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MAR 16 2020

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

In re:)
)
COURT OPERATIONS DURING)
COVID-19 OUTBREAK.)
)

Administrative Order No. 2020-05

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Whereas there are developing issues with the COVID-19 virus, and new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and other public health officials are being disseminated, it is necessary and prudent in the interest of public health and for the safety and welfare of court employees that the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Alabama will cease all in-person hearings effective as of the date of this order.

EFFECTIVE MARCH 16, 2020 THROUGH MAY 1, 2020, ALL HEARINGS NOTICED FOR THE BANKRUPTCY COURT IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA WILL BE HELD TELEPHONICALLY ONLY. THIS APPLIES TO ALL DIVISIONS AND ALL LOCATIONS.

In-person appearances at the courthouse by parties or their counsel are prohibited absent extraordinary circumstances.

Any request for an evidentiary hearing or proceeding shall be made during the telephonic hearing and the Court will make a determination.

CALL-IN INSTRUCTIONS AND PROTOCOL: The hearings will be held via AT&T call-in numbers. The call-in number and passcode for hearings held in this District may be found on the individual hearing dockets posted on the Court’s website, www.almb.uscourts.gov.

Under special circumstances, the Court may specially set a hearing to be held via video teleconference (“VTC”). The VTC hearing will be held via video portal and separate connection instructions will accompany the notice of hearing.

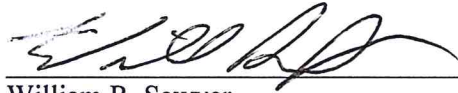
All counsel and parties are hereby directed (1) that all participants shall mute the phone when it is not their case, (2) that no participant shall use a ‘speaker’ function, and (3) that no participant shall place the call on hold while participating in the telephonic hearing (in order to avoid hold music or other noises playing on the call).

Procedures have been implemented for conducting all § 341 meetings of creditors telephonically without in-person appearances. Call-in information, telephone numbers, and instructions are available at the Bankruptcy Administrator’s website, www.almba.uscourts.gov, and the Bankruptcy Court’s website, www.almb.uscourts.gov.

Further, unless or until otherwise notified, motions to extend the stay and motions to impose the stay may be handled by attaching an appropriate and complete affidavit of the Debtor.

The Court and its staff are prepared to handle any emergencies that may arise in our cases.

Done this the 16th day of March, 2020.



William R. Sawyer
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge



Bess M. Parrish Creswell
United States Bankruptcy Judge