

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

To: Attorneys and Trustees Serving the United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio

From: Judges, United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio

Re: Changes in Places of Holding Court, Effective March 1, 2016

Date: November 17, 2015

Over the last five years, budget reductions have led to the loss of 34 employees, a decrease in the amount of court-provided noticing, the release of physical space, and a decline in the replacement of equipment and supplies. At this point, we must also substantially reduce travel costs. This has caused the Judges to make the difficult choice of eliminating all travel for court hearings, and confining the conduct of those proceedings to the cities of Cincinnati, Columbus and Dayton. This change has no effect upon meetings of creditors, and they will continue to be performed at the same locations and times, under the authority of the United States Trustee. General Order Number 19-1 reflects all these changes, and it has been unanimously adopted by the Judges of this Court. It can be viewed on the Court's Website (www.ohsb.uscourts.gov).

As a result and effective March 1, 2016, Southern Ohio Bankruptcy Judges will discontinue holding court in St. Clairsville (formerly serving Jefferson, Harrison, Belmont and Monroe Counties), and Zanesville (formerly serving Washington, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Guernsey, Muskingum and Coshocton Counties). Instead, cases filed for debtors residing in these counties will be heard in Columbus. Commencing December 20, 2015, all judges sitting in Columbus will be in the draw for these cases: for Chapters 7 and 11 cases filed on or after December 20, 2015, they will be assigned equally among the three judges currently serving in Columbus (Judges Charles M. Caldwell, John E. Hoffman, Jr., and C. Kathryn Preston). For Chapters 12 and 13 cases filed on or after December 20, 2015, for debtors residing in the counties named above, Judge Hoffman will only be assigned cases administered by Trustee Faye D. English, Judge Preston will only be assigned cases administered by Trustee Frank M. Pees, and Judge Caldwell will be assigned cases administered by both Trustees Faye D. English and Frank M. Pees.

Please understand that these changes do not reflect a lack of dedication or concern for the attorneys, trustees, debtors and creditors in the affected locations. Instead, we are attempting to conserve resources, and provide the highest quality and most efficient service possible. In addition, we are fully committed to minimizing the need for travel by attorneys, trustees and litigants by only setting hearings when necessary, and by making maximum use of video and telephone conferences. In the near future, we will travel to the affected locations to further explain and answer any questions. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact Judges Charles M. Caldwell, John E. Hoffman, Jr., and C. Kathryn Preston.