

To All Counsel in the Bankruptcy Bar practicing before Judge Stephen D. Wheelis:

FOR ALL HEARINGS IN THE ALEXANDRIA DIVISION AND CHAPTER 13 HEARINGS IN THE MONROE DIVISION

Considering the reopening of public gatherings by the Governor of Louisiana and the move to Phase 3, **EFFECTIVE** April 1, 2021, Judge Wheelis will no longer be conducting hearings via the Telephonic Courtroom procedure and will resume conducting hearings in open court. In order to comply with the recommended social distancing practices, the return to the in-person courtroom practice will be conducted as follows to continue to protect the health of the court staff, the attorneys who practice before it and all parties:

1. Matters noticed for each hearing date will be sorted and grouped into time slots according to Debtors' counsel – just as we have done with the telephonic hearings. Matters should continue to be noticed for the particular times assigned for each type of motion, but effective immediately, Notices shall include the following provision in bold type: **“Court begins at 9:30 a.m., however, the matter will be called, as grouped by attorney, in the order in which it appears on the Court’s final docket which will be posted to the Court’s public website the afternoon before court.”**
2. Lecterns and microphones in the courtroom will continue to be spaced at a maximum distance, please have only one person per microphone.
3. All parties are asked to continue to space themselves in the courtroom at a safe distance from other persons.
4. The wearing of masks is required in all federal buildings and as mandated by the Governor of the State of Louisiana.
5. The Court’s docket is posted by hearing date on the Court’s website, www.lawb.uscourts.gov, under the drop down tab for Judge Wheelis.

For all hearings and all hearing dates:

The wearing of masks WILL BE REQUIRED in the Court Room and Court House. If you or any witness are experiencing Covid symptoms please do not appear and please contact Chambers prior to the hearing to advise. Should any Counsel or witness have specific needs or be unable or unwilling to appear please contact Chambers.