IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE MATTER OF: CONFIRMATION HEARING PROCEDURES FOR CHAPTER 13 PLANS BEFORE THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO	GENERAL ORDER NO. 12-02

GENERAL ORDER

This order applies to all chapter 13 cases filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico on or after February 21st, 2012. The purpose of the order is to secure the expeditious resolution of chapter 13 cases by implementing uniform confirmation hearing procedures. This general order supersedes all existing administrative orders regarding the scheduling of chapter 13 confirmation hearings.

The confirmation hearing procedures adopted by this general order focus on the timing of the confirmation hearing in order to address the changes introduced by the Bankruptcy Abuse and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-8, 119 Stat. 23 (2005), to section 1324 of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C.A. § 1324. The general order also adopts deadlines for filing or announcing objections to confirmation.

The confirmation hearing procedures adopted by this order contemplate a two-tiered schedule. The first confirmation hearing will be scheduled and notified in the combined 341 meeting notice. This hearing will be a fast-track confirmation hearing as it may result in having a chapter 13 plan confirmed shortly after the 341 meeting is closed. If the chapter 13 plan cannot be confirmed at the fast-track confirmation hearing, then a contested hearing on

confirmation will be scheduled and announced for the record at the fast-track confirmation hearing. The following are the requirements governing each of the two hearings:

1. Fast-Track Chapter 13 Confirmation Hearings

(a) The first confirmation hearing scheduled in the 341 Notice issued by the court will be a "fast-track" confirmation hearing.

(b) The plan may be confirmed at the fast-track confirmation hearing if:

(i) recommended favorably by the chapter 13 trustee;

(ii) a written objection has not been filed by any creditor or party in interest, or if filed, has been withdrawn or otherwise disposed of;

(iii) all requirements for confirmation under 11 U.S.C. §§ 1322,1325, and all other applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code are satisfied; and

(iv)there is no motion to dismiss, convert, or abstain pending in the case.

(c) The confirmation hearing will be rescheduled to a later date as a contested confirmation hearing if:

(i) the chapter 13 plan is not recommended favorably by the trustee;

(ii) a creditor or party in interest files an objection to the plan before the fast-track confirmation hearing;

(iii)the 341 meeting of creditors has not been held and closed prior to the fast-track confirmation hearing; or

(iv) the chapter 13 plan was filed less than fourteen (14) days prior to the fast-track confirmation hearing. However, in such case, if the plan is favorably recommended by the chapter 13 trustee, the plan may be

confirmed prior to the contested confirmation hearing date if no objection is filed within fourteen (14) days from the date that the plan is filed.

(d) Notice is hereby given to the debtor(s) that if the chapter 13 plan is not confirmed at the fast-track confirmation hearing and the hearing is continued to a contested confirmation hearing, the court may consider the dismissal or conversion to chapter 7 for cause at the contested confirmation hearing.

2. Contested Chapter 13 Confirmation Hearings

(a) If a plan is not confirmed at the fast-track confirmation hearing, the confirmation hearing will be continued and scheduled for a contested confirmation hearing by announcement at the fast-track confirmation hearing of the continued date and time, without further written notice. The continued date and time will be reflected in the minutes of the fast-track confirmation hearing.

(b) At the commencement of the contested confirmation hearing calendar, the court may call for the record and confirm those cases in which the plan has been:

(i) recommended favorably by the chapter 13 trustee;

(ii) not objected to by any creditor no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the contested confirmation hearing;

(iii) all requirements for confirmation under 11 U.S.C. §§ 1322, 1325 and all other applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code are satisfied; and

(iv) there is no motion to dismiss, convert, or abstain pending in the case.

(c) If the court denies confirmation of a plan at a contested confirmation hearing, the court may enter an order dismissing or converting the case to chapter 7 for cause without further notice or hearing.

(d) The court may continue a contested confirmation hearing from time to time by announcement at the contested confirmation hearing of the continued date and time without further written notice. The continued date and time will be reflected in the minutes of the contested confirmation hearing.

SO ORDERED.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 17th day of February 2012.

Enrique S. Lamoutte, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Brian K. Tester, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Mildred Cabán Flores, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Edward A. Godoy, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge