UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

In re

Order Reflecting Triennial Increases to Dollar Amounts for Chapter 13 Fixed ("No Look") Fees and Amending ¶¶ B., E. and H of General Order 2021-2.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2025-2

General Order 2021-2 governs Chapter 13 Fixed ("No-Look") Fees. Paragraph O. of that Order provides for adjustments to the dollar amounts set forth in \P B. and H. utilizing the timeline and methodology set forth in \P 104(b) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Section 104(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides for triennial adjustments to dollar amounts for certain Code provisions. The dollar amounts will be adjusted on April 1, 2025. The new (adjusted) dollar amounts reflect a 13.2004 percent increase, rounded to the nearest \$25. The new amounts reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers from December 2021 to December 2024. 11 U.S.C. § 104(a)(1). The adjusted dollar amounts were published on February 4, 2025, in volume 90, number 22, pages 8941-8942 of the Federal Register.

The purpose of this Order is to amend and restate: (i) $\P\P$ B. and H. of General Order 2021-2 to set forth the current presumptively reasonable fees allowed in this District after considering the increase in the Consumer Price Index; and (ii) \P E. of General Order 2021-2 governing the Application for Approval of the Fixed Fee Agreement.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

(i) For (a) all Chapter 13 cases filed on or after April 1, 2025, and (b) all post-confirmation pleadings filed on or after April 1, 2025, in any Chapter 13 case pending in this District at the time this Order is entered, ¶¶ B., E. and H. of General Order 2021-2 are amended and restated to read as follows:

"B. The fixed fee payable to the debtor's attorney in Chapter 13 cases filed on or after April 1, 2025, is \$5,025, except in cases in which the total amount to be paid-in to the Trustee by the debtor under a confirmed Chapter 13 plan is \$9,050 or less, in

which case the fixed fee is capped at \$2,825. For purposes of determining whether the fixed fee is to be capped at \$2,825, if the confirmed plan provides for specific monthly disbursements to creditors and/or claimants by both the Trustee and the debtor, then the "total amount to be paid-in to the Trustee" includes both the amounts paid to the Trustee by the debtor and the amounts paid directly by the debtor to creditors and/or claimants ("disbursements" under this paragraph shall not include payments for expenses covered by the expense categories in Schedule J other than home mortgage payments, payments on secured claims or payments on leased motor vehicles; nor shall "disbursements" include residential or nonresidential real property rental payments even if they may be categorized as payments on secured claims);"

* * * * *

"E. If the debtor's attorney elects to accept the fixed fee, it must be disclosed in the Bankruptcy Rule 2016(b) Disclosure and Application for Approval of Fixed Fee Agreement, which must be signed by both the attorney and the debtor and filed at the time the debtor's schedules are filed (a copy of the Rule 2016(b) Form is attached to the Local Bankruptcy Rules as Appendix "E");"

* * * * *

"H. Services not included and covered by the fixed fee set forth in ¶ B. of this Order ("Additional Services") include all services rendered more than 120 days following the entry of an order of confirmation, as set forth below, along with the compensation deemed presumptively reasonable and allowable for such Additional Services:

- 1. Defense of Motions for Relief from Stay (\$450);
- 2. Defense of Motions to Dismiss (\$450);

- 3. Motions to Approve Mortgage Modification (trial or permanent) or to Refinance a Mortgage (\$450);
- 4. Motions to Approve Settlement/Allow use of Settlement (\$325);
- 5. Motions to Distribute Insurance Proceeds (\$325);
- 6. Motions to Substitute Collateral (\$450);
- 7. Motions to Incur Debt, including any required amendments to Schedules I & J (\$300);
- 8. Motions to Retain Tax Refund (\$300);
- 9. Motions to Suspend Plan Payments (\$300);
- 10. Motions to Sell (\$450);
- 11. Motions to Vacate Order of the Court (\$300);
- 12. Objections to Proofs of Claim (\$300);
- 13. Obtaining Confirmation of Amended Plan (\$450); and
- 14. With Hearing (when any of items 1-13 of this ¶ H. require a hearing <u>during which evidence</u> is adduced) (additional \$225);".
- (ii) In all other respects, General Order 2021-2 will remain in full force and effect.

Dated: March 13, 2025

FOR THE COURT:

John S. Hodge, Chief Judge United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of Louisiana