

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**

Local General Order No. 17 will become effective August 31, 1999

LOCAL GENERAL ORDER NO. 17

In all cases filed under Chapter 13 of the Bankruptcy Code, compensation for debtor's counsel shall be \$1,300.00 unless a lower fee is specifically requested. No other fees shall be charged or collected by debtor's counsel without prior court approval except court costs in the amount of the filing fee, and the court costs of each amendment to schedules.

Debtor's counsel shall obtain the signature of the debtor on all initial fee applications in Chapter 13 proceedings and shall indicate the amount of the fee and the method of payment. Any retainer collected by an attorney prior to the filing of the Chapter 13 petition shall be disclosed in the fee petition and the retainer shall be deducted from the fee awarded by the court. The fee petition shall further disclose any fees and expenses charged or collected for any prepetition legal work performed by the counsel for the debtor within one year prior to filing bankruptcy. Unless said prepetition legal work is clearly delineated as unrelated to the Chapter 13, the Chapter 13 Trustee shall deduct any such disclosed prepetition fees, and expenses from the fees awarded in Chapter 13. The Chapter 13 Trustee shall pay, if funds are available, 50% of the attorney's fee on the first distribution, with the balance paid over the next five months in equal installments of 10% each.

This order shall be effective for cases filed after August 31, 1999.

Dated: August _____, 1999

MARGARET A. MAHONEY
CHIEF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

WILLIAM S. SHULMAN
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE