

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
SIXTH CIRCUIT
TENNESSEE – OHIO – KENTUCKY – MICHIGAN

CHAMBERS OF
JULIA SMITH GIBBONS
CIRCUIT JUDGE



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July 29, 2014

Re: *In re City of Detroit*
Nos. 14-1208, 14-1209, 14-1211, 14-1212, 14-1213, 14-1214, 14-1215

Dear Counsel:

I write as the presiding judge of the panel to which these appeals have been assigned. The court has now postponed the oral argument scheduled for July 30 at the request of the parties. We are glad to learn that the appealing parties are making progress toward settlement of the bankruptcy case. Nevertheless, we remain acutely aware that these appeals should be resolved before confirmation of a plan of adjustment and that our obligation is to decide them in a timely way. The optimum time for a decision is probably toward the beginning of the confirmation hearing—a time frame only a few weeks away. While we have no interest in resolving issues unnecessarily, we must move any pending appeals forward.

Setting a new date for argument will be difficult. The date likely would be Thursday, August 7. Even if a new argument date is requested, we might have to conduct phone argument or decide the cases without argument. Postponing the argument date does not necessarily postpone the decision.

In light of the pending confirmation hearing, it appears that the best way to alleviate the present dilemma is for the appellants to move quickly toward a decision about whether to dismiss their appeals or whether instead they want the court to take the necessary steps toward issuing opinions in these cases. But if the parties wish to present other alternatives to the court, we will consider those as well.

We would request that the appellants let Deborah Hunt know by the close of business Thursday, July 31, of their positions with respect to dismissal and the timing of any dismissal. Further, we would request that any party who wishes to do so submit a proposed schedule for resolution of these cases within the general time frame outlined above. Again, the panel does not consider further delay in rendering a decision an option at this time.

/s/

Hon. Julia Smith Gibbons