Lessons from the Pandemic

Mac Halcomb

Clerk’s Office ALNB

Sabrina McKinney

Ch 13 Standing Trustee ALMB

André M. Toffel

Ch 7 Panel Trustee ALNB

Mark Zimlich

US Bankruptcy Administrator ALSB

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* pandemic is defined as “an epidemic occurring over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries, and usually affecting a large number of people.” The origins of the word are from the Greek *pan* all and *demos* people.

**Pandemic related orders**

11th Circuit Court of Appeals:

General Order No. 15 –(08/11/2021) Testing, mask, and social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated visitors to court facilities.

Middle District of Alabama:

Civ. Misc. 2:20-mc-3910-ECM – (08/23/2021) Requirements to Enter Court Facilities. Vaccination or testing requirement. Employee Attestation attached.

Admin Order 20-05 (03/16/2020) No in-person hearings effective March 16, 2020, through May 1, 2020. Motions to extend or impose stay may be done with an affidavit.

Admin Order 20-06 (03/27/2020) Amends 20-05 to extend no in-person hearings through May 31, 2020.

Admin Order 20-10 (03/11/2020) Order adopting interim rules – CARES Act.

Admin Order 20-11 (05/11/2020) Extends the provisions of no in-person hearings admin orders until further notice.

Admin Order 21-05 (07/13/2021) Resumption of in-person hearings October 1, 2021.

Admin Order 21-08 (08/10/2021) Resumption of in-person hearings January 2, 2022.

Northern District of Alabama:

Admin Order 20-004 (03/13/2020) No in-person hearings as of 03/23/2020; AT&T Bridge; motions to extend or impose stay may be handled with appropriate affidavit; and Court will continue to be open.

Admin Order 20-005 (03/24/2020) Northern Division-suspending Ch 13 Trustee from filing Motions to Dismiss and Motions to Modify Chapter 13 Plans due to delinquency.

Admin Order 20-06 (03/27/2020) Suspends through May 31, 2020, the requirement that an attorney secure the debtor’s original wet signature.

Admin Order 20-08 (04/14/2020) Northern Division – temporarily amends negative notice for regarding suspending Ch 13 Plan payments.

Admin Order 20-09 (04/21/2020) Order adopting interim rules – CARES Act.

Admin Order 20-10 (05/26/2020) Extending the provision of Admin Order 20-06 pending further order.

Admin Order 21-02 (06/22/2021) Rescinds Admin Orders 20-04 and 20-06 (as extended by 20-10) and providing for in-person hearings commencing October 1, 2021 (judges’ discretion).

Southern District of Alabama:

Admin Order 20-3 (03/16/2020) No in-person hearings.

Admin Order 20-4 (03/23/2020) Suspends the debtor’s original signature.

Admin Order 20-5 (03/26/2020) Suspension of Clerk’s Office internal controls procedures.

Admin Order 20-6 (04/20/2020) Interim Rules adoption CARES Act.

Admin Order 20-8 (05/26/2020) Provisions of Admin Order 20-4 extended through July 31, 2020.

Admin Order 20-9 (07/27/2020) Wet signature order extended until further order of court.

Admin Order 21-7 (04/15/2021) Continued amendment to Interim Bankruptcy Rule 1020.