

**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Rhode Island**

Minutes of the October 23, 2007 Meeting of the Attorney Advisory Committee

The meeting of the Bankruptcy Court's Attorney Advisory Committee was held at the Clerk's Office on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

<u>Attendance:</u>	Thomas Quinn	Lisa Geremia
	Steven Boyajian	John Simonian
	Sandra Nicholls	Richard Gemma
	Robert Huseby	

<u>Court Staff:</u>	Susan Thurston	Jonathan Calianos
	Jennifer Watts	

<u>Absent:</u>	Charles Pisaturo	Peter Furness
	Patricia Antonelli	Christopher Lefebvre
	Leonard DePasquale	

Introduction: The meeting was called to order by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court

Old Business

1. Next Steps for Financial Literacy Program:

As Patty was unable to make the meeting, no official update given on this program other than that the earliest a new session will be offered will be Spring semester (January-May period).

2. Update on Unilateral Solicitation of Debtors for Credit Counseling/Financial Management:

The US Trustee's office is working with the Debtor Education agencies to provide a format for the procedure, but at this time direct solicitation by mail is permissible. Sandra recommended that any comments about this practice should be forwarded to her office and they will communicate concerns to the national office of U.S. Trustees.

New Business

3. Two New Draft Proposed Local Rule Amendments:

a. LBR 5005-4 regarding joint motions and required signatures:

The Committee reviewed the proposed language and suggested several additional changes to the proposed rule including either deleting or combining subparagraph (B), as well as a reference to the joint pretrial order requirement in subsection (2) of the rule.

b. LBR 2016-1 regarding streamlining the fee application process:

The rule is proposed to be amended to remove the requirement that the filer submit a copy of the order authorizing employment because it can easily be obtained. In addition, several new exceptions will be added with reduced application filing requirements depending on the total cost of the fee being sought and/or the nature of the employment (real estate professionals, accountants). The Committee offered several additional changes for tightening up the language, which will be incorporated into the final draft to be noticed out for comment.

4. Feedback on the New Meeting of Creditors Location:

Overall, the members were pleased with the new location for the meeting of creditors. A telephone and duress alarm will be installed in the next couple of weeks. The U.S. Trustee's office will place signage up to notify parties that they cannot wait in the hallway, but must go down to the coffee shop or outside the building to confer. The Court Security Office will not provide protection for the meetings, rather the Federal Protective Service (FPS) on the third floor is suppose to do so. Lisa Geremia raised a concern about having to turn on their laptops every time they enter the building. Susan Thurston will raise the concern with the FPS (DONE – 10/25/07). Also, there was a discussion about the delay in the meetings due to the amount of questioning each case now requires. Sandra will poll the trustees to determine if the schedule should be adjusted to allow more meeting time per case, and will notify the clerk's office to adjust the schedule if necessary.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 3:30 PM.