

R O M E

AVAILABLE OPEN CALENDAR DATES FOR JUDGE BONAPFEL

Attorneys may set hearings on most matters in accordance with Judge Bonapfel's Open Calendar Procedure. The categories of hearings and the dates and times on which such hearings will be held are set out below. **A NOTICE OF HEARING MUST BE SERVED AND FILED: (1) For motions to continue the stay under § 362(c)(3) or motions to impose the stay under § 362(c)(4), TEN DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING DATE; OR (2) otherwise, for all other motions, AT LEAST FOURTEEN (14) DAYS BEFORE THE HEARING DATE unless a Bankruptcy Rule requires GREATER NOTICE. See, e.g., FED. R. BANKR. P. 2002(a), 2002(b), 3007. For more information, please refer to the Motion to Extend Stay link here: [Motion to Extend Stay under Section 362\(c\)](#).**

Some types of matters may require more time between the date of service of the motion or application and notice and the date of the hearing. See, e.g., Bankruptcy Rules 2002 and 3007 and BLR 7007-1(b). If a rule gives a respondent a period of time to file a response, the hearing date picked must be at least two (2) business days after the last day on which a response could be timely filed. Remember that when there is a right or requirement to act and service is made by mail, Bankruptcy Rule 9006(f) adds three (3) days to the prescribed response period.

REAFFIRMATION AGREEMENTS

The Court will schedule all hearings on reaffirmation agreements in Atlanta Division cases on a single day before the same judge, regardless of which judge is assigned to the case. When self-calendaring a hearing on a reaffirmation agreement filed in an Atlanta Division case, please refer to the chambers pages of [Judge Ritchey Craig](#) or [Judge Cavender](#) for more specific information.

THE OPEN CALENDAR PROCEDURE SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING. After the motion or pleading has been filed on the court's docket, please contact **Connie Mason at (404-215-1021) to receive a hearing date and time.**

- Matters that are likely to require more than twenty (20) minutes of presentation to the Court;
- Matters requiring the presentation of evidence;
- Matters set on an emergency or expedited basis;
- More than ten (10) matters relating to one case, e.g., objections to claim;
- Any Adversary Proceeding hearing, pre-trial conference, or trial; and
- A hearing scheduled in a different division than the case was filed.

OTHER EXCEPTIONS

Pursuant to Bankruptcy Local Rule 6008, the Court will set hearings when a response is filed to a motion to avoid lien or a motion to redeem.

A hearing is not necessary for parties that have entered into a proposed consent order that is submitted to Chambers at the time the motion is filed. The proposed consent order may be uploaded via ECF, U.S. Mail, or delivered to Chambers. Please remember proposed orders should be submitted as a .pdf file in an e-order format, or, if the order is submitted as another file format, then it must be in paper form, which would require a wet signature and date line for Judge Bonapfel. Refer to BLR 5005-1 and 9013-2 for proposed order requirements.

The following types of motions/applications do not typically require a hearing. If a hearing is necessary or a response is filed, the Court will contact the moving party or notice the matter for hearing.

- Application to employ professionals;
- Motion for Rule 2004 examination;
- Motion to extend time to file schedules;
- Motion for emergency ex parte relief from the stay pursuant to BLR 4001, unless it is known that the motion is contested or is likely to be contested;
- Motion to vacate or terminate an Employer Deduction Order;
- Stipulated Substitution of Counsel;
- Motion in Chapter 11 cases to set bar dates to file proof of claims; and
- First request on Motion to Reopen (please note that a motion to reopen should be served on all **creditors and parties in interest, the filing fee must be paid and an e-order should be uploaded**).

OPEN CALENDAR PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select a date and time for the appropriate Division for the matter to be heard from the list of currently available dates: ATLANTA or ROME. Always check the list of currently available dates when setting a hearing, as the dates may be removed from the list at any time.

The available dates and times depend on the type of matter. **The Court has the discretion to remove your matter from the calendar if it is scheduled for the wrong date, time, division or courtroom.**

2. If you are using this procedure for a Chapter 7 relief from stay motion that will be heard before the scheduled meeting of creditors, you must (1) call the Chapter 7 Trustee and explain why a hearing is necessary prior to the Trustee's ability to examine the debtor and evaluate the case at the 341 meeting, and (2) set forth the explanation in your motion and provide the date you made the required call to the Chapter 7 Trustee.
3. Prepare the notice of hearing into which you will insert the date, time and location that you selected from the list of available dates. Combine the notice with the motion, application or objection, brief, if any, and certificate of service into one document.
4. No later than one (1) day after serving the pleadings, file the motion, application or objection with notice of hearing and certificate of service attached.
5. Do not call Chambers to find out if the matter has been put on the calendar. You may view the calendar in the CM/ECF system, which you may access through PACER, even if you do not file electronically. Additionally, you may request to be placed on the email list to receive court calendars, contact **Connie Mason** (404-215-1021). It is the responsibility of the party to keep an accurate email address with the Courtroom Deputy.
6. You may use the Open Calendar Procedure to reset a hearing date if all parties agree by filing an amended notice of hearing on which you indicate the agreement of all parties. If all parties do not agree, continuances should be requested by motion, which you may schedule for hearing, if necessary, using the Open Calendar Procedure. **IF MATTERS ARE RESET, contact Connie Mason, connie_mason@ganb.uscourts.gov or (404-215-1021).**

7. Counsel with conflicts should send a conflict letter on each case to the Court, in advance, listing their conflicts and proposed resolutions. Counsel is expected to comply with BLR 5071, N.D. Ga. In addition, mass calendars are a way of life in Bankruptcy Court, and it is not unusual for different judges to schedule mass calendars at the same time. The judges understand that this scheduling problem gives rise to conflict and are generally accommodating to counsel. If you have a mass calendar conflict that requires you to be in another courtroom in the Bankruptcy Court, call or report to the Courtroom Deputy before the start of the hearing to identify your cases. Your cases will be marked and held for your report.

In the event that counsel desires to obtain a continuance of a case on the Chapter 13 confirmation calendar, counsel should contact the Chapter 13 Trustee directly.

8. If you file using paper rather than through the CM/ECF system and you file a pleading within three (3) days of the scheduled hearing, you should notify Chambers of the filing, so that any delay in the paper document being placed on the case docket does not impair the Court's ability to review the paper prior to the hearing.

TELEPHONIC COURT APPEARANCES FOR ALL CALENDARS

ALL HEARINGS NOTICED FOR THE BANKRUPTCY COURT IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA BEFORE THE HONORABLE PAUL W. BONAPFEL, WILL BE HELD USING HIS VIRTUAL HEARING ROOM ONLY, UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE OTHERWISE WITH CHAMBERS. THIS APPLIES TO THE ATLANTA AND ROME DIVISION CASES.

All hearings shall be conducted using Judge Bonapfel's Virtual Hearing Room. A link to connect to the Virtual Hearing Room is available on his webpage at:

<https://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/content/honorable-paul-w-bonapfel>

Parties unable to participate via virtual hearing room, may participate telephonically:

Toll Free: 833-568-8864; Meeting ID: 161 794 3084

(This Meeting ID must be used – it connects to Judge Bonapfel's Virtual Hearing Room)

*Also When scheduling future hearings, please continue to schedule them for **in person** hearings and **select Courtroom 342 for ROME hearings** before Judge Bonapfel, but add the following to the hearing notice:*

*“Given the current public health crisis, hearings may be telephonic only. Please check the **“Important Information Regarding Court Operations During COVID-19 Outbreak”** tab at the top of the GANB Website prior to the hearing for instructions on whether to appear in person or by the virtual hearing room.”*

<http://www.ganb.uscourts.gov/news/public-notice-regarding-court-operations-during-covid-19-outbreak>

Effective March 1, 2021, Judge Bonapfel will require that **Applications for Additional Compensation** in Chapter 13 cases be noticed for Hearing using the Voluntary Notice Procedure set out in **Bankruptcy Local Rule 9014-2** and **General Order 24-2018**. Please discontinue utilizing the procedure outlined in General Order 22-2017. See section 3.3.2 of the **Amended General Order 42-2020** for the specific requests mentioned above. (This information is also included on Judge Bonapfel's web page.)

Please See Next Page for Available Rome Dates.

**ROME DATES
For
JUDGE BONAPFEL**

To be held in Room 342
U.S. Courthouse,
600 East First Street
Rome, GA 30161

**ALL MATTERS IN CHAPTER 7 & 11
CASES (Ch. 11 Only Relief from Stay)
and ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS at
9:25 A.M.**

2021

October 13, 27

November 10

December 1, 15

**CHAPTER 13 CONFIRMATION
HEARINGS (and related motions) at
9:30 A.M.**

2022

January 12, 26

February 9, 23

**March 9, *22
(*Tuesday)**

**POST-CONFIRMATION
MODIFICATIONS at 9:50 A.M.**

**MATTERS IN CHAPTER 13 CASES NOT
Related to Confirmation Hearing on same
date at 10:00 A.M.**

**MOTIONS FOR RELIEF FROM STAY
(Chapter 7 & 13) at 10:15 A.M.**

*** All IN-REM RELIEFS & POST PETITION
RENT REQUESTS - will be heard by the
Court**

**HEARINGS ON MOTIONS TO
CONTINUE THE STAY (§362(c)(3)) AND
MOTIONS TO IMPOSE THE STAY
(§362(c)(4)) at 10:30 A.M.**