

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE BAR AND PUBLIC CONCERNING
AMENDED GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

In response to the rapidly developing facts, preparedness planning and response guidance concerning COVID-19, please be advised that the provisions of the attached *Amended General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by Coronavirus (COVID-19)* are effective April 6, 2020.

The Amended General Order (attached hereto) modifies the court's (i) General Order dated March 16, 2020, (ii) Amended General Order dated March 19, 2020 and (iii) Amended General Order dated March 27, 2020. The General Order and the Amended General Orders are available on the court's website, njb.uscourts.gov.

Dated: April 6, 2020

Jeanne A. Naughton, Clerk

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control has directed all employers and places of public accommodation to plan and prepare for operations that help to minimize spread of the Coronavirus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the District of New Jersey is among those areas with a significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19;

IT IS hereby on this 6th day of April 2020 **ORDERED:**

- 1) The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey will remain open. Clerk's office staff will be available by mail and email. Filings will continue through CM/ECF. Limited staff will be available to receive mail and process intake. The public should utilize court services in a manner consistent with state and local health guidelines;
- 2) All trials scheduled to be conducted prior to April 30, 2020 will be adjourned and rescheduled by the court;
- 3) All motions and contested matters will be presumed to be heard on the papers. Parties may request oral argument via email to chambers. If permitted by the judge, oral argument must be conducted remotely and presented through third party providers, including CourtCall, Court Solutions or AT&T Conferencing Services. The recording by the third party provider will constitute the official record of the court. The court will also consider and accommodate all reasonable adjournment requests;
- 4) All case trustees will consider and accommodate all reasonable requests for continuance of 341(a) meetings;

- 5) No case will be dismissed for failure to file missing documents or pay filing fees before the expiration of this order;
- 6) Any deadline to object to discharge or to the dischargeability of debt that would otherwise expire prior to April 30, 2020 is hereby extended to 30 days from the expiration of this order. This extension is without prejudice to the rights of any party to seek further extension;
- 7) Any deadline under 11 U.S.C. § 707 or 11 U.S.C. § 727 that would otherwise expire prior to April 30, 2020 is hereby extended to 30 days from the expiration of this order. This extension is without prejudice to the rights of any party to seek further extension;
- 8) The exigent circumstances created by COVID-19 warrant the following exceptions:
 - a) Original signature retention requirements for counsel under local and national rules are deferred.
 - b) Parties initiating contested matters under Fed. R. Bank P. 9013 and 9014, may effectuate service through electronic mail. Regular mail service is still required for all parties and counsel for which such means of service is unavailable.
 - c) These exceptions will expire on April 30, 2020 unless otherwise extended by this court.
- 9) This order modifies the court's (i) General Order dated March 16, 2020, (ii) Amended General Order dated March 19, 2020, and (iii) Amended General Order dated March 27, 2020, and shall remain in effect until April 30, 2020. This order may be revisited at that time and is subject to interim revision as conditions may occur.

/S/ KATHRYN C. FERGUSON
HON. KATHRYN C. FERGUSON
CHIEF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY