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22-BK-J

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Comment

I agree with the need for the proposed amendments because they seem narrowly tailored to further the efficient administration of justice. However, there is one aspect of Bankruptcy procedure that badly needs to be updated but has been ignored so far.

Debtors should be able to sign petitions and schedules entirely electronically. Attorneys should not be required to keep physical copies of pen & ink signatures of their clients. While it is true that many courts have dealt with this via local rule, during the Covid pandemic, a multiplicity of different rules is inherently inefficient.

With routine online 341 hearings proving themselves more effective than live physical hearings and with the US Trustee likely to continue holding them online, even when the pandemic has ended, it is time to cast away antiquated rules of the past. We need a nationwide rule that allows a debtor to sign all of the documents requiring his or her signature by the use of entirely electronic means. Attorneys should not be required to hang onto paper copies for years as many local rules now require.

I recognize that modernization is often exceptionally hard to accomplish in the legal profession. However, it is time to take everything electronic, without exception. I do hope the committee will set its collective mind to this task.

Sincerely,

A. Bradley Goodman, Esq.

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