

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

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

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. On April 28, 2020, the court announced that the provisions of the Administrative Order would remain in effect up until at least June 1, 2020. During this time, hearings have been conducted through both audio and audio/visual protocols. The court again expresses gratitude for the cooperation of the Clerk's office, the United States Trustee, the Chapter 13 trustees, the Chapter 7 trustees, our respective IT departments, counsel, and litigants.

After careful consideration, the court has determined that we will continue operating on the basis of our Administrative Order up until at least July 1, 2020. By continuing to operate remotely and without in-court hearings, we will have an extended opportunity to monitor the state's success with phased reopening, promote health and safety, address ongoing concerns about personal safety, and make a decision as to when and on what basis we should commence in court proceedings.

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 and will move forward as circumstances dictate. Please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk of Court or respective chambers concerning procedures generally or specific cases and proceedings. We thank you for your continued cooperation during this difficult period and wish you the best of health.

Dated this 11th day of May, 2020