

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE BAR REGARDING
PRIVACY-RELATED RULE AND FORM CHANGES, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2003**

Please take note that at its September 2002 session, the Judicial Conference approved proposed amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and Official Bankruptcy Forms which will implement the conference policy on privacy and public access to electronic case files. *These amendments are scheduled to take effect December 1, 2003.*

The amendments are consistent with the Judicial Conference's September 2001 policy statement regarding documents in bankruptcy cases. That policy states that such documents generally should be available electronically with the proviso that the Bankruptcy Code and Rules should be amended as necessary to allow the Court to collect a debtor's full Social Security number but display only the last four digits.

Information regarding the new privacy requirements is available on the Federal Rulemaking page of the Judiciary's website at <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/index.html>. Click on "Pending Rules Amendments Waiting Final Action," and then select "Amendments Submitted to the Judicial Conference (Sept. 2002)."

Additional guidance regarding the legal and local operational impact of the rule and form changes will be forthcoming from the Court in the weeks prior to December 1st, 2003.

October 15, 2003

James J. Waldron, Clerk