United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Indiana

United States Courthouse
Hammond Division
5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 2200
Hammond, Indiana 46320

J. Philip Klingeberger
Bankruptcy Judge

Kent Lindquist
Bankruptcy Judge

September 30, 2005

TO: The Chapter 13 Bar

RE: Attorney's Fees Awarded to Counsel for Chapter 13 Debtor(s)

It has been the policy of this Court, effective May 1, 2004, to award up to a maximum of $2200.00 in attorney's fees to debtor's counsel for representing a debtor in a routine, consumer case under Chapter 13, without the necessity of filing an itemized fee application. Any fee in excess of that sum required an itemized fee application for extraordinary, unusual, or unanticipated legal services that were rendered to the debtor or the debtor's estate.

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) is anticipated to involve increased work by attorneys representing Chapter 13 debtors and in light of that anticipation, the Judges of the Hammond Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana have deemed it appropriate to increase the standard compensation for routine Chapter 13 cases. The Court has concluded that this figure should now be adjusted upward to $2800.00. Accordingly, effective October 17, 2005, as to any Chapter 13 case filed on or after that date, the Court will approve a fee not to exceed $2800.00 for Chapter 13 debtor's counsel, without the necessity of an itemized fee application, in a routine, consumer case.

Counsel are advised that confirmation criteria under 11 U.S.C. Section 1325(a) effective October 17, 2005, under the BAPCPA may alter the manner in which attorney's fees can be paid by the Trustee upon plan confirmation.

J. Philip Klingeberger, Judge
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Kent Lindquist, Judge
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