

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
THAD COCHRAN U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURTHOUSE
703 HIGHWAY 145 NORTH
ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI 39730

JASON D. WOODARD
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE



TELEPHONE
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Bankruptcy Bar
FROM: Judge Jason D. Woodard *JDW*
DATE: March 1, 2016
RE: Lawyers Advisory Committee

This memorandum is to announce the formation of a Lawyers Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to provide a means for the members of the bankruptcy bar in the Aberdeen and Oxford Divisions of the Northern District of Mississippi to relay to me their thoughts regarding procedures, concerns and ideas in support of our joint endeavor to improve the bankruptcy process. The high caseload and wide geographic range of these divisions, coupled with my increasing distance from the actual practice of law, has convinced me that it would be beneficial to provide a forum for informal discussions between me and a small group of lawyers who enjoy the trust and respect of their colleagues. The objective of the Committee is not to infringe upon the statewide Local Rules Committee in any way, although there may be ideas that are ultimately proposed to the Local Rules Committee.

Committee members will act as liaisons for lawyers to relay constructive thoughts in an anonymous fashion. A member of the bar should feel free to contact one or more members of the Committee. The Committee member will then relay the issue or concern to me without

revealing the identity of the bar member unless authorized to do so. The Committee will also provide candid feedback to me about the services the court provides to the bar and other court customers. My intention is to meet with the Committee twice a year. Meetings will be scheduled well in advance and will take place at various locations around the two divisions.

Service on the Committee is entirely voluntary. The Committee will be comprised of five to eight lawyers reflecting a mix of consumer, commercial, debtor, creditor and trustee practices. An office in the district is not a prerequisite, but every effort will be made to ensure that the various regions of our divisions are represented.

Committee members will serve three-year terms, following staggered terms of one, two and three years for initial Committee members. I will select the Committee members from the list of volunteers. There will be no compensation and the court is unable to reimburse any expenses. There is no formal application process. Any lawyer wishing to serve should send a simple e-mail to the Courtroom Deputy, Ms. Amanda Howell, at Amanda.Howell@msnb.uscourts.gov, with the subject line: "Lawyers Advisory Committee." The Committee will be appointed sometime after April 1, 2016. A running list of volunteers will be maintained, so lawyers not on the charter Committee may receive an invitation in the future. Lawyers may apply at any time, but there is no need to apply more than once.