

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN RE: APPOINTMENT of LOCAL RULES  
ADVISORY COMMITTEES



**GENERAL ORDER**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2701, the Southern District of West Virginia has the authority to prescribe local rules of procedure. To do so, 28 U.S.C. § 2077 requires the Court to appoint advisory committees to study rules of practice and internal operating procedures and make recommendations to the Court concerning such rules and procedures. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure further recognize the authority of the Court to adopt and amend local rules after giving public notice and an opportunity for public comment. Fed. R. Civ. P. 83(a)(1) and Fed. R. Crim. P. 83(a)(1).

The Local Rules of Procedure for the Southern District of West Virginia were last amended on June 8, 2017. In the intervening period, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure have undergone revision, and the Court has observed that certain operational practices have also evolved. These developments necessitate a comprehensive review and evaluation of the existing Local Rules to ensure continued alignment with federal procedural requirements and current practice standards, while also striving to express such rules in plain, accessible language for the benefit of all court users.

Accordingly, the Court hereby **ORDERS** that the following Local Rules Advisory Committees be appointed to study the existing Local Rules of Procedure for the Southern

District of West Virginia and make recommendations to the Court concerning any amendments.

**Local Rules of Civil Procedure Advisory Committee**

Honorable Frank W. Volk, Chief Judge (Chair)  
Magistrate Judge Omar J. Aboulhosn  
Jonathan Zak Ritchie, Esq.  
Meagan Alice Preece McClure, Esq.  
Jade Hamilton, Esq.  
Blaire Malkin, Esq.  
Grace Hurney, Esq.

**Local Rules of Criminal Procedure Advisory Committee**

Honorable Frank W. Volk, Chief Judge (Chair)  
Magistrate Judge Omar J. Aboulhosn  
Meagan Alice Preece McClure, Esq.  
Jade Hamilton, Esq.  
Gabriele Wohl, Esq.  
Jennifer Rada Herrald, Esq.  
Emily Szopinski, Esq.

It is further **ORDERED** that the respective Advisory Committees shall meet according to the directives of the Chairperson and shall in due course furnish a written recommendation to the Judges of the District Court concerning any amendments to the Local Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Clerk of Court is directed to provide a copy of this Order to each Committee member and to post this Order on the Court's public website.

ENTER: September 23, 2025



*Frank W. Volk*

Frank W. Volk  
Chief United States District Judge