

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE BAR AND PUBLIC CONCERNING GENERAL
ORDER ADOPTING MEDIATION PROGRAM
PENDING ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF LOCAL RULES**

**EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE REGISTER OF MEDIATORS**

Please be advised that pursuant to a *General Order Adopting Mediation Program Pending Adoption and Amendment of Local Rules* dated November 20, 2013, the Board of Judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey approved a comprehensive, Court-supervised mediation program to facilitate resolution of contested matters and adversary proceedings for debtors, creditors and parties in interest.

For ease of reference, the following links may be accessed to review the [*General Order*](#) and related local forms, [*Bankruptcy Professional's Application for Appointment to the Registry of Mediators*](#) and [*Established Mediator's Application for Appointment to the Registry of Mediators*](#).

The Implementation Schedule for the Mediation Program as set forth in the Court's Notice to the Bar and Public dated November 21, 2013 has been modified. The deadline for Applications for Appointment to the Registry has been extended from December 20, 2013 to January 31, 2014. The following dates have also been changed:

- **Completion of selection of mediators – February 10, 2014**
- **Bankruptcy training for experienced mediators – February 20, 2014**
- **Mediation training for bankruptcy professionals – March 12, 2014 (1 – 5 PM), March 13, 2014 (9 AM - 5 PM), March 14, 2014 (9 AM - 5 PM)**
- **Commencement of presumptive referral to mediation – April 1, 2014**

By adopting the Mediation Program, the Board of Judges disbands the former Register of Mediators and actively solicits applications from bankruptcy professionals and experienced mediators, who meet the qualifications set forth in the *General Order* and pending adoption of *D.N.J. LBR 9019-1(c)*.

Pursuant to the *General Order* and pending adoption of D.N.J. LBR 9019-1(f), a mediator shall be compensated at a reasonable hourly rate, as agreed to in writing by the parties prior to the commencement of the mediation. The Register of Mediators will include each mediator's customary hourly rate for mediation services.

Court approval of a mediator's fees and reimbursement of expenses is required if the bankruptcy estate is sought to be charged for any part of the mediator's compensation. A mediator seeking compensation from the bankruptcy estate must comply with the requirements of *D.N.J. LBR 2016-1(a)*. A copy of the mediator's application for compensation must be served on each party to the mediation.

The *General Order* and related local forms are available in the Clerk's Office and on the Court's website, www.njb.uscourts.gov.

Dated: December 20, 2013

James J. Waldron, Clerk