witnesses called by the party; and
  - (4) any other portion of the transcript as ordered by the court.
- (f) **Request for Redaction.**
  - (1) **Personal Data Identifiers.** A party may request redaction of the information described in Bankruptcy Rule 9037(a) by filing a *Request for Redaction of Personal Data Identifiers* not later than 21 days after the date of filing of the transcript.
  - (2) **Other Information.** A party may request redaction of additional private or sensitive information by filing a motion not later than 21 days after the date of filing of the transcript.
- (g) **Redaction by Transcriber.** If a request for redaction is timely filed under paragraph (f)(1) of this rule, the transcriber must file a redacted version of the transcript not later than 28 days after the date of filing of the original transcript. If a motion is timely filed under paragraph (f)(2) of this rule, the transcriber must file a redacted version of the transcript not later than 14 days after the court grants the motion. The court may extend or shorten these time periods. If a redacted version is filed, only the redacted

version will be available via the Internet. The original unredacted transcript will remain available for viewing at public computer terminals in the clerk's office.

- (h) **Use of Transcript as Exhibit.** A party attaching a copy of a transcript or a portion thereof as an exhibit to another filing at any time must ensure that all personal information protected under Bankruptcy Rule 9037 is redacted.
- (i) **Limitations.** Nothing in this rule:
  - (1) creates a private right of action or a claim against the United States or any of its employees;
  - (2) changes any other rules, policies, or procedures with respect to the sealing or redaction of court records for any other purpose; or
  - (3) affects or limits the right of any party, or any other person or entity, to request production of a transcript on an expedited basis.

#### **LBR 5081-1. Fees – Form of Payment**

- (a) **Form of Payment.** The following methods of payment must be used to pay the fees required under 28 U.S.C. § 1930 and the Appendix to 28 U.S.C. § 1930 (Bankruptcy Court Miscellaneous Fee Schedule):
  - (1) cash (exact amount may be required);
  - (2) cashier's check;
  - (3) certified check;
  - (4) money order; or
  - (5) if the payer is an attorney admitted to practice in the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, a check imprinted with the name of the attorney's law firm or a client trust account.
- (b) **Rejection for Unacceptable Form of Payment.** When a statutory fee is required for the filing of a document, the clerk may reject the submission of any document that is not accompanied by payment in an acceptable form under this rule.

#### **LBR 6004-1. Sale of Estate Property**

- (a) **Sales Free and Clear of Liens.**

- (1) **Motion Required.** A party may obtain an order authorizing the sale of estate

property free and clear of liens or other interests by filing and serving a motion on the debtor, trustee, any committee appointed in the case, the United States trustee, and all parties with an interest in the property or directly affected by the proposed sale. Unless the court orders otherwise, the motion must provide that liens and other interests will attach to the proceeds of the sale. The motion must attach a *Cover Sheet to the Motion to Sell Property*, must identify the name and address of each lienholder and any other party whose property rights are affected by the proposed sale, and must identify on the cover sheet the basis for compliance with § 363(f). In addition to the information on the cover sheet, the motion must include, immediately below the caption, the statement: “THIS MOTION AFFECTS THE PROPERTY RIGHTS OF . . .” with the name of each holder of a lien or other interest whose property rights are affected.

**(2) Supporting Documents.**

- (A) Memorandum of Law.** The motion must be supported by a memorandum of law explaining compliance with § 363(f).
  - (B) Declaration.** The motion must be accompanied by admissible evidence supporting the factual basis for the motion and showing satisfaction of one or more conditions under § 363(f). The evidence must include a copy of a current title report, a current Uniform Commercial Code financing statement, or other report on the status of the title to the real or personal property and identification of any security interests in the subject property.
  - (C) Notice.** Unless the court orders otherwise, the moving party must obtain a hearing date and give notice to all creditors in accordance with LBR 9013-1. The notice of the hearing must contain a description of the property, identification of the purchasing party, and the material terms of the sale (including any provision for overbidding at the hearing).
- (b) Sales Subject to Liens.** A party seeking to sell estate property subject to one or more liens which will not be discharged from the proceeds of the sale at closing must obtain an order approving the sale. Subdivision (c) of this rule applies to such a sale.
- (c) Other Sales Outside the Ordinary Course of Business.** If the subject property is not being sold free and clear of liens or other interests, or is being sold subject to one or more liens which will not be discharged from the sale proceeds at closing, the trustee or debtor in possession may obtain an order approving the sale by filing a *Notice of Proposed Use, Sale, or Lease of Property*. The notice must be served on the debtor, any committee appointed in the case, the United States trustee, all creditors, and any parties with an interest in the property or directly affected by the proposed sale.
- (d) Trustee’s Sale of Property Under \$2,500.** When all of the nonexempt property of the

