

PRESS RELEASE

Recently, WHIO TV ran a story about an upcoming meeting of all Southern District of Ohio U.S. Bankruptcy Court employees. The story concluded that it was to be a vacation at taxpayers' expense rather than a working meeting. The story harmed the reputation of this public institution for no reason other than sensationalism. The Court invites any media to read the following bullet points before jumping on this bandwagon to the detriment of the institution and the public it serves.

- Every year, the United States Courts spend a certain percentage of their budgets on staff training. This year's training expenditures are similar to past years.
- The public deserves to know their tax money is being well spent.
- Bankruptcy courts are under increasing pressure resulting from record number of people seeking bankruptcy protection.
- Southern District of Ohio is unusual because of three large offices - Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton. Court management practices vary in many ways from city to city.
- It is a time of great change in the Court, having converted to electronic filing (paperless courts) and adjusted to a sweeping reform law (2005). The Courts are now implementing major changes in the national and local rules which govern the day to day operations of the clerks' offices.
- It is especially important to the public and the bar that our Courts try to harmonize their management practices as much as possible.
- The Great Wolf Lodge meeting facilities were well positioned and reasonably priced. This is a working meeting. There will be no time to use the facility's amenities as shown on an earlier WHIO TV film clip (facial massages, putt putt golf, swimming pool, etc.).