



United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida
Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse
801 North Florida Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33602

MEMORANDUM

To: Attorneys practicing in the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division

From: Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen

Subject: Observance of holidays not included in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(a)

Date: October 1, 2008

The Court regularly schedules hearings on certain religious holidays not included in the legal holidays defined in Rule 6(a), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court considers it a better use of courtroom time to do so because not all practitioners and clients observe the same holidays; therefore, most are not affected on a given holiday. However, continuances will be liberally granted upon motion without a hearing if counsel or a party wishes to observe a religious holiday. (Of course, if, in the interest of the client, the hearing should proceed as scheduled, counsel may wish to have a colleague substitute for him or her at the hearing.)

An alternative method of “protecting” the date(s) of a particular religious holiday is to send a notice of unavailability to the Court’s courtroom administrator before a hearing is set on such date(s).

CPM/lis