

United States Bankruptcy Court
Western District of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 548
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

(508) 264-5188

Chambers of
Robert D. Martin
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

November 8, 2005

Mr. Kenneth J. Doran
Doran Law Offices
2101 Fox Avenue
Madison, WI 53711-1920

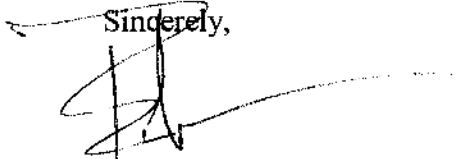
Re: Hearing Appearance Practice

Dear Ken:

Partially in response to your inquiry, without taking any formal action, the practice of local attorneys appearing by telephone has been condoned more frequently in the last several months. In recognition that local attorneys should not be put at a disadvantage, when there are emergencies or serious inconveniences their requests to appear by phone have been honored. I think it is safe for you to assume that greater latitude will be shown if you feel it appropriate to request to appear by telephone, especially if opposing counsel is appearing by telephone.

Thank you again for bringing this matter to our attention. If you find the current practice does not sufficiently accommodate your needs, we can address the matter further.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Martin
United States Bankruptcy Judge

RDM:pjb

Kenneth J. Doran

Doran Law Offices

2101 Fox Avenue, Madison, WI 53711-1920 TEL (608) 255-2409 FAX (608) 255-2409

November 2, 2005

Honorable Robert D. Martin
United States Bankruptcy Court
Federal Building
P.O. Box 548
Madison, WI 53701

Re: Hearing appearance practice

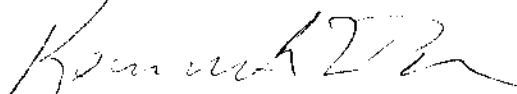
Dear Judge Martin:

We had some correspondence concerning this matter in June of this year. You indicated at that time that a review of policies in this area was under consideration.

I would be very interested in knowing if any change in policy has occurred or is anticipated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
DORAN LAW OFFICES



Kenneth J. Doran
Attorney at Law

KJD/ns

United States Bankruptcy Court
Western District of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 548
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

(508) 264-5188

Chambers of
Robert D. Martin
Chief Bankruptcy Judge

June 27, 2005

Kenneth J. Doran
Doran Law Offices
2101 Fox Avenue
Madison, WI 53711-1920

Re: Hearing Appearance Practices

Dear Ken:

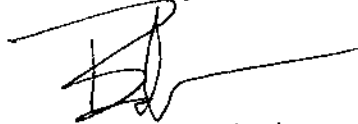
Thank you for your letter of June 7th. While I share your distaste for the security screening that is conducted at the courthouse, I don't believe there is any chance that that will be changed. At the very least, I am sure I have no power to change it.

For the reasons you cite and others, it is my intention to reexamine the current practice of encouraging/requiring local counsel to appear by telephone. For some time we have relaxed the absolute requirement where an attorney has indicated some form of emergency or other basis for an exception.

I will explore this with staff and advise the Bar of any changes within a few months. If you have not heard anything further by September, remind me of my promise for further response to your letter.

Thanks again for bringing this to my attention.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Martin
United States Bankruptcy Judge

RDM:pjb

Kenneth J. Doran

Doran Law Offices

2101 Fox Avenue, Madison, WI 53711-1920 TEL (608) 255-2409 FAX (608) 255-2409

June 7, 2005

Honorable Robert D. Martin
United States Bankruptcy Court
Federal Building
P.O. Box 548
Madison, WI 53701

Re: Hearing appearance practice

Dear Judge Martin:

I write to request reconsideration of the court's current practice of not permitting local counsel to appear by telephone at certain non-evidentiary proceedings, although telephone appearances by non-local counsel are permitted.

I understand that some modification to the practice has occurred recently, but that it is in general still intact. Even if no changes are made, I request that current policy be stated with particularity for the benefit of the bar.

My understanding is that a substantial factor in the court's favoring personal appearances is to facilitate opportunities for discussion and negotiation. This benefit is reduced, however, when any attorney appears only by telephone, and is absent when only one attorney appears in person.

I have had reservations about the current policy's merits, on the same efficiency grounds that have led many courts in recent years to adopt a more flexible policy. I am moved to address the issue now, however, by the tightening of security at the Kastenmeier Building. The procedures for entry are becoming ever more similar to those for boarding an airliner. I am not aware of all of the factors that have gone into producing these intrusive security procedures, and do not intend here to take any portion on their merits. However, it is one thing to subject

June 7, 2005

Page 2

Honorable Robert D. Martin

oneself to such procedures when a personal appearance at the court is clearly necessary. It is another matter when the case for personal appearance is less obvious.

I therefore request that the court consider modifying this policy. I would suggest the following alternatives, in order of preference:

1. Local counsel may appear by telephone on the same terms as now exist for non-local counsel.

2. Local counsel may appear by telephone when a non-local attorney does so, or when special circumstances exist. The latter category should include conflicts between hearings at the court and creditor meetings at the United States Trustee's office.

3. Local counsel may appear by telephone when it appears that only one local attorney will be participating, or when special circumstances exist. Since many proceedings now include the Chapter 13 trustee and one other local counsel, I suggest that it would be appropriate to consult him as to the whether telephone appearances should be permitted in that circumstance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,
DORAN LAW OFFICES



Kenneth J. Doran
Attorney at Law

KJD/ns