

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

Alexandria and Monroe (Chapter 13) Divisions

Considering the limited reopening of public gatherings by the Governor of Louisiana and the move to Phase 2, **EFFECTIVE** June 8, 2020, Judge Wheelis will no longer be conducting hearings via the Telephonic Courtroom procedure, and will resume conducting hearings in open court for **attorneys only**. The Court will continue to hear argument only through June 30, 2020. **NO DEBTORS OR WITNESSES SHALL APPEAR WITHOUT COURT APPROVAL**. In order to comply with the recommended social distancing practices, the return to the in-person courtroom practice will be conducted as follows 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 be spaced at a maximum distance, please have only one person per microphone.
3. All parties are asked to space themselves in the courtroom chairs at least 6 feet apart from other persons.
4. The wearing of masks is encouraged, except during argument, while in the public areas of the courthouse.