

January 11, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk 

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

**Re: ADOPTION OF BANKRUPTCY
LOCAL RULES**

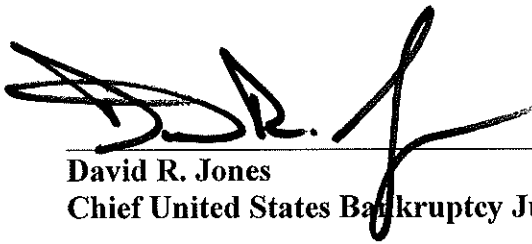
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GENERAL ORDER 2021-3

ORDER

The Court earlier proposed adopting Bankruptcy Local Rule 5005-1 Filing of Papers and Signatures and posted it for public comment. The Court adopted the amendment effective January 11, 2021, subject to abrogation by the Judicial Council for the Fifth Circuit through its Rules Committee, the Court permanently adopts the attached Bankruptcy Local Rule 5005-1 Filing of Papers and Signatures.

Signed January 11, 2021.



David R. Jones
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Local Rule 5005-1. Filing of Papers and Signatures.

- (a) Except as set forth in this rule, ~~t~~The Administrative Procedures for the Filing, Signing, and Verifying of Documents by Electronic Means in Texas Bankruptcy Courts (as amended January 12, 2017)~~Texas statewide procedures for electronic filing~~ are adopted. The current version is available ~~by this court and are published~~ on the Court's website.
- (b) Signatures of debtors, attorneys, affiants and declarants may be either (i) received and maintained in "wet signature form"; or (ii) electronically signed utilizing a commercially available electronic signing technology (such as DocuSign) that (a) maintains an audit trail that allows the filing attorney to obtain the identification of the signer's computer or other electronic device from the commercial provider; and (b) complies with the requirements of the United States ESIGN Act. ~~Except as expressly provided or unless permitted by the presiding Judge, the Court requires documents being filed to be submitted, signed or verified by electronic means that comply with the procedures established by the Court.~~
- (c) The notice of electronic filing that is automatically generated by the Court's electronic filing system constitutes service of the document on those registered as filing users of the system.
- (d) Depositions, interrogatories, answers to interrogatories, requests for production or inspection, responses to those requests, and other discovery material may not be filed. When a discovery document is needed in a pretrial proceeding, those portions that are needed ~~may be attached as an exhibit to the relevant pleading~~ will be an exhibit to it. When this material is needed at trial, it may be introduced under the Federal Rules of Evidence.