

Proposed Amendment for Public Comment
Joint Uniform Local Bankruptcy Rules
Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi
Effective December 1, 2026

Rule 9019-1. Compromise or Settlement; Arbitration.

(j) Standards for Neutrals.

(1) Qualifications and Training.

Neutrals shall have such experience and training as the parties may agree or the court may determine are appropriate to help the parties resolve the dispute over which the neutral will mediate.

(2) Oath of Neutrals.

Every neutral serving under these rules shall execute and file with the clerk the oath or affirmation prescribed by 28 U.S.C. §453 upon qualification and confirmation of appointment.

(3) Immunity.

(A) Neutrals or others authorized to serve in a specific case are performing quasi-judicial functions and are entitled to the immunities and protections that the law accords to persons serving in such capacity.

(B) Judges, acting as court neutrals when conducting a mediation or settlement conference, are acting in a judicial capacity and are performing a judicial function in furtherance of the court's responsibility to facilitate a fair and efficient resolution of disputes and are entitled to all protections flowing therefrom.

(4) Codes of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Any neutral serving under these rules shall be subject to all codes of ethics and standards of conduct set by statute, by the Judicial Conference of the United States, and by other professional organizations to which the neutral may belong and or that may be approved or adopted by the court.