

## NOTICE REGARDING ATTORNEYS' FEES IN CHAPTER 13 CASES

On November 20, 2003, the Honorable Tom R. Cornish, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, issued a decision in two cases, *In re Harvey and Donna Walden*, Case No. 03-73031, and *In re Barry and Laura Bowman*, Case No. 03-72182. In that decision, Judge Cornish reviewed the presumptive fee available for counsel for debtors in Chapter 13 cases. Based upon the evidence and argument presented to him, Judge Cornish concluded that a presumptive fee (i.e., a fee which could be approved without the necessity of a formal fee application) of \$2,000.00 was appropriate in non-business cases, while a presumptive fee of \$2,500.00 was appropriate in cases where the debtors were engaged in business.

The bankruptcy judges of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma have reviewed Judge Cornish's decision and believe it to be sound. Accordingly, the presumptive fee for debtors' counsel in Chapter 13 cases filed in the Northern District of Oklahoma will increase to \$2,000.00 in non-business cases, and \$2,500.00 in business cases. This increase will be effective as to all cases filed after January 1, 2004. Judge Michael will continue to review fees on a case-by-case basis under the rationale set forth in *In re Yates*, 217 B.R. 296 (Bankr. N. D. Okla. 1998).