

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

PUBLIC NOTICE

**COURT ENTRY OF STANDING ORDER NO 14-5
ADOPTING NEW LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 2090-1(M)**

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 13, 2014

Effective October 13, 2014, the Court has promulgated new Eastern District of Virginia Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1(M), which is intended to facilitate voluntary participation by all interested lawyers and law firms in bar sponsored *pro bono* programs.

William C. Redden
Clerk of Court

Dated: September 29, 2014

Attachments

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

In re:

Adoption of New Local Bankruptcy Rule 2090-1(M))
Rule 2090-1(M)) Standing Order No. 14-5
)
)

ORDER ADOPTING NEW LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 2090-1(M)

The Court has determined that adoption of a new Eastern District of Virginia Local Bankruptcy Rule 2090-1(M) will facilitate voluntary participation by all interested lawyers and law firms in bar sponsored *pro bono* programs.

NOW, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

New Paragraph (M) to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2090-1 shall take effect October 13, 2014.

Dated: September 29, 2014

FOR THE COURT:

/s/ Stephen C. St. John
STEPHEN C. ST. JOHN
Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

for the

EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

NEW LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 2090-1(M)



Effective October 13, 2014

(Version 09/29/14)

LOCAL RULE 2090-1 ATTORNEYS – RIGHT TO PRACTICE BEFORE THE COURT

(M) ***Pro Bono Representation***: An attorney representing a debtor who is a natural person on a *pro bono* basis—meaning that the attorney has not received and will not accept, either directly or indirectly, any payment in money, goods, or services in return for the attorney’s services in that representation—shall not be deemed to receive “other consideration” based on that representation for purposes of determining whether the attorney qualifies as a “debt relief agency” under the Bankruptcy Code.

Comments

2090-1(M) Paragraph (M) is new and has been added to provide a safe harbor for lawyers and law firms who routinely represent creditors exclusively that they will not become a “debt relief agency” if they provide representation to a debtor on a *pro bono* basis. Many firms have adopted policies that prohibit lawyers of the firm from representing individual debtors in consumer bankruptcy cases even on a *pro bono* basis. Thus many practitioners who would like to volunteer to participate in bankruptcy *pro bono* projects are prevented from doing so. This new rule provision seeks to encourage the participation of all lawyers in bar sponsored *pro bono* programs.
[New paragraph (M) effective 10/13/14.]