

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
NOTICE TO THE BAR**

On March 31, 2003, Chief Judge Rosemary Gambardella, on behalf of the Board of Judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, signed four General Orders governing procedures and adopting guidelines (“*the Chapter 11 Guidelines*” or “*the Chapter 11 Initiative*”) to assist the bench, bar and public in the administration of Chapter 11 cases. *The Chapter 11 Guidelines*, which are effective immediately, seek to increase efficiency, consistency and predictability of procedure, while maintaining judicial discretion on an issue by issue and case by case basis.

The Chapter 11 Guidelines were developed by the Court appointed Chapter 11 Subcommittee of the Lawyers’ Advisory Committee (“the Chapter 11 Subcommittee”) which conducted its work with the support and active participation of the Board of Judges, Bankruptcy Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association, Office of the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court, and Office of the United States Trustee.

The four General Orders and related *Chapter 11 Guidelines* implemented by the Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey are as follows:

- (1) ***General Order Governing Procedures for Complex Chapter 11 Cases***
(incorporating Exhibits A through F and Schedules 1 and 2);
- (2) ***General Order Adopting Guidelines Governing First Day Matters***
(incorporating Exhibit A and Schedules 1 and 2);
- (3) ***General Order Adopting Guidelines For Financing Requests***
(incorporating Exhibit A);
- (4) ***General Order Adopting Guidelines Governing Procedures for Payment of Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses to Professionals*** (incorporating Exhibit A).

The pivotal piece of the Chapter 11 Initiative is the General Order Governing Procedures for Complex Chapter 11 Cases. By definition, this General Order applies *exclusively* to a Chapter 11 case once designated by the Court as “complex,” while the other General Orders and related Chapter 11 Guidelines may apply to *any* Chapter 11 case filed in the District. In drafting these General Orders, every effort has been made to provide clear direction to attorneys with respect to both the Court’s procedural as well as substantive requirements for requested forms of relief.

For general reference, the General Orders, Chapter 11 Guidelines and form Applications and Orders can be located on the Court's website at www.njb.uscourts.gov. Specific form Orders and Applications for the purposes of filing with the Court, may also be accessed under the Court's website/homepage/ hyperlinks to "Forms"/"Miscellaneous Forms." A "tip sheet" for attorneys regarding the electronic filing of such documents is also provided.

Questions or comments concerning this Initiative may be directed to the Court's website/homepage/hyperlink to "Lawyers' Advisory Committee."