



TNWB Clerk's Office Newsletter

March 2025

Office Locations

Western Division:

200 Jefferson Ave

Suite 500

Memphis, TN 38103

901-328-3500

Eastern Division:

111 South Highland Ave

Room 107

Jackson, TN 38301

731-421-9300

Welcome Clerk of Court, Travis Green

Travis Green has been named the new Clerk of Court for the Western District of Tennessee Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Green's first day was January 27th. He spent his first day visiting with the Clerk's Office staff in both the Memphis and Jackson Divisional offices. Travis, a lifelong Memphian, served a stint in the US Marine Corp as an infantryman and previously worked in General Sessions as the Chief Administrative Officer.

Please join us in welcoming Travis Green to the USBC family. We look forward to working with him as we go into this new year and beyond.

AJTA - Automatic Judge Trustee Assignment

As courts nationwide are finding ways to do more with less, identifying procedures that can be made more efficient, and/or improving overall accuracy, filers and parties in cases filed in the Western Division (Memphis) have begun seeing several changes in how CM/ECF assigns judges and trustees to Ch. 13 cases and sets first meetings and confirmation hearings.

- Effective Tuesday January 7, 2025, CM/ECF began automatically and randomly assigning judges and trustees to all Chapter 13 cases filed in Memphis through use of the Automatic Judge/Trustee Assignment (AJTA) component of CM/ECF.
- **Both Chapter 13 trustees in Memphis will now have cases randomly assigned to all three judges in Memphis.**
- The first 341 settings for cases that were impacted by these changes were first meetings set February 18, 2025 (Cruseturner) and February 20, 2025 (Brown).

Discontinuation of Chapter 13 Trustee events servicing

Effective March 18, 2025, the Clerk's Office will no longer send notices for all Chapter 13 Trustee events through the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). A list of events the BNC will no longer send notices for is below.

- Amended Chapter 13 Trustee's Final Accounting and Report
- Chapter 13 Standing Trustee's FRBP 2012 Report Accounting of Prior Administration of Case
- Chapter 13 Trustee's Final Accounting and Report
- Notice of Defective Claim
- Notice of Final Cure Payment
- Notice of Change Payee
- Objection to Confirmation of Plan
- Objection to Confirmation of Plan and Trustee's Motion to Dismiss
- Trustee Motion Pursuant to Rule 3002.1 to Authorize Chapter 13 Trustee to Pay Certain Post Petition Mortgage Fees, Expenses and Charges
- Trustee Objection to Amended Plan
- Trustee Objection to Amended Schedule(s)
- Trustee's Expedited Motion to Dismiss for Failure to Pay Filing Fee
- Trustee's Motion to Dismiss
- Trustee's Motion to Dismiss Business Case
- Trustee's Motion to Increase Plan Payments
- Trustee's Motion to Modify Plan
- Trustee's Motion to Require Debtor to Appear and Show Cause
- Trustee's Motion to Require Debtor to Increase Plan Payments
- Trustee's Motion to Require Mortgage Holder to Appear and Show Cause
- Trustee's Motion to Set Aside Order of Dismissal
- Trustee's Motion to Show Cause
- Trustee's Objection to Proof of Claim
- Statement Continuing Meeting of Creditors & Confirmation Hearing
- Trustee's Motion – Generic
- Objection to Confirmation of Plan

This decision was made after reviewing current procedures to ensure compliance with best practices and the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Volume 4, Chapter 4, Bankruptcy Noticing Guidelines.

The Clerk's Office hosted four virtual Q&A sessions on February 28th and March 7th at 9 am and 2 pm each day for anyone that had questions or needed clarification.

Upcoming Holidays

Memorial Day – May 26th

Juneteenth – June 19th

Independence Day – July 4th

Labor Day – September 1st

Columbus Day – October 13th

Veteran's Day – November 11th

Thanksgiving Day – November 27th

Christmas Day – December 25th

The Clerk's Office will be closed on these holidays. For additional closures please refer to our website

www.tnwb.uscourts.gov

Community Outreach

On December 10, 2024, members of the Bankruptcy Court Outreach committee helped at Midsouth Toys for Tots at a facility provided by FedEx near its main hub in Memphis. Normally, Toys for Tots registration is held from October 1st thru November 15th but this year due to overwhelming donations, they cut off donations on Oct 31st. FedEx, a corporate sponsor, offered a section of one of its buildings to hold the large number of toys that needed to be stored. The TNWB Outreach team was able to sort, label, shop, and bag toys under the awesome guidance of Toys for Tots Coordinator Ms. Howard, and FedEx Lead Ana.

Recent CARE Program Presentation

On February 23, 2025, Bankruptcy Court volunteers conducted a CARE presentation to a well-attended audience at the Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church. CARE is the acronym for Credit Abuse Resistance Education. The February 23rd CARE presentation was "*Get Smart About Budgeting and Savings*" which discussed basic concepts regarding creating a budget, savings, and maintaining a good credit rating. The presentation was about one hour long, very interactive, and had great audience participation. Chief Deputy Clerk Du Verney should be commended for reviving the CARE program in the Western District of Tennessee. To date, volunteers have made about 10 CARE presentations. More information about CARE can be found at: <https://www.tnwb.uscourts.gov/TNW/CARE/>.

Employee Spotlight: Melissa Beacham

Where are you from: I am originally from Huntingdon, TN but I live in Clarksburg, TN

Where did you go to school: I graduated from Huntingdon High School in 1981 and from West TN Business College in 1987

How long have you been with the Court: I have worked for the Bankruptcy Court for 27 years. In October 1997 I started as an Intake Clerk, then I became a Case Administrator and now I am a Divisional Office Generalist

Favorite things: My favorite foods are crab legs and chocolate.

My favorite sport is softball and I enjoy watching the winter and summer Olympics.

My favorite movies are To Kill a Mockingbird and Steel Magnolias.

Favorite vacation/ travel destination: It is hard to pick a favorite vacation because I have never been on a horrible one. Most people that know me, know I love to travel to any place that has a beach, just give me sun, sand, and water.

What else would you like to share: I love to spend time with my family and friends. I have 3 grandsons and now I know what they mean by the saying "I am not as young as I used to be".

Judge's Hearings – Procedures and Preferences

Judge Latta – All court hearings conducted in Judge Latta's courtroom can be accessed for virtual appearance from the recurring Microsoft Teams link posted in the *Court Calendars and Appearances* tab on Judge Latta's webpages on the court's website, www.tnwb.uscourts.gov.

If your remote appearance will be **telephonic**, you must notify Courtroom Deputy Debra Hayes no later than 3:30 pm the day before your scheduled hearing and provide the telephone number from which you will be calling for identification purposes. You may be denied telephonic access to the hearing if you fail to provide this number. Please comply with the guidelines and instructions provided in the *Courtroom Appearances-Attorneys* section for appearing remotely. If you have any questions, please contact Courtroom Deputy Debra Hayes at 901-328-3570.

Judge Croom – Judge Croom's hearings are conducted in-person for all calendar matters. However, Judge Croom allows attorneys and parties to appear telephonically in certain situations. Telephonic appearances are NOT allowed if the matter requires a trial, evidentiary hearing, or witness examination. If you would like to appear telephonically, please contact Courtroom Deputy Deborah Pulse at 731-421-9314 NO LATER THAN noon the day prior to your hearing.

Judge Hagan – Effective January 6, 2025, for matters pending before Judge Hagan, out of town attorneys may only appear telephonically or by video conference in limited circumstances which includes Chapter 11 status conferences/announcements (when traveling to the jurisdiction is an economic burden to the estate) and scheduling conferences in Adversary Proceedings (when traveling to the jurisdiction is an economic burden to the estate) if you file a motion to appear telephonically or by video conference by **NOON** the day before the hearing and the Court approves your motion prior to the hearing.

You will no longer receive an email invitation for any matter in which Judge Hagan has granted a timely filed motion to appear telephonically or by video conference. See Judge Hagan's announcement regarding telephonic and video conferences. [This Microsoft Teams link](#) for any such motion that is timely filed and granted will be a recurring link that can be used to access the hearing. Access to the courtroom proceeding will be limited to movants associated with a granted motion to appear telephonically or by video conference.

Judge Barnett – Effective Tuesday, March 4, 2025, all court hearings conducted in Judge Barnett's courtroom can be accessed for virtual appearance from the recurring Microsoft Teams link. On Judge Barnett's [webpage](#), the recurring link will be listed under the "Court Calendars and Appearances" tab. Please continue to follow the instructions for appearing remotely. The Court Call List will be provided on Judge Barnett's webpage.

Note from the Editor/ Newsletter Chairperson

Shortly after starting with the Court five years ago, I had the idea to create a newsletter to get information out to people in the Western District of TN. With support from my supervisor, team, and the Court as whole the TNWB Newsletter came to be, and we have been publishing it for four years now. It has been a great honor and privilege to bring this idea to fruition; although I am stepping away from the editor role, I know the newsletter will continue to offer great things in the future of our Court District.

– Leslie Pratt