

The Northern District of Texas Bankruptcy Court, Wichita Falls Division will be conducting scheduled video dockets via Webex video conferencing. There is no fee/charge of any kind for the participants, although you will have to download the WebEx application to your electronic device. The WebEx meeting link for Judge Hale's courtroom is: <https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/hale> . The number for Webex telephonic appearances (US/Canada) is: 1-650-479-3207; Access code: 476 420 189.

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**Please review the information below prior to participating in a hearing via WebEx.**

**CONNECTION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A WEBEX VIRTUAL HEARING**

The Court will allow participation in a virtual hearing using either of the following two methods. Please connect at least 10 minutes prior to the hearing time. It is recommended that attorneys discuss the logistics of the WebEx appearance and these instructions/tips with their clients/witnesses at least 48 hours before the hearing.

**Option 1: Using the WebEx app on your smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop.**

It is strongly preferred that participants who may speak during a hearing use the WebEx application rather than using the "call-in" option described in Option 2.

Attorneys and/or witnesses who anticipate offering extensive testimony or legal argument or conducting examination are required to utilize the video function. The court may consider special requests for other appearance options on a case-by-case basis.

Please connect using only one device. Using two or more devices may cause audio feedback issues.

If using a cell phone or tablet for video, it should be set in a stationary position. Holding a cell phone or tablet in your hand while speaking does not yield a good video for the Court.

**NOTE: If you are experiencing audio issues when using the WebEx application,** you may use the "CallMe At" selection under "Audio Connection" to move just the audio portion of the WebEx conference to your telephone.

**Option 2: Call-in via phone (audio only).**

The call-in number for Webex telephonic appearances (US/Canada) is: 1-650-479-3207. Access code: 476 420 189. The access code should be input when prompted.

## **HELPFUL HINTS AND ETIQUETTE**

- Please use the mute function when you are not speaking. Please be aware that sometimes the court mutes everyone when there is background noise. When you want to speak, make sure you are not on mute. Call-in users should dial \*6 to unmute your line.
- Remember to state your name for the record each time before speaking and speak slowly and clearly so the court can get a good record.
- Use headphones whenever possible, especially if using a desktop PC with external speakers. We have found that newer iPhones provide the best visual and audio feed – better than most desktop computers. If you are on a personal computer, headphones or earbuds are required for those who need to speak during the hearing.
- During examination attorneys and witnesses should use a separate camera and microphone, when possible. To avoid feedback parties using separate devices must not be in the same room. The Court may consider special requests on a case-by-case basis.
- WebEx participants may use the "share" button to easily share their screen or document with the Court or other WebEx participants. Press “stop sharing” to remove the presentation from the meeting.
- When making an appearance from a vehicle, please park in a safe location with windows rolled up (to minimize background distraction and noise) and use a headset that is ear-to-phone (not the vehicle’s hands-free speaker-phone option).
- Suggestions for participating in a WebEx hearing from home: If you are having connectivity problems, turn off devices that may be using bandwidth on your home network. Devices or applications such as Facetime, Roku, streaming media players, video games, or large downloads can negatively impact the audio and video quality of the WebEx meeting.
- Participants are reminded that they should wear attire suitable for court.
- Participants who wish to test their WebEx connection or the share-screen functionality in advance of the hearing may arrange a “practice run” by contacting the courtroom deputy via email to [hdh\\_settings@txnb.uscourts.gov](mailto:hdh_settings@txnb.uscourts.gov).

## **NOTICE OF HEARING CONTENT FOR MATTERS SET ON VIDEO DOCKET DATES**

**IMPORTANT:** Matters set for hearing on video dockets beginning September 2021 will no longer take place in Wichita Falls Video Dkt Rm 216A. Video dockets will be conducted via Webex video at <https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/hale>. When electronically filing the Notice of Hearing via CM/ECF select “<https://us-courts.webex.com/meet/hale>” as the location of the hearing (note: this option appears immediately after the first set of Wichita Falls locations). **“Wichita Falls Video Dkt Rm 216A”** will no longer be used for video dockets. **NOTE: Chapter 13 matters set for pre-hearing conference set on video-docket date will be conducted electronically by the Chapter 13 trustee at 8:30 AM via the Go-To-Meeting platform: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/774701413>** Dial-in (for audio only): 1-312-757-3121 (US); Access Code: 774 701 413.

The Notice of Hearing filed in the case and served on parties in interest must: (1) provide notice of the above WebEx video participation/attendance link for Judge Hale, (2) provide notice of the above Go-To-Meeting video link (for matters requiring a pre-hearing

conference), and (3) attach a copy of these WebEx Hearing Instructions or provide notice that they may be obtained from Judge Hale's web page at:

<https://www.txnb.uscourts.gov/judges-info/hearing-dates/judge-hales-hearing-dates> .

### **EXHIBITS AND DEMONSTRATIVE AIDS**

Any party intending to introduce documentary evidence at a hearing set on a video docket must file an exhibit list in the case with a true and correct copy of each designated exhibit filed as a separate, individual attachments thereto so that the Court and all participants have ready access to all designated exhibits. Exhibits should be filed by the date that they would normally be exchanged pursuant to our local rules using the "notice" or "list (witness/exhibit/generic)" or "Support/Supplemental doc" event in ECF. For voluminous exhibits, please contact the courtroom deputy, as it may be necessary for you to provide the Court with an exhibit notebook or zip file in advance of the hearing.

Demonstrative aids and Power Points may be shared with the Court and other Webex participants during a video hearing via the "share" button in Webex. If these demonstrative aids and/or Power Points are admitted as exhibits, they would then have to be provided to the court after the hearing.

During a video hearing lawyers may refer to (and offer) their exhibits by referencing the exhibit's ECF document number for the Court and other Webex participants to access. After the hearing, the court will create a Minute Entry reflecting which exhibits were admitted. You should consider emailing exhibits to witnesses ahead of time since they may not have access to PACER.