**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**

**FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**Telephonic Appearance Procedures**

**for Bankruptcy Judge Catharine R. Aron**

All hearings before the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina will be scheduled as in-person hearings; however, due to the current surge in COVID-19 cases driven by the Delta variant, parties may appear by telephone for uncontested and non-evidentiary hearings.

The Court expects parties and attorneys to appear in person at hearings, except in the limited circumstances described below for telephonic appearances.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Telephonic Appearances**

Telephone appearances may be requested by calling or emailing Sandy Davis at (336)-358-4028 or at sandy\_davis@ncmb.uscourts.gov. **Requests must be made before 5:00 pm on the day prior to the scheduled hearing date**. The Court, in exercising its discretion, may, in certain rare circumstances, request the party to attend by video means, in which case the hearing may be rescheduled for a later date. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, **the following types of matters MAY NOT be attended telephonically:**

1. *Trials and Evidentiary Hearings*
2. *Contested Hearings*
3. *Testimony of any kind*
4. *Questioning of Witnesses*
5. *Section 363 Sale Hearings*

For all cases and matters, individuals who merely intend to listen and will not be participating need not request to appear by telephone.

Unless otherwise indicated in the notice, as listed on the official court calendar cover sheet, or indicated in response to a request, parties will appear telephonically by calling (888) 363-4735 and entering access code 6733082#. Again, only parties that have requested and received permission to attend hearings telephonically will be allowed to participate on the line.

It is strongly encouraged that all counsel accessing the hearing telephonically utilize either a headset or handset. Parties should leave their phones on mute until their respective case is called. The Court reserves the right to mute or disconnect any participant whose faulty connection and/or audio quality disrupts the hearing or renders the communication incomprehensible.

1. Judge Aron will also allow for some parties to appear virtually through Zoom for Government, in specific circumstances. The procedures for requesting and participating in a Zoom for Government hearing can be found in the document entitled “Zoom Appearance Procedures for Zoom Eligible Hearings for Bankruptcy Judge Catharine R. Aron,” available on the Court’s website at <http://www.ncmb.uscourts.gov/content/catharine-r-aron>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)