estate has an aggregate gross value less than \$2,500, the clerk may give a general notice of intent to sell such property other than in the ordinary course by including such notice in the notice of need to file a proof of claim, or other notice, without further notice or a hearing. An objection to this procedure must be filed not later than 21 days after the date of filing of such notice.

- (e) **Trustee's Sale of Personal Property on Leased Premises.** A motion by a trustee or debtor in possession to sell personal property of the estate located on leased premises may be heard on 7 days' notice without an order shortening time.
- (f) **Special Provisions.**
  - (1) **Good Faith Finding.** A party seeking approval of a sale or lease of property as being made in good faith under § 363(m) must make the specific allegation of good faith in a motion governed by this rule and provide supporting evidence.
  - (2) **10-Day Stay After Entry of Order.** A party seeking a provision in the order approving sale which waives the stay provided for in Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h) must include a specific request for this provision in the motion and the notice.

#### **LBR 6006-1. Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases**

- (a) **Notice of Motion Regarding Assumption, Rejection, Assignment, or Performance of Obligations.** In addition to the notice required by Bankruptcy Rule 6006(c), notice of a motion or stipulation to assume, reject, or assign an executory contract or unexpired lease, including an extension of time to do so, or to compel performance of an obligation under a contract or lease must be served upon:
  - (1) those entities known to the movant to be entitled to receive notice of a default, termination, or assignment of the contract or lease under the terms of the contract or lease itself or under the terms of any related contract with the debtor; and
  - (2) in a chapter 9 or chapter 11 case, the chair and counsel of record of each committee of creditors and each committee of equity security holders appointed pursuant to § 1102 or, if no committee has been appointed, the creditors that hold the 20 largest unsecured claims.
- (b) **Expedited Rejection.** Notwithstanding subdivision (a) of this rule, a chapter 7 trustee may move to reject an unexpired lease of nonresidential real property where the debtor is the tenant on 24 hours' notice given only to the other party to the lease. Such motions generally will be considered by the court without a hearing.

#### **LBR 6070-1. Tax Information Filed with Court**

- (a) **In General.** An individual debtor's tax return may be filed with the court only if the filing is required under § 521(f). The term "tax return" includes a transcript of a tax return, if the debtor elects to file a transcript rather than the complete tax return. This rule only applies to tax information which is filed with the court. It does not affect the right of a trustee, the Office of the United States Trustee, or a party in interest to request that the debtor provide tax information directly to the requesting party.
- (b) **Confidentiality of Tax Information.** An individual debtor's tax return information that is filed with the court under § 521 is confidential. Persons other than judicial officers and court employees may not view such tax information without a court order. Public access to such tax information is limited to viewing a docket entry that may include the name of the taxpayer, the type of tax information (e.g., 2009 Form 1040), and the tax period.
- (c) **Docketing of Tax Information.** When electronically filing tax information provided under § 521, the filer must use the specific docketing event prescribed by the clerk to safeguard the confidentiality of the tax information. Failure to use the correct docketing event may result in the transmission and display of confidential tax information to persons who are not entitled to view such information and may result in sanctions imposed on the filing party.
- (d) **Redaction of Personal Identifiers.** Prior to filing any tax information with the court, the filing party must redact all personal identifiers as required under Bankruptcy Rule 9037. Court employees are not responsible for making any redactions of personal identifying information.
- (e) **Obtaining Access to Tax Information on File.** A party in interest other than a party identified in § 107(c)(3) may seek access to the tax information filed under § 521 by filing a motion. The motion must be served on the debtor and the debtor's attorney and must:
- (1) Describe the moving party's status in the case;
  - (2) Describe the specific tax information sought;
  - (3) State that the information cannot be obtained by the moving party from any other sources; and
  - (4) Show a need for the tax information.
- (f) **Order Granting Access to Tax Information.** For good cause, the court may enter an order granting a party access to specific tax information. The order must include language advising the moving party that the tax information is confidential and that any disclosure, dissemination, or improper use of the information may result in sanctions.

### **LBR 6071-1. Property of the Estate**

An entity exercising control over a financial account, safe deposit box, or other property which may be property of the estate may request instructions from the court by filing an *Application for Instructions Regarding Property; Notice of Deadline to Request Hearing; Certificate of Service*. The application must be served on the debtor, the trustee, and any other party known to claim an interest in the property. If the party seeking instructions under this rule is an artificial entity, the entity may file the request without being represented by counsel.

### **LBR 7001-2. Effect of Dismissal of Bankruptcy Case on Pending Adversary Proceeding**

Whenever a case is dismissed, the court may, without notice or hearing, dismiss without prejudice any adversary proceeding filed in connection with that case.

### **LBR 7003-1. Cover Sheet**

Every complaint initiating an adversary proceeding must be accompanied by a cover sheet substantially conforming to the *Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet*.

### **LBR 7004-1. Service of Process**

Whenever Bankruptcy Rule 7004(b) or other rule or court order provides for service by First Class Mail on an “officer” or “agent” of a corporation or other artificial entity, the certificate of service must identify by name the officer or agent, or attach a statement explaining why service was not made on a named officer or agent.

### **LBR 7007-2. Statement of Non-Opposition**

**Requirement to File.** If a respondent does not oppose a motion in an adversary proceeding, the respondent must file a statement of non-opposition not later than the deadline to file a response.

### **LBR 7016-1. Pretrial Procedures**

- (a) Scheduling Conference.**  
The court will follow the procedures set forth in Local Rule 16.2 as appropriate for bankruptcy proceedings.
- (b) Scheduling Order**  
The court will follow the procedures set forth in Local Rule 16.3 as appropriate for bankruptcy proceedings.
- (c) Pretrial Conference.** If the court schedules a pretrial conference, the procedures set forth in the Local Rule 16.5 of this court apply.

- (d) **Determining Procedure for Entry of Final Orders or Judgment.** The court shall decide, on its own motion or a party's timely motion, whether:
- (1) to hear and determine the proceeding;
  - (2) to hear the proceeding and issue proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law; or
  - (3) to take some other action.

#### **LBR 7026-1. Discovery**

(a) **Discovery Disputes.**

1. **Local Rules apply.** The court will follow the procedures set forth in LR 26.2 and LR 7.1.
2. **Attorney Fees and Costs.** The court may award attorney fees and costs as provided in Fed. R. Civ. P. 37. Unless the court orders otherwise, a motion for attorney fees and costs will be determined without a hearing.

#### **LBR 7030-1. Depositions; Original Transcripts**

- (a) **Original Document.** Counsel responsible for the preservation and storage of the original transcript, tape, or other means of preservation of any deposition must produce the original transcript, tape, or other means of preservation of such deposition upon request by the court or any party if needed for court proceedings.
- (b) **Germane Portion.** Only the portion of a deposition that is directly germane to the matter under consideration by the court should be offered as an exhibit in support of a motion, objection, or response thereto.

#### **LBR 7041-1. Dismissal of a Complaint Objecting to the Debtor's Discharge.**

- (a) **Order Required.** An order is required for dismissal of a complaint objecting to the debtor's discharge, whether it is a voluntary dismissal by the plaintiff or upon the parties' stipulation or settlement agreement.
- (b) **Notice.** Unless the court orders otherwise, notice of a plaintiff's request or the parties' stipulation or settlement agreement for dismissal of any claim objecting to discharge must be filed in both the adversary proceeding and the underlying bankruptcy case. Notice to the trustee, United States trustee, creditors, and other parties in interest is sufficient upon transmission of the CM/ECF notice of electronic filing. The notice must include the following information.

