

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS**

IN RE: **COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 20, 2020

Effective March 16, 2020, this court has operated pursuant to the terms of its Administrative Order that suspended all in-court proceedings until further notice. The Administrative Order dated July 1, 2020 extended the period for conducting hearings and trials both telephonically and by video conference at least through July 31, 2020.

After further review of the current situation in the state, the court has determined that we will continue operating on the basis of our Administrative Order dated March 16, 2020 until further notice. By continuing to operate remotely and without in-court hearings, we will have an extended opportunity to monitor the continued outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), promote health and safety, and address ongoing concerns about personal safety. Please note that each judge reserves the right to schedule an in-court hearing notwithstanding the current circumstances and might do so following notice and consent of all parties with the understanding that specific protocols would be required in these instances.

We will continue assessing our circumstances and monitoring the District Courts in both the Eastern and Western Districts. Please recognize this could involve different protocols in each District and Division. We will keep you informed of any changes regarding our current plans. Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk of Court or respective chambers concerning procedures generally or specific cases and proceedings. Your understanding and cooperation have been instrumental in our success with handling an unprecedented and difficult period for everyone, mentally, physically, and economically. We thank you again and hope that each of you remains safe and well.

Dated this 20th day of July, 2020