

# PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

## NOTICE

### UPDATED NOTICE OF TEMPORARY MODIFICATION OF APPEARANCE PROCEDURES BEFORE JUDGE THOMAS P. AGRESTI

**EFFECTIVE JULY 26, 2022**

To see the full *Updated Notice of Temporary Modification of Appearance Procedures* please visit Judge Agresti's webpage at: <http://www.pawb.uscourts.gov/content/judge-thomas-p-agresti>. The pertinent revisions to the Zoom procedures are that the following forms of "appearance" will no longer be acceptable:

- (a) Remote appearance from a parked car or public places are no longer acceptable. All appearances by attorneys and other professionals must be from a formal office location or setting, which can be in a home, as long as of the formalities and solemnity of a court appearance are upheld.
- (b) Similarly, while witnesses may appear from a household setting, those settings must be free from noise or interference from others living in the household. Unless appearing as a party or witness, children shall not be present during or interfere with the remote appearance and must be appropriately separated from the area where the remote appearance occurs.
- (c) Animals shall not interfere with or appear in any remote appearance.
- (d) If the conditions set forth above cannot be achieved by the lay witness, the witness is to appear in the office of the attorney offering the testimony or representing a party.
- (e) Witnesses or Parties appearing in any Zoom proceeding cannot testify in the same conference room where others are also expected to appear, including the attorney calling the witness. A separate Zoom connection in a separate location is required for each witness/party.
- (f) Any violation of the foregoing conditions or any other mandates listed below, including the connectivity mandate, will result in the immediate termination of that person's Zoom appearance privilege for the proceeding at issue even though in all other respects the proceeding will continue at the discretion of the Court and the terminated appearance will be deemed a non-appearance after Notice.