CENTRALIZED PROCESSING OF RETURNED BNC MAIL

In October, the Judiciary's Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) contractor will begin accepting, processing and securely disposing of notices that would otherwise be returned to the bankruptcy courts by the United States Postal Service (USPS). The service will eliminate nearly all manual processing of returned mail currently performed by court personnel and will provide timely notification to debtors' attorneys of returned notices.

Currently, BNC returned mail goes either to the court or to debtors' attorneys. As a cost-savings and efficiency measure, bankruptcy courts have been strongly urged to have most returned mail sent to the debtor's attorney, which provides notice that a better address for such recipient should be provided to the court. This procedure is not changing. What does change, however, is that those pieces of mail that are currently directed for return to the bankruptcy courts will now be handled in one facility through the new centralized return mail program.

Under the terms of the revised contract, the BNC contractor will have two business days from receipt to process the returned mail that is currently sent to the bankruptcy courts, and send a Notice of Returned Mail to the attorney or pro se debtor, as appropriate. A sample Notice of Returned Mail is set forth below.