

LAC Meeting Minutes December 16, 2024

Jon Page
Joe Falzone
Cam
Raychelle Tasher
Justin Lefko
Jeff Fraser
Michael Lessne
Michael Hoffman
Craig Pugatch
Dana Kaplan
Peter Kelley
Robin Weiner
Heidi Feinman
Laila Gonzalez

Minutes:

Opening Remarks

- Opening Remarks from Judge Kimball – he thanked the members for putting in time and methods for members of the bar to air issues and then bring them to the judges
- Opening Remarks from Michael Hoffman
- Local Rules committee working on revising local rules
- Where does the LAC fit in – general discussion about becoming more proactive and publicizing the committee.
- The LAC was designed for members of the bar to come to the committee and then bring issues to the judges.,

Old Business

- Michael Hoffman sought to have the August 2, 2024 meeting minutes approved. Heidi Feinman seconded. All approved
- Jeff Fraser reported on – Chapter 13 subcommittee
 - Last year an important issue was attorneys fees guidelines for creditors guidelines, which was approved. It appears to be working and limited needless objections.
 - Recently the Committee has been working on a new administrative order known as a first day order to be entered at the beginning of each case.
 - The Committee had a zoom meeting just before thanksgiving. Committee members then sent back their comments.
 - Debate ensued concerning an order such as this. Joe Falzone brought up a concerning regarding cost to the judiciary at a time when judiciary is cutting costs. BNC costs have skyrocketed.
 - Robin weiner requested to be on the subcommittee.

- o Laila Gonzalez would also like to be on subcommittee since she is rolling off the LAC
- Subchapter V Subcommittee
 - o This committee was formed to discuss whether it an order requiring an escrow foe Sub V Trustee fees was appropriate in the Southern District.
 - o The conclusion was that it was not necessary as it is Debtor's responsibility to make sure fees are paid.
 - o Some debtors do their own motion. Judge Russin adopted a process for the order. Judge Russin will consider putting his suggested language on the website.
 - o Discussion occurred concerning capping Sub V Trustee fees.
- No other subcommittees right now

New Business

- Promoting the LAC
 - o Generally there was good experience with the Zoom town hall and we will try to use this town hall to discuss other issues.
 - o Discussion concerning working with the BBA to promote the LAC
- BBA has an initiative to promote pro bono platform
- It was requested of the jduges if they hear thing from lawyers or see issues, bring the issues to the LAC.
- Grossman suggested can it be in the Beacon. Maybe the LAC have a spot every quarter or periodic LAC update. Joe Falzone said yes it can go in the Beacon.
- Also Email blasts are allowed because it is a official committee

Open Floor

- Raychelle Tayscher said the student loan program is expected to change so if you know someone who qualifies file NOW. Doesn't know how long the program is going to last.
- Michael Lessne BBA
 - o January 9 is the holiday hangover – new years party.
 - o Early registration for retreat ends end of January
 - o Discussion concerning getting more consumers to attend. Cost presented as an issue.

Adjourn 1:14pm