- (1) **Statutory Basis Asserted in Objection to Discharge.** The notice must identify the adversary proceeding and briefly describe the provision relied on in the objection to discharge, e.g., "11 U.S.C. § 727(a)(4) - debtor knowingly and fraudulently made a false oath or account."
- (2) **Disclosure of Consideration.** The notice must disclose any consideration, monetary or otherwise, received or to be received by the plaintiff in connection with dismissal of any claim objecting to discharge, as well as the source of the consideration. If there is no consideration, the notice must explicitly state that.
- (3) **Opportunity to Object.** The notice must advise that absent an objection filed within 14 days after the date the notice is filed, the court may enter an order dismissing the objection to discharge without further notice or hearing.

#### **LBR 7054-1. Adversary Proceedings - Taxation of Costs**

**(a) Entitlement.**

- (1) **In General.** If the judgment in an adversary proceeding provides for the allowance of costs, the prevailing party may seek a taxation of costs, other than attorney fees, by filing with the court a proposed bill of costs. A request to allow attorney fees may be considered under LBR 7054-2.
- (2) **Settlement of Adversary Proceeding.** The court will not determine entitlement to or the amount of costs in an adversary proceeding terminated by settlement. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the parties to a settlement will bear their own costs.

**(b) Proposed Bill of Costs.** The prevailing party may request a taxation of costs by filing and serving upon all other parties to the adversary proceeding:

- (1) an itemization of costs in a proposed Bill of Costs;
- (2) a memorandum setting forth the grounds and authorities supporting the request;
- (3) a declaration that the costs were actually and necessarily incurred, together with copies of any invoices, receipts, or other documents as evidence of the costs;
- (4) a declaration describing the prevailing party's efforts to resolve any disputes about the claimed costs; and

- (5) a notice of the deadline to file an objection under subdivision (d) of this rule.
- (c) **Time for Filing.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a proposed bill of costs together with the supporting documents must be filed and served not later than the time for filing a notice of appeal under Bankruptcy Rule 8002. The failure to file a timely bill of costs is deemed a waiver of costs.
- (d) **Objections.** An objection to a bill of costs must be specific and set forth the grounds and authorities for each cost item being disputed. The objection must be filed within 14 days after the date of filing of the proposed bill of costs. A timely filed objection will be referred to the court for determination.
- (e) **Taxation.** Absent a timely objection, the clerk may sign and enter on the docket the bill of costs as proposed by the prevailing party, subject to review under Bankruptcy Rule 7054(b).

#### **LBR 7054-2. Adversary Proceedings - Attorney Fees**

If the judgment in an adversary proceeding provides for an award of attorney's fees, the prevailing party may file a motion in the adversary proceeding for an order awarding attorney's fees and related non-taxable expenses. LBR 9013-1 governs the time periods for scheduling a hearing on the motion and filing responses and reply memoranda. The motion and supporting documents must be filed and served on all other parties to the adversary proceeding not later than the time for filing a notice of appeal under Bankruptcy Rule 8002.

#### **LBR 7055-1. Default**

- (a) **Request for Entry of Default.** A party seeking an entry of default must file a request with a declaration regarding sufficiency of service of the summons and copy of the complaint. The declaration must identify the applicable provision authorizing service under Bankruptcy Rule 7004 or Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and, if served in a place not within any judicial district of the United States, the specific authority for service under the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents or other method of service.
- (b) **Judgment for Plaintiff.** Unless the court orders otherwise, a plaintiff entitled to a judgment by default in an adversary proceeding, for a claim other than a sum certain pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2), may obtain a judgment only by written motion and upon establishment of a prima facie case at a hearing, with notice of not less than 28 days to the defendant. The motion must be served on the defendant and, if represented by counsel, the defendant's attorney. Entry of default by the clerk must be made prior to or concurrently with the filing of the motion.

#### **LBR 7067-1. Registry Fund**

- (a) **Order of Deposit.** The clerk will deposit funds into the court registry only upon court order. A proposed order submitted for signing by a judge must contain the following:
- (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the entity paying the money into the court registry;
  - (2) the name and address of the entity for whom the funds are being held; and
  - (3) the amount of funds being deposited.
- (b) **Investment.** The clerk shall deposit the funds in an interest-bearing account in accordance with any policies or procedures established by the Judicial Conference of the United States or the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.
- (c) **Order for Disbursement.** The clerk will pay funds out of the court registry only upon court order. A proposed order submitted for signing by a judge must contain the following:
- (1) the name and address of the entity to whom the funds are to be paid; and
  - (2) the amount of the funds to be paid, with the provision that the amount shall include any accrued interest, less a fee payable to the court to the extent authorized by the Judicial Conference of the United States.
- (d) **Taxpayer Information.** The party requesting the order for disbursement must provide to the clerk, in a separate document not to be filed with the court, the Social Security Number or other taxpayer identification number for the entity being paid any interest that has accrued on the deposited funds.

#### **LBR 7067-2. Bonds**

- (a) **Bond or Security.** The court, on motion or of its own initiative, may order any party to file an original bond or additional security for costs in such an amount and so conditioned as the court by its order may designate.
- (b) **Qualifications of Surety.** Subject to approval of the court, every bond for costs under this rule must have as surety either:
- (1) a cash deposit equal to the amount of the bond;
  - (2) a corporation authorized by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, to act as surety on official bonds pursuant to 31 U.S.C. §§ 9301-09;
  - (3) a resident of the district, who owns real or personal property within the district

sufficient in value above any encumbrances to justify the full amount of the suretyship; or

- (4) any insurance, surety or bonding company licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

#### **LBR 9004-1. General Format of Document Presented for Filing**

All pleading motions, and other documents presented for filing must comply with LR 5.2 and Appendix A of the Local Rules.

#### **LBR 9006-1. Time Periods**

- (a) Rule 6(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will govern computation of time under these Local Rules.
- (b) **Enlarging or Shortening Time.** Unless prohibited by statute or by federal rule, the court may enlarge or shorten the time to perform any act or to file any paper on its own motion or the motion of a party. Parties seeking to extend or shorten time must follow LR 7.1(f).

#### **LBR 9009-1. Forms**

Unless otherwise noted, italicized titles refer to local forms created by the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Hawaii, available at [http://www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index\\_forms\\_menu.htm](http://www.hib.uscourts.gov/forms/index_forms_menu.htm). Debtors, creditors, and interested parties are encouraged to use the District of Hawaii forms. Filings that substantially conform to the appropriate District of Hawaii form will be acceptable.

#### **LBR 9011-1. Attorneys – Duties**

- (a) **Representation in a Bankruptcy Case.** Notwithstanding any employment, retainer, or attorney-client agreement, an attorney who files a bankruptcy petition in bankruptcy on behalf of a debtor, or who subsequently enters an appearance on behalf of a debtor other than as special counsel under § 327(e), will be counsel of record and must provide representation in all matters arising during the administration of the case until the case is closed or dismissed, unless the court approves the attorney's withdrawal or substitution.
- (b) **Representation in an Adversary Proceeding.** An attorney representing a debtor in a bankruptcy case may, by agreement with the debtor, exclude representation of the debtor in an adversary proceeding by indicating such non-representation in the attorney's compensation disclosure statement required under Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b). If an attorney will not be representing the debtor in an adversary proceeding, the attorney must file and serve on the other parties a notice of non-representation.

## **LBR 9011-2. Pro Se Parties**

Individuals may appear pro se, under such conditions as the court may impose. They must notify the clerk in writing of their names, their mailing and residence addresses, their e-mail address, and their telephone numbers, and must keep the clerk and opposing parties and counsel informed by proper written notice of changes in their contact information.

## **LBR 9013-1. Motion Practice**

- (a) In General.** The procedures in LR 7.1 apply in bankruptcy proceedings unless the court orders, or this rule, provides otherwise.
- (b) Ex Parte Motions.**

  - (1)** The procedures in LR 7.1(g) apply in bankruptcy proceedings unless the court orders otherwise.
  - (2)** Examples of motions properly brought on an ex parte basis include (i) a motion to approve the retention or professionals where the Office of the U.S. Trustee does not object to the retention, (ii) a motion to reopen a case, (iii) a motion to shorten time for notice or hearing or to limit notice, and (iv) a motion for an extension of time to file a response or reply.
- (c) Motions That Must Be Set for Hearing.**

  - (1)** Unless the court directs otherwise, every filing requiring a hearing in accordance with these rules and LR 7.1 must indicate the hearing date on the first page of the filing in accordance with LR 5.2(e) and LR 7.1. The filing party must give notice to all parties entitled to notice in accordance with LR 7.1 and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, not later than 34 days before the hearing.
  - (2)** All responses to the motion and replies must be filed and served in accordance with LR 7.1 and the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. No surreply or further briefing is permitted without leave of court. The court may disregard any untimely or impermissible memorandum or impose other appropriate sanctions.
  - (3)** If no one files a timely response to the motion, the moving party may file a declaration (*Declaration and Request for Entry of Order*) and submit a proposed order granting the motion. The court may either cancel the hearing and enter the order or direct that the hearing be held. The moving party may request that a matter remain on calendar even if no objection is filed by filing such a request not later than the deadline for filing a response to the motion.
  - (4)** The court generally will not cancel the hearing on:

- (A) dispositive motions in adversary proceedings;
- (B) motions governed by Bankruptcy Rule 4001(b) or (c);
- (C) motions to convert or dismiss, except for motions by a debtor and motions by the Office of the United States Trustee under § 1112(e); and
- (D) motions in chapter 11 cases, including motions to appoint a trustee or examiner, approval of disclosure statements, and confirmation of plans, but not including motions seeking purely procedural relief or approval of stipulations.

**(d) Countermotions.**

- (1) In General.** A respondent may file, together with the response to the motion, a countermotion raising only the same specific issues, claims, or defenses presented in the original motion. The countermotion may be scheduled and noticed for hearing on the same date as the original motion only by obtaining the approval of the courtroom deputy.
- (2) Response to Countermotion.** A party's response to a countermotion may be included with that party's reply memorandum in support of the original motion.
- (3) Reply Memorandum in Support of Countermotion.** The party filing the countermotion may file a reply memorandum in support of the countermotion not later than 3 days before the hearing.
- (4) Limitations on Memoranda.** Memoranda including countermotions and combined with a reply to another motion are subject to the limitations stated in LBR 9013-2.

**(e) Joinder.** A party filing a joinder, rather than an independent motion, cross motion, or countermotion, is not entitled to an order granting the relief requested in the motion in favor of the joining party unless:

- (1)** no filing fee is associated with the underlying motion;
- (2)** the joinder would have been timely if it had been filed as an independent motion; and
- (3)** any party against whom relief is sought receives the same quality of notice, has the same opportunity to object, and suffers no other burden or prejudice by virtue of the fact that the joining party filed a joinder rather than an independent motion.

**LBR 9013-5. Amended Pleadings**

A party who moves to amend a pleading must attach the amendment to the motion. Any amendment to a pleading, whether filed as a matter of course or upon a motion to amend, must, except by leave of court, reproduce the entire pleading as amended, and may not incorporate any prior pleading by reference. A failure to comply with this rule is not grounds for denial of the motion but may be grounds for imposition of sanctions.

#### **LBR 9014-1. Contested Matters – Applicability of Rules**

Unless the court directs otherwise, the following local bankruptcy rules for adversary proceedings apply to contested matters in bankruptcy cases: 7030-1, 7067-1, and 7067-2.

#### **LBR 9014-2. Contested Matters – Attendance of Witnesses**

**No Testimony at Initial Hearing.** Unless the court orders otherwise, the court will not hear testimony at the initial hearing in a contested matter. The court may decide matters of law at the initial hearing. If there is a genuine issue of material fact in a contested matter, the initial hearing will serve as a scheduling conference for setting an evidentiary hearing, at which the court will hear testimony. The court may dispense with the initial hearing and proceed directly to an evidentiary hearing. The court may do so on its own motion, pursuant to a stipulation of all parties to the contested matter, or upon motion of any party to the contested matter (with such notice to the parties as the court deems appropriate).

#### **LBR 9018-1. Sealing and Redaction of Documents**

- (a) **Procedure.** The procedures in LR 79.2 apply to bankruptcy proceedings unless the court orders otherwise.
- (b) **Scope of Rule.** In bankruptcy proceedings, LR 79.2 governs the filing of documents considered to be secret, confidential, scandalous, or defamatory under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018, which are not subject to the provisions for protection of personal identifiers of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9037. This rule addresses situations where the subject information to be sealed is required by a statute, rule, or court order, or will be made available to the judge but inaccessible on the public record. This rule may be supplemented by court order or requirements contained in specific procedures issued by the clerk and posted at the court's website.

