ATTORNEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2020 - VIDEOCONFERENCE

The third annual full Attorney Advisory Committee was held on November 18, 2020 via videoconference.

Chief Judge Hopkins provided opening remarks. Rick Nelson, the Committee Chairman and Co-Chair of the Chapter 11 Subcommittee, introduced the members of the Chapter 11 subcommittee, and Erin Renneker, Committee Co-Chair and Co-Chair of the Consumer/Small Business subcommittee introduced the members of the Consumer/Small Business subcommittee.

Chapter 11 subcommittee Co-Chair Robert Berner provided an update on the recent work of the subcommittee. The first complex Chapter 11 case has been confirmed, and the subcommittee has been gathering feedback from those involved with the case. The subcommittee is reviewing the Complex Chapter 11 Procedures and provided a redline version of proposed changes for the Judges' review.

The Consumer/Small Business subcommittee worked on two projects this year. The Chapter 13 No-Look Fee subgroup made a presentation to the Judges recommending an increase to the Chapter 13 No-Look Fee. After some discussion about the pros and cons of increasing the fee, the Judges took the matter under advisement. The Website Improvement subgroup presented a proposal to make improvement to the Southern Ohio Bankruptcy Court's website. The Judges were supportive of the project, which will continue into next year.

Laura Faulkner, Chief Deputy Clerk, provided updates on district programs. October 1, 2020 was the effective date for: the updated Mandatory Form Chapter 13 Plan, the amended Local Bankruptcy Rules, and the Mortgage Modification Mediation Program.

Finally, Mr. Nelson, President of the Bankruptcy Ben-Bar Conference of the Southern District of Ohio provided an update to recent changes to the board, including an expansion of the number of board members. The Attorney Advisory Committee discussed whether a virtual bench-bar conference should be scheduled during 2021. The Committee and Judges agreed that an in-person bench-bar conference is preferred; the next conference will likely take place in 2022.