

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

ANNOUNCEMENT RE FEES

The Mobile Bar Association Bankruptcy Committee proposed two changes to the general fee policies followed by practitioners in this Court. One related to Chapter 13 debtors' attorneys' fees; the other to fees of attorneys filing relief from stay motions. In general, the changes raise the fees charged by debtors' counsel in Chapter 13 cases and creditors' counsel in relief from stay motions. The Court allowed attorneys and other parties in interest to comment on the changes until October 15, 2002.

After consideration of the comments and after its own review, the Court concludes that the policies should be implemented with one change. As of November 1, 2002, the "standard" charges for routine Chapter 13 cases will be \$1,800. As of November 1, 2002, the "standard" attorneys' fee for relief from stay motions will be \$550. Any party in interest can question these fees by appropriate motion or objection. A Chapter 13 debtor's counsel may seek higher fees and make written application to the Court for them. The Court, by recognizing these standards, is not bound to approve these amounts in any case. The fees are always subject to scrutiny by any party and the Court.

The higher fees may only be charged by counsel who are filing their cases and other pleadings electronically and are also accepting service of other parties' filings electronically. The Court intends to encourage use of the CM/ECF system with this caveat.

The Chapter 13 debtors' attorneys' fees change is contained in Amended Local General Order No. 17. The relief from stay fee change is a policy change only and not the subject of a local order.