

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

In re:)
)
INCREASE IN THE CHAPTER 13 NO-) **Misc. Proc. #20-222**
LOOK FEE BY AMENDMENT TO)
LOCAL RULE 2016-1(f))

STANDING ORDER

The Court has determined that there is a need to modify the Chapter 13 “no-look” provisions of its *Local Bankruptcy Rules* as set forth in W.PA.LBR 2016-1(f) by increasing the maximum no-look fee from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

AND NOW, this 8th day of **December 2020**, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. W.PA.LBR 2016-1(f) is amended as follows:

(f) The Chapter 13 "no-look attorney fee" shall be limited to a maximum of \$5,000.00 and the Chapter 13 "no-look expense charge" shall be limited to a maximum in the amount of \$500 (allowable expenses charged include the petition filing fee, postage, copying, certifications and other costs incurred in the administration of the case.) When the fee and expenses charged by counsel is less than or equal to either or both of the no-look fee and expense charge, no fee application is required. The no-look attorney fee and expense charge:

(1) shall include any retainer received;

(2) shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis for anything paid directly by the client, for instance if the client pays the petition filing fee directly, the no-look expense charge shall be equal to \$500 less the filing fee; and,

(3) does not preclude the award of additional fees and/or expenses by the Court upon the filing of a fee application consistent with these Local Bankruptcy Rules requiring in such case a detailed statement and accounting of fees and expenses charged; *provided however*, in order to "opt out" of the no-look fee provisions of this Local Bankruptcy Rule:

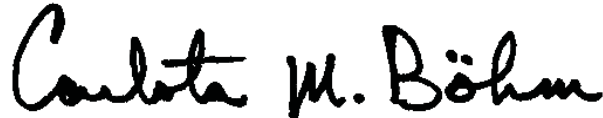
(A) counsel shall have entered into a written fee agreement at the commencement of the representation providing the alternative of opting out of the no-look fee compensation option and for payment of additional fees in the event of unforeseen, future case complications; and

(B) to the extent counsel seeks such additional compensation, counsel is required to file a cumulative fee application subject to the other provisions of this Local Bankruptcy Rule.

2. In all other respects, current W.PA.LBR 2016-1 remains in full force and effect until further order of Court.

3. The increase in the no-look fee to \$5,000 applies only to cases filed *on or after January 1, 2021* and is not retroactive.

4. Although a fee application may be unnecessary, the no-look fee does not relieve counsel of any obligation to keep contemporaneous records of the services rendered, time expended, and expenses incurred in connection with their representation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlota M. Böhm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CARLOTA M BÖHM, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT