

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE BAR AND PUBLIC CONCERNING
GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

In response to the rapidly developing facts, preparedness planning and response guidance concerning COVID-19, please be advised that the provisions of the attached *General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by Coronavirus (COVID-19)* are effective March 16, 2020.

The General Order is attached and is available on the court's website, njb.uscourts.gov.

Dated: March 17, 2020

Jeanne A. Naughton, Clerk

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control has directed all employers and places of public accommodation to plan and prepare for operations that help to minimize spread of the Coronavirus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS the District of New Jersey is among those areas with a significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19;

IT IS hereby on this 16th day of March 2020 **ORDERED:**

- 1) The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey will remain open. Clerk's office staff will be available by mail and email. Filings will continue through CM/ECF. Limited staff will be available to receive mail and process intake. The public should utilize court services in a manner consistent with state and local health guidelines;
- 2) All trials scheduled to be conducted prior to April 16, 2020 will be adjourned and rescheduled by the court;
- 3) All motions and contested matters will be presumed heard on the papers. Parties may request oral argument via email to chambers. If permitted by the judge, oral argument must be presented through third party providers CourtCall or Court Solutions. If the court permits such argument without the benefit of an electronic court recording operator, the recording by CourtCall or Court Solutions will constitute the official record of the court. The court will also consider and accommodate all reasonable adjournment requests;
- 4) All case trustees will consider and accommodate all reasonable requests for continuance of 341(a) meetings;

- 5) Any deadline to object to discharge or to the dischargeability of debt that would otherwise expire prior to April 16, 2020 is hereby extended to 30 days from the expiration of this order. This extension is without prejudice to the rights of any party to seek further extension;
- 6) Any deadline under 11 U.S.C. § 707 or 11 U.S.C. § 727 that would otherwise expire prior to April 16, 2020 is hereby extended to 30 days from the expiration of this order. This extension is without prejudice to the rights of any party to seek further extension;
- 7) This order shall remain in effect until April 16, 2020. This order may be revisited at that time and is subject to interim revision as conditions may occur.

/S/ KATHRYN C. FERGUSON
HON. KATHRYN C. FERGUSON
CHIEF UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY