



## **Clerk's Message**

### **January 2019**

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. As we get ready to close out 2018 and welcome 2019, I want to thank all our Court family for another year of living our goal of "One Court, One Team" and for everyone's dedicated service, excellent work ethic, and caring for one other. This is always the time of year when we reflect upon accomplishments from the past year while looking forward to our goals and dreams for the upcoming one.

Last year was a great one. We saw our procedures manuals (both internal and external) continue to expand, and we saw the impressive number of "hits" they each received from users. Both manuals have been shared "across the pond" as they say and are being used as templates for the courts in Bahrain. It speaks volumes about the outstanding service we provide and the excellent wealth of knowledge our Court possesses when you think in terms of international courts seeking guidance from us. In addition to sharing our procedures manuals with the courts in Bahrain, we have also shared information on case management, training programs, and the organization of our clerk's offices, including job descriptions and even recruitment announcements.

In 2018, we continued to provide assistance to our pro se debtors. I want to thank each of the bar associations and their members for their support of the ongoing efforts to provide pro se debtors with the best assistance possible.

This past summer, our staff had the opportunity to attend the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks annual conference as well as the opportunity to participate in our District off-site. Both events provided excellent educational experiences for our staff.

The outlook for 2019 is encouraging. This summer, our staff will again have the opportunity to participate in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks annual conference scheduled to be held in Chicago. We also look forward to new IT initiatives. The initiative everyone is the most excited about is the transition to our new email platform – Outlook. This will be a long awaited, much anticipated, welcome change.

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I recently heard a speaker talk about the act of giving. The speaker's words resonated with me as they made me think of our Court and of all the acts of kindness and the spirit of giving back that is a part of our culture. The speaker talked about the various reasons people give – it makes them feel happy, it improves their health, it increases satisfaction with life, and it boosts confidence. As we've heard many times, it is more blessed to give than to receive. We've likely all experienced the feeling of gaining more from the act of giving than what we actually give.

According to the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, giving is like eating chocolate! It lights up the same part of your brain that responds to food. The Charities Aid Foundation's research found that when people give, it strengthens personal values. Regardless of the type of charity work a person supports, according to the research, those donating indicated they felt they had a moral duty to use what they had to help others, a sentiment very much rooted in their personal values and principles. People view having the power to improve the lives of others as a privilege, and it enables them to feel like they are living in a way that is true to their own ethical beliefs.

As we embark upon a new year, I look forward to the challenges ahead and know that because of the strong collegiality and bond between our Court, the trustees, and the bar, we will be able to face those challenges together.

"Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us. Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." – Oprah Winfrey

I wish everyone a very safe and Happy New Year!