

**ICBA BANKRUPTCY SECTION
MEETING SEPTEMBER 28TH**

By: Patricia J. Scott

The Ingham County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section Meeting was held on September 28, 2017, where a presentation was given by Honorable Scott Dales of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan. Lunch was provided by Scott Chernich of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C.

Given the rotation of bankruptcy judges in the Western District of Michigan, Judge Dales began a three-year term in Lansing in July, 2017. As a result, the Judge discussed his procedures and interaction with the local Bankruptcy Bar. Judge Dales indicated he intends to be more present in Lansing; namely, he will keep more matters, such as trials, in Lansing versus Grand Rapids, and he intends to maintain office hours in Lansing.

The Judge went on to discuss revisions to the Local Bankruptcy Rules that are currently being drafted and will be disseminated soon for comment. There was also discussion regarding attorneys appearing at first meetings for "appearance" purposes only and the implications of such a practice. In relation to substantive law, there was discussion on the treatment of Chapter 13 counsel fees and the potential discharge of a claim for attorney's fees, and the upcoming changes to the Federal Bankruptcy Rules that will be effective on December 1, 2017.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2017, at 12:00 p.m., Room 835 of the Cooley Center. The speaker and lunch will be provided by Sarah Anne Williams of The Law Office of Sarah Williams. Sarah will be presenting on the upcoming changes to the Federal Bankruptcy Rules taking effect December 1, 2017. Please RSVP to Patricia Scott at pscott@fosterswift.com if you plan on attending.