#### **LBR 9019-1. Settlements**

- (a) **When Motion Required.** Except as provided in subdivision (b), a party may seek court approval of a settlement or stipulation by filing and serving on all creditors a motion pursuant to LBR 9013-1. If the motion concerns settlement of an adversary proceeding, the motion and notice must be entered on the docket in the bankruptcy case.
- (b) **Stipulations.**
  - (1) **Procedural and Other Matters.** A party may seek approval of a stipulation regarding procedures, deadlines, discovery, and other similar matters by

filing the stipulation and submitting a proposed order.

**(2) Stipulated Judgments and Dismissals in Adversary Proceedings.**

- (A) In General.** A stipulated judgment or dismissal regarding the dischargeability of a particular debt under § 523, or other claims in an adversary proceeding which do not affect the estate, may be submitted for approval by the court with notice limited to parties to the adversary proceeding.
- (B) Stipulated Judgment Dismissing Objection to Discharge.** Dismissal of a claim objecting to the debtor's discharge under § 727 is governed by LBR 7041-1.

**LBR 9019-2. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

The procedures in LR 16.4 apply to bankruptcy proceedings unless the court orders otherwise.

**LBR 9021-1. Judgments and Orders – Entry**

- (a) Request for Entry of Order Upon Default.** In the absence of a timely filed response to a motion or application, a party may request the entry of an order by filing a Declaration and Request for Entry of Order.
- (b) Authority of Court.** No provision for an objection period or anything else in these rules limits the court's authority to enter a judgment or order at any time.

**LBR 9022-1. Judgment and Orders – Notice**

- (a) Notice of Entry.** The clerk will give notice of the entry of a judgment or order to the contesting parties in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9022(a). "Contesting parties" means:
  - (1)** all parties in an adversary proceeding; and
  - (2)** parties who filed a written response or made an oral objection at a hearing to a motion or other request for relief in a contested matter.
- (b) Notice List.** To assist the clerk in giving notice of the entry of a judgment or order, the party submitting a proposed judgment or order must attach a notice list with the name and address of each party entitled to notice under subdivision (a) of this rule who will not receive through the court's electronic transmission facilities.
- (c) Service of Copy of Order.** Unless the court directs otherwise, the party obtaining relief is responsible for serving a copy of the judgment or order on parties adversely affected

by the judgment or order. The clerk is responsible only for giving notice that the judgment or order has been entered on the court's docket.

#### **LBR 9024-1. Motions for Reconsideration**

- (a) **Motion.** A motion for reconsideration of a final judgment or order is governed by Rule 9023 or 9024, as applicable. A motion for reconsideration of an interlocutory order must be filed no later than 14 days after the entry of the order. The party requesting reconsideration must serve a copy of the motion on all parties who filed a pleading in the underlying matter.
- (b) **Disposition.** The court may, in its discretion, request responses from other parties, hold a hearing, or dispose of motions for reconsideration without waiting for responses from other parties or holding a hearing. Any party wishing to file a response absent a request from the court should do so as soon as possible after the motion is filed.

#### **LBR 9037-1. Privacy Protection of Personally Identifiable Information**

- (a) **Motion to Redact.** If a document in the public record contains unredacted personally identifiable information protected under Bankruptcy Rule 9037 or other authority, a party may request that the court restrict remote electronic access to the document by filing a Motion to Redact. The motion may be filed in a closed case. The filing fee may be waived if the filer is the individual or represents the individual whose personal information is the subject of the motion.
- (b) **Service of Motion.** The moving party must serve a copy of the motion on the debtor, any individual whose personal identifiers have been exposed, the trustee, and the United States Trustee. A certificate of service shall identify any minor served only by the minor's initials.
- (c) **Submission of Redacted Document.** If the moving party is the party who originally filed the subject document, that party must file a redacted version of the document for the public record.

#### **LBR 9074-1. Telephonic and Video Conference Appearances**

Upon request (made at least two business days prior to the hearing date) of any attorney who does not reside on the island of Saipan, or who is temporarily absent from Saipan, the court, in its discretion, may allow an attorney's or a party's appearance by telephone or by video teleconference (preferred method) for conferences and arguments on motions. Telephone conferencing is

encouraged when that practice will save the attorneys, parties, or court time and money. Unless the court orders otherwise, no testimony may be presented by telephone or video conference.

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