

**Current Operational Status of the United States Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Maryland during COVID--19 Pandemic**

March 12, 2020

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maryland, in conjunction with the United States District Court, is closely monitoring the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 and is following all recommended guidelines provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Maryland Department of Health](#). Persons over the age of 60 and people of all ages with severe underlying health conditions – such as immunodeficiency, heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes – appear to be at a higher risk of developing a serious COVID-19 illness. If you are scheduled to appear in bankruptcy court and fall into one of these high-risk groups, or if you are experiencing any flu-like symptoms, and may need to be excused, please email, or if necessary call, the Courtroom Deputy listed below for the Judge assigned to your case.

Chief Judge Thomas J. Catliota

Rita Hester, Courtroom Deputy
hearings_tjc@mdb.uscourts.gov
(301) 344-3495

Judge Nancy V. Alquist

Brenda J. Wolfe, Courtroom Deputy
hearings_nva@mdb.uscourts.gov
(410) 962-4439

Judge Robert A. Gordon

Booker Livingston, Courtroom Deputy
hearings_rag@mdb.uscourts.gov
(410) 962-7848

Judge Michelle M. Harner

Anna Marie Komisarek, Courtroom Deputy
hearings_mmh@mdb.uscourts.gov
(410) 962-2966

Judge David E. Rice

Cherita Scott, Courtroom Deputy
hearings_der@mdb.uscourts.gov
(410) 962-7769

Judge Lori S. Simpson

Gloria Bellman, Courtroom Deputy
Hearings_LSS@mdb.uscourts.gov
(301) 344-8031

Chapter 13 Dockets

Effective immediately, until further notice, Chapter 13 debtors represented by counsel are asked not to attend the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee's dockets.

Affidavits Encouraged to Increase Social Distancing

Counsel are strongly encouraged in all cases to file along with motions or objections affidavits and authenticated documentary evidence that may establish a prima facie case sufficient to enable to the court to rule on the matter without live testimony, as appropriate.

Telephonic Appearances

Counsel should review each judge's practice for appearing telephonically at court hearings, located on the Court's website under "Judges' Info."

Courthouse Entrance Protocol

The U.S. District Court has also issued [Standing Order 2020-02](#) concerning restrictions on visitors to U.S. Courthouses in this District. Please review this Standing Order for more information.