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

IN RE: REQUIRED USE OF MASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on May 13, 2021, and the Executive Branch's Safer Federal Task Force on May 18, 2021, states that fully vaccinated individuals may forego wearing masks and social distancing in federal buildings except where required by Federal, State, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations. In an effort to continue to protect the health and safety of court personnel and the public, the judges hereby adopt safety protocols for the courthouse in Little Rock.

Effective, May 21, 2021, and until further notice, all persons (including but not limited to employees, security personnel, litigants, attorneys and staff, vendors, and contractors) entering the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 300 W. 2nd Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, shall wear masks or cloth face coverings in all common areas, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, and in meeting spaces. Masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth completely.

Court employees in Little Rock and Fayetteville who work alone in a private office or cubicle, or in a workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may remove their face coverings while in the designated space. When an employee is outside of their workspace or in other public areas, a mask or face covering is required. During in-person proceedings in courtrooms, the mask or face covering requirement shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT

PHYLLIS M. JONES

CHIEF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

RICHARD D. TAYLOR U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

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BIANCA M. RUCKER U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE