

# TNWB CLERK'S OFFICE NEWSLETTER

April 2023

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## **Get to Know the Judge – Preferences & Best Practices – Virtual Panel Discussion**

Join the MBA's Bankruptcy Section for a virtual panel discussion where you'll have the opportunity to get to know the bankruptcy judges of the Western District of TN, Western Division. As a bankruptcy practitioner, it's essential to understand the preferences and best practice strategies of each judge to effectively navigate the bankruptcy court system. During this panel discussion, each judge will break down their preferred filing methods of pleadings and provide you with valuable insights into their expectations and how to best approach your cases in their courtrooms. This is an invaluable learning opportunity. Don't miss out on this chance to enhance your skills and knowledge in bankruptcy law. May 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST [Register today!](#)

## **Judge's Website Pages**

We are excited to announce that each judge now has their own TNWB website page. Each page is structured in the same manner to provide consistency and ease of locating the judge's preferences. Visit [TNWB's website](#) - *Judges/Chambers* and select the judge's name to view their information. Content is still being added.

## **Judge Denise E. Barnett Changes and Reminders for Hearings Effective March 20, 2023:**

- In Chapter 13 cases, counsel should communicate settlements and requests for continuances to the Chapter 13 trustee no later than **noon on Thursday** (the week prior to your Tuesday hearing).
- In Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 cases, counsel should communicate settlements and requests for continuances to courtroom deputy by no later than **noon on Thursday** (the week prior to your Tuesday hearing).
- Attorneys should communicate with clients and witnesses so that they do not show up at the courtroom for any matters that have been settled or continued.
- As a reminder, please do not appear for any matter set on the 9:00 a.m. Chapter 13 docket.

## **Attention Bankruptcy Practitioners**

The Memphis & Jackson Liaison Committees have appointed an ad hoc committee to conduct a survey in May on the Western District of TN's current chapter 13 no look fee. This poll will allow judges to reevaluate current procedures and ensure that attorneys are fairly compensated for their work without penalizing debtors. Your feedback will play a critical role in shaping the Court's decision-making process. Therefore, we encourage you to participate and share your thoughts on the matter once the survey is released.

## **Training Modules for Filing Proof of Claims**

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee is pleased to announce the creation of a new training module. The module is designed to assist users with filing Proofs of Claim using the Court's CM/ECF filing system. This module will be beneficial for either training new staff members or simply as a quick refresher for those who may not file claims very often. You may view the module by clicking on the attached link: [Filing a Proof of Claim](#).

## **MBA's Bankruptcy Section News**

*WINE, CHEESE AND LEGAL EASE - SUPPORTING THE DUBERSTEIN BANKRUPTCY LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION* - Join MBA's Bankruptcy Section for a Wine & Cheese Fundraiser!

All proceeds from this event will go towards funding the University of Memphis's Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition Team, which provides law students with a unique opportunity to hone their skills and gain valuable experience. Click to [Register](#).

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023 Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Location: Home of Steve and Nora Douglass

Ticket Price: \$35 per person

For more information, please contact **Dominique Mayfield** ([dm@mayfieldlawfirm.com](mailto:dm@mayfieldlawfirm.com)) or **Daryl Smith** ([dsmith@ch13sfb.com](mailto:dsmith@ch13sfb.com)). Please make checks payable to MBA.

## **Bankruptcy Court Committee Outreach programs continue in 2023**

Employees of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee started an outreach agenda that kicked off this past holiday season. The Outreach Committee researches projects that the district or individual divisional offices can do as a group to help the community with districtwide projects encouraged. Currently, the Committee members spearheaded a clothing drive for men and women. The items collected will be donated to The Salvation Army – Purdue Center of Hope, Calvary Episcopal Church, and The Salvation Army Center in Jackson.

There are additional programs being discussed to be implemented throughout the year including reading to children, school backpack programs, visiting the elderly and donating to them for the holidays, as well as many other program ideas.

If you would like to donate in any way, please feel free to ask someone from the Clerk's office what our current outreach is and we will be happy to let you know.