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February 24, 2006

Honorable Glen E. Clark
Honorable Judith A. Boulden
Honorable William T. Thurman

Re: Attorney Fees in Chapter 13 Cases

Dear Honorable Judges:

Our office has filed only a couple of Chapter 13 cases since BAPCPA became law. I have had a chance to review the proposal regarding fees presented by the Committee to review fees.

As indicated in the memorandum, our costs to do business have also increased over the last few years. Wages, office rents, postage, software and technology upgrades have all increased the costs of doing business. To keep up with rising costs, often more work must be taken on, requiring more time in the office to ensure the client's needs are met, all for the same amount of pay.

Regarding the current fee structure, there have often been rather complex issues, some of which needed to be ruled upon by the Court. Rather than being compensated for the extensive work to get the debtors' cases confirmed, we are penalized for bring the issues before the court. Both creditors and the Trustees have used the reduction in fees to pressure agreement with issues. Putting the client first has often required giving up fees to protect the client.

To prepare cases for filing, not only is there a greater time requirement to prepare the necessary documents, tax declaration, etc. the requirements to verify and search for information to ensure the accuracy of client provided information has also increased dramatically. In addition, new search software and online services have also increased costs.

The recommended fee structure and the higher time requirements in fee application made a part of the memorandum, at the higher levels, is consistent with the time our office has spent in getting a case ready for filing. Much of the service we provide clients is provided without compensation.

February 24, 2006

Page No. 2

The lease on my office increases every year by a certain percentage. It would be appropriate to include a provision in the proposal that would allow for a percentage increase in standard fees to correlate with the reality of the increased costs that occur over time.

If the fees do not reflect the current needs of attorneys and if they are not compatible with other practice areas, experienced attorneys will seek new practice areas and leave the bankruptcy practice. A number of experienced attorneys have already left the practice because of the increased liability issues and concern of lack of adequate compensation.

Please consider the upper levels of the compensation scale as indicated in the memorandum.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Lewis P. Adams

Lewis P. Adams