AD HOC PETITION FOR HIGHER BASE FEE

We write to respectfully request that the Court increase our Chapter 13 Presumptive base fee. It is our recollection that the base fee has not been evaluated since April 2006, which leaves this discussion ripe for consideration. For the sake of brevity, we have listed our main points as follows:

- The work required of consumer debtor attorneys for the proper handling of the average Chapter 13 case is significantly more than was anticipated when setting the base fees back in 2006. Additionally, the added work that came along with conduit plans was not accounted for in relation to the fees. (On the same note, if the proposed form changes go into effect regarding the petition, the workload would likely increase more.)

- Due to the current economic conditions, of those that come to see us, there are fewer people we can help, which increase our costs of providing free initial consultations.

- Because of the complexity of BAPCPA, we have to hire staff with higher qualifications. Hiring this level of staff costs significantly more.

- Inflation over the last 6 years has lowered the value of the $3,000 base fee to not more than $2,670. Furthermore, the inflation rate pales in comparison to the rate at which health insurance premiums that employers provide have increased.

- On average we do not collect the full $3,000 base fee. Based on a study done by the ABI, it is our estimation that consumer debtor attorneys in the Eastern District of North Carolina collect 72% of allowed fees. This would require a base fee of approximately $4,200 to receive $3,000. For the information of the Court, a copy of this study can be accessed at the following URL: http://www.abiworld.org/Fee_Study/CFSFinalReport_Final_Dec7.pdf

- There are 41 jurisdictions that currently provide for a base fee of at least $3,500 (14 of which are $4,000 or higher.)

- The Middle District of NC, which had generally followed the Eastern District's lead, recently increased their fees to $3,500.

- Representing debtors in business related cases is a losing proposition under a base fee of $3,000.

- Due to the recent redistricting of divisions, the time, travel, and effort required to maintain the practices and services previously provided necessitates a higher base fee.

•Consumer debtor practices are not set up to track fees on an hourly basis. If required to do so to receive higher fees, it would likely create a backlog within the court system and result in fees that will make chapter 13 relief unattainable for many.

It is our hope that you will take this opportunity to review and discuss these points. Based on this information, it is our strong belief that the presumptive Chapter 13 attorney fees should be increased to at least $4,000. If the Court is so inclined we would be more than willing to meet at your convenience to elaborate these points and discuss this issue further.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Grieg Alley	/s/ Donald Davis	/s/ John T. Orcutt
/s/ Bruce Allen	/s/ Meredith P. Ezell	/s/ Shawn Orcutt
/s/ H. Frank Allen	/s/ Robert E. Fuller, Jr.	/s/ Michael P. Peavey
/s/ Robert Anderson	/s/ Greg Griffin	/s/ James Price
/s/ Lynn Wood Beck	/s/ Mark Harris	/s/ Patrick Donovan Riley
/s/ Edward Boltz	/s/ Koury Hicks	/s/ R. Lee Roland IV
/s/ William F. Braziel	/s/ Josh Hillin	/s/ Anthony Register
/s/ William E. Brewer, Jr.	/s/ Thomas Hooper	/s/ Steven Richards
/s/ Eileen M. Bornstein	/s/ Levette H. Hopkins	/s/ Dennis Jay Sargent, Jr.
/s/ Danny Bradford	/s/ Michael W. Hopper	/s/ Michael B. Sosna
/s/ J. Keith Calder	/s/ Craig Janak	/s/ Robert W. Waddell
/s/ Robert Calder, Jr.	/s/ Adrian Lapas	/s/ Danette Underwood
/s/ Derek Caldwell	/s/ Peggy S. Levin	/s/ Chris Vonderau
/s/ Sheree Cameron	/s/ Robert Lewis, Jr.	/s/ Jason Watson
/s/ Donald L. Coomes	/s/ Joshua Levy	/s/ Carol Ann Zanoni
/s/ Richard P. Cook	/s/ Karen Metcalf	
/s/ Donald C. Davis	/s/ Roger Moore	