




CLERK, U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**ENTERED**

THE DATE OF ENTRY IS ON  
THE COURT'S DOCKET

The following constitutes the ruling of the court and has the force and effect therein described.

Signed September 19, 2023

  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE:

REMOTE COURT HEARINGS

§  
§  
§  
§

GENERAL ORDER  
2023-05

This Order supersedes General Order 2021-06. In recognition of: (a) the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic national emergency; (b) the policies of the Judicial Conference of the United States; (c) the interests of judicial administration of bankruptcy cases and proceedings in the Northern District of Texas; and (d) the terms of Fed. R. Civ. P. 43 (made applicable to bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9017), until ordered otherwise, hearings in the Dallas and Fort Worth Divisions will be conducted in the manner set forth below. For all hearings in the Abilene, Amarillo, Lubbock, San Angelo, and Wichita Falls Divisions, please refer to the individual pages on our website for [Judge Jones](#) and [Judge Everett](#).

**1. Conduct of Hearings.**

Hearings will be conducted either (a) remotely (by video and telephone via the Court's WebEx platform – see attached WebEx Connection Information providing applicable WebEx links

and call-in numbers), (b) in-person (before the Court in the courtroom), or (c) in a hybrid mode (enabling participants to appear in-person or remotely), as set forth below. The below procedures shall apply in all cases and proceedings, subject to the discretion of the presiding judge.

**a. Remote Hearings.** The Court concludes that there exists good cause and compelling circumstances to justify permitting the following types of hearings to be conducted remote-only: (i) all “First-Day” hearings in Complex Chapter 11 or Chapter 15 cases; (ii) all hearings involving matters set on the Chapter 13 Trustees’ monthly contested Chapter 13 hearing dockets; (iii) all preliminary hearings on Motions to Lift the Stay; and (iv) all hearings on Motions to Extend or Impose the Stay; ***provided that*** the Court may, in its discretion, authorize any of the foregoing types of hearings to be conducted in a hybrid mode (*i.e.*, allowing participation in-person or by video) upon reasonable request on notice to affected parties.

**b. In-Person Hearings.** The following types of hearings will be conducted by the Court in-person with remote attendance generally not permitted: (i) all evidentiary hearings and trials in adversary proceedings; and (ii) all final hearings on Motions to Lift the Stay; ***provided that*** the Court may, in its discretion, authorize any of the foregoing types of hearings to be conducted in a hybrid mode, particularly if all affected parties consent to the alternative mode.

**c. Hybrid Hearings.** All other types of hearings not identified in ¶ 1.a. and ¶ 1.b. above, will be conducted by the Court in a hybrid mode, where participants will be allowed to participate either in-person or remotely; ***provided that*** the Court may, in its discretion, direct that any hearing be conducted in an in-person only mode.

The Court does not guarantee that computer connectivity or telephonic service will not be interrupted during the course of any hearing. If the hearing is being conducted in a hybrid mode, those who elect to participate remotely do so at their own risk, understanding that except in

extremely rare circumstances the Court will not entertain a request for continuance of the hearing based upon technological failure or any disadvantage experienced on account of an election to attend remotely instead of in-person.

## **2. Exhibits and Demonstrative Aids.**

For all hearings, all exhibits must be filed on the docket, by no later than the date that they are required to be exchanged pursuant to the Court's Local Rules or any applicable scheduling order. To comply with such requirement, any party intending to introduce documentary evidence at the hearing must file an exhibit list in the case using the "notice" or "list (witness/exhibit/generic)" event in ECF, with a true and correct copy of each designated exhibit filed as a separate, individual attachment thereto, so that the Court and all participants have ready access to all designated exhibits on an exhibit by exhibit basis. For voluminous exhibits, please consult the presiding judge's local exhibit requirements or contact the courtroom deputy, as it may be necessary for you to provide the Court with an exhibit notebook or electronic file in advance of the hearing. For any witness who is to be called to testify remotely, the party calling the witness is responsible for supplying the witness or counsel, as appropriate, with paper copies of all designated exhibits of all parties prior to the hearing. Demonstrative aids and Power Points should also be filed prior to the hearing, if possible. Participants should contact the appropriate courtroom deputy for each judge if they have any questions regarding the format, exhibits, or any other requirements for hearings.

## **3. Notice to Members of the Public.**

While the Judicial Conference of the United States relaxed its broadcasting policies during the COVID-19 Pandemic due to restrictions placed on in-person attendance at hearings and trials, these policies will expire and no longer be in effect after September 21, 2023. As a result, after

September 21, 2023, remote *video* access to Court hearings shall *only be available for case participants* (parties-in-interest and their professionals) and non-case participants are not permitted to attend any hearing by remote *video* means. In certain circumstances, non-case participants may be permitted to attend proceedings by remote *audio* means, but only if no witness testimony is to be provided. The presiding judge may take any action deemed necessary or appropriate to address any unauthorized remote attendance at a hearing or trial. For the avoidance of doubt, members of the public will continue to generally be permitted to attend proceedings in person, in the courtroom.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

###END OF ORDER###

## WebEx Connection Information

### WebEx Meeting Links:

Judge Stacey G. C. Jernigan	<a href="https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/jerniga">https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/jerniga</a>
Judge Mark X. Mullin	<a href="https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/mullin">https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/mullin</a>
Judge Edward L. Morris	<a href="https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/morris">https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/morris</a>
Judge Michelle V. Larson	<a href="https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/larson">https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/larson</a>
Judge Scott W. Everett	<a href="https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/everett">https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/everett</a>

### WebEx Teleconference Information:

Judge Stacey G. C. Jernigan	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 479-393-582
Judge Mark X. Mullin	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 474-603-746
Judge Edward L. Morris	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 473-581-124
Judge Michelle V. Larson	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 160-135-6015
Judge Scott W. Everett	Dial-in 650-479-3207 Access Code 476-420-189