

You have requested comments regarding the time to appeal bankruptcy judgments and orders and whether an extension to 14 days or 30 days would be preferable. First, let me admit that this is not an issue I feel strongly about. Either alternative is fine with me and is better than 10 days, which can sometimes be problematic. That said, I slightly favor 14 days.

Events happen very fast in the bankruptcy world. Time is money, and delays can be very costly to parties that can ill afford it. Delays can also be a powerful tool for abuse by some who do not deserve to hold off the inevitable. Proceedings in bankruptcy are often very fragmented, and issues can be easily isolated, whereas in a large civil case multiple issues are disposed of at the same time. The latter circumstance justifies a longer appeal time.

Honorable Margaret Dee McGarity  
Chief Judge  
U S Bankruptcy Court  
Eastern District of Wisconsin