

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF VERMONT**

In re:

**ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENT TO
LOCAL RULES OF PRACTICE AND
PROCEDURE IN BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF VERMONT
AMENDMENT TO: Vt. LBR 5003-1(b)**

**STANDING ORDER
06-02**

WHEREAS it appears to be in the best interest of the Clerk's Office, the debtors who file cases in this Court, and the bar, for the Clerk's Office to maintain as many, as possible, of its records in electronic format; and

WHEREAS after two years of experience with the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system it appears that there is no need to maintain a paper copy of certain documents that have heretofore been so maintained; and

WHEREAS the Clerk's retention of these documents in electronic format will increase the accessibility of the documents and relieve attorneys of the obligation file some bankruptcy case documents on paper, even when the case is otherwise filed electronically;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Vt. L.B.R. 5003-1(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Retention of Documents with Original Signatures: The Clerk shall retain in electronic (PDF) form the following documents previously maintained on paper:

- (i) the Declaration Regarding Electronic Filing (Declaration REF) relating to the petition, schedules and statements filed to commence a case;
- (ii) the Declaration REF relating to amendments, and
- (iii) chapter 11 operating reports.¹

The Debtor may file the Declarations REF and operating reports in Portable Document Format (PDF), electronically. If the debtor files the Declaration REF or operating report on paper or by fax the Clerk may scan it in to the Court's electronic record and dispose of the paper document.

For all purposes the electronic (PDF) version shall be the official and "original" record; and the electronic image of the ink signature shall be deemed an "original" signature.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this addition to the Local Rules is effective immediately.

SO ORDERED.

Rutland, Vermont
July 27, 2006



Colleen A. Brown
United States Bankruptcy Judge

¹ The Declaration REF is not required for other documents, e.g. means testing form, payment advices cover sheet.