

Federal Bar Association – SDNY Chapter

Serving the Bench, the Bar, and the Public
March 2020 Issue



Welcome!

A message from FBA SDNY Chapter President Mimi Tsankov:

Dear SDNY FBA Members:

I am honored to take on the role of President of the FBA SDNY Chapter, and follow in the footsteps of Wylie Stecklow, and many others who have kept the profile of this New York Chapter on a national scale. During the year ahead, I look forward to focusing on the following programs:

Academic Outreach — The FBA benefits through meaningful partnerships with the many educational institutions in New York City and the neighboring

communities;



Diversity and Inclusion – [MARCH 13TH AND MARCH 17TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND CSW64 PROGRAMS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID19-RELATED CONCERNS](#)

Unfortunately, the March 13th and March 17th International Women's Day and CSW64 Programs will be cancelled due to COVID19-related concerns. FBASDNY.org will provide updates regarding alternative events as they become available.

Mimi Tsankov
FBA SDNY President

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed on fbasdny.org publications are those of the associated authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the FBA, the FBA SDNY, or the members of the respective organizations.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK



**United States District Court
Southern District Of New York**

Colleen McMahon
Chief Judge

Ruby J. Krajcik
Clerk of Court

NOTICE TO THE BAR
March 9, 2020

CONTACT:
District Executive: (212) 805-0500

SDNY Announces Visitor Restrictions

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York announces visitor restrictions to all courthouses in the District as a result of the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak in New York.

The Centers for Disease Control has advised people to take precautions in light of the COVID-19 virus outbreak and noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Therefore, effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter any courthouse in the Southern District of New York:

- Persons who have travelled to any of the following countries within the last 14 days:

CHINA
SOUTH KOREA
JAPAN
ITALY
IRAN

(This list may be updated as further guidance is received.)

- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007
300 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601

<https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/>

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at one of the courthouses in the Southern District of New York, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact that chambers directly (contact information may be found in the judges' [Individual Practices](#));
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services officer, please contact the office of Pretrial Services at (212) 805-4300;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Probation officer, please contact the Probation office at (212) 805-0040;
- If you are a juror, please contact the Jury Department at (212) 805-0179;
- For Court of Appeals matters, please contact Catherine Wolfe, Clerk of Court, at (646) 584-2696;
- For Bankruptcy Court matters, please contact Bankruptcy Court Services at (212) 284-4040;
- For District Court matters, please contact the Clerk of Court at (212) 805-0140;
- For all other matters, please contact the District Executive Office at (212) 805-0500.

These restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

###

500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007
300 Quarropus Street, White Plains, NY 10601

<https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/>

More information can be found [here](#).

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ISSUES UPDATED COVID-19 OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS

March 23, 2020

In light of the ongoing public health emergency, please be advised of the following updated operational protocols for the conduct of business in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York:

<http://www.fbasdny.org/southern-district-of-new-york-issues-updated-covid-19-operational-protocols/>

FBA LOCAL CHAPTERS ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THEIR LAWMAKERS REGARDING COURTHOUSE REPAIR FUNDING

Congress is currently considering approval of FY 2021 funding for several federal courthouses in need of significant repair. The following federal courthouses (including a New York federal courthouse) have been designated by the General Services Administration as potential recipients of outyear funding (FY 2022-2025) for necessary building repair and upgrades, as indicated on the attached list of GSA courthouse repair projects.

FBA National has launched a campaign in collaboration with the local chapters to secure funding for all federal courthouse repair projects contained in the General Service Administration (GSA) budget FY2021 request and outyear budgets. Safe and secure courthouses are critical to the administration of justice.

FBA chapters are encouraged to participate in this campaign by writing to their House and Senate lawmakers to ask for their support for the chapter's local courthouse's repair project and an increase in the 302(b) allocation for the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee, which oversees funding for GSA and courthouse repairs. The attached model letter can be quickly adapted for immediate communication on your chapter's letterhead with your lawmakers. Names and addresses of House lawmakers can be found [here](#); Senate lawmaker address information can be found [here](#). FBA National can also provide you with the names and email addresses for staff associated with the lawmakers.

Please send your correspondence as soon as possible. This matter is of considerable urgency, since House and Senate appropriations leaders will soon set the 302(b) funding allocations, which in turn will determine how much funding will be available to GSA for courthouse repairs. Please send your letters to your House Representatives and Senators as promptly as possible. FBA participants in Capitol Hill Day on March 19 also will advocate for Judiciary and courthouse repair funding.

EDNY BANKRUPTCY JUDGES ADOPT FOLLOWING PROCEDURES IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK

In light of the precautions advised by the Centers for Disease Control to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, the United States Bankruptcy Judges for the Eastern District of New York have adopted the following procedures, effective until further notice. These procedures will be reviewed and updated as appropriate, so parties should check for updates.

For Hearings Before Chief Judge Craig:

1. Parties (including attorneys, represented parties, and pro se parties) who wish to appear by telephone may arrange to do so by contacting the Courtroom Deputy by email at: cec_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled hearing. The Courtroom Deputy will respond by email, providing a dial in number and instructions.

For Hearings Before Judge Lord:

1. Debtors in all bankruptcy cases who are represented by counsel in cases pending before Judge Lord are excused from in-person appearances, unless Judge Lord specifically orders the Debtor(s) to appear.
2. Loss mitigation conferences, hearings on uncontested motions for relief from stay, motions to approve reaffirmation agreements, and all other uncontested motions will be handled telephonically.

To schedule a telephonic appearance, please contact the Courtroom Deputy at: nhl_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov 24 hours in advance of the scheduled hearing.

For Hearings Before Judge Stong:

1. Requests to appear by telephone in uncontested matters and status conferences are encouraged. Requests by attorneys, represented parties, and pro se parties may be made by contacting the Courtroom Deputy by email at: ess_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled hearing. The Courtroom Deputy will respond by email, providing a dial in number and instructions.
2. Requests for adjournments on consent are encouraged. Requests by attorneys, represented parties, and pro se parties may be made by contacting the Courtroom Deputy by email at: ess_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled hearing. The Courtroom Deputy will respond by email, providing available dates and times and any other instructions.

3. Unless the Court directs otherwise, appearances by parties represented by counsel in Chapter 13 cases are waived.
4. All persons are directed to comply with EDNY Administrative Order No. 2020-05, concerning access to the courthouse, which may be found on this Court's website at: https://www.nyeb.uscourts.gov/sites/nyeb/files/general-ordes/ord_689.pdf.
5. All persons are encouraged to check this Court's website regularly for updates to these procedures.

For Hearings Before Judge Trust:

1. All Debtors in all bankruptcy cases who are represented by counsel in cases pending before Judge Trust are excused from in-person court appearances, unless Judge Trust specifically orders the Debtor(s) to appear.
2. All persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or are otherwise prohibited from entry to the Courthouse pursuant to EDNY Administrative Order No. 2020-05, must request to adjourn their matters by contacting Judge Trust's Courtroom Deputy, Yvette Mills, at: ast_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov at least 3 days in advance of the hearing, with notice to all opposing parties. Telephone calls to chambers to request an adjournment are not allowed unless the party does not have email access.

For Hearings Before Judge Grossman:

All persons are directed to comply with Eastern District of New York Administrative Order No. 2020-05 re: Restrictions on Visitors to Courthouses, found on the Bankruptcy Court's website.

See Judges Procedures at: <https://www.nyeb.uscourts.gov/content/robert-e-grossman>

For Hearings Before Judge Scarcella:

1. Parties (including attorneys, represented parties, and pro se parties) who wish to appear by telephone may arrange to do so by contacting the Courtroom Deputy by email at: las_hearings@nyeb.uscourts.gov at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled hearing. The Courtroom Deputy will respond by email, providing a dial in number and instructions.

All persons are directed to comply with Eastern District of New York Administrative Order No. 2020-05 regarding Restrictions on Visitors to Courthouses, which is found on the Bankruptcy Court's website.

More information can be found [here](#).
