

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
In re: :
: :
CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC, : :
TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF “WET” : : General Order M-544
SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT FOR *PRO SE* : :
PARTIES : :
: :
-----X

WHEREAS, Rule 9011-1(a) of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of New York requires that all pleadings, motions, and other papers (except a list, schedule, or statement, or amendments thereto) be signed by the attorney of record or, if there is no attorney, by the *pro se* party;

WHEREAS, Local Bankruptcy Rule 9011-1(b) provides that the signing of documents is governed by the Procedures for the Filing, Signing and Verification of Documents by Electronic Means (“Procedures”)¹;

WHEREAS, the Procedures allow attorneys, but not *pro se* parties, to register for the Court’s electronic filing system and to sign documents electronically;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 5005(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and in light of the exigent circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, the Court is permitting *pro se* parties to file documents with the Court by emailing such documents to CaseFiling@nysb.uscourts.gov; and

WHEREAS, to lessen the burden on *pro se* parties wishing to file documents through the aforementioned email address, it would be desirable to temporarily dispense with the usual requirement that they provide an original “wet” signature.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, that the filing of a document by a *pro se* party by emailing such document to CaseFiling@nysb.uscourts.gov shall constitute the filer’s approved signature and have the same effect as if the individual signed a paper copy of the document, and the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 152 and Rule 9011 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure shall apply to such filing; and it is further

ORDERED, that the email enclosing such filing shall include the *pro se* party’s name and contact information as well as the case or adversary proceeding number in which the filing is being made.

Dated: April 6, 2020
New York, NY

/s/ Cecelia G. Morris
CECELIA G. MORRIS
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

¹ A copy of the Procedures is available at <http://www.nysb.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/5005-2-procedures.pdf>.