

## **Getting to Know the Chief Judge**

By: Judge Williamson's Chambers Staff

Normally, the Chief Judge is supposed to write the lead article for the Court Connection newsletter. For his inaugural article, Judge Williamson paid a fitting tribute to Judge Jennemann's legacy as Chief Judge and explained how, as Chief Judge, he intended on building on her legacy by continuing the work she started. For this edition, he planned on explaining the progress being made on that front. But since Judge Williamson just gave his "State of the District" speech, we decided to hijack this article and use it to tell you some things you may not have known about your new Chief Judge. So here goes....eight things you may not have known about Judge Williamson:

1. Judge Williamson initially followed in his father's footsteps at West Point, which could explain his obsession with punctuality. His father was a Colonel in the United States Army. When Judge Williamson was born, his father was stationed at West Point, where he graduated from 16 years earlier. As a child, Judge Williamson lived in Spain for three years (and later Taiwan) before his family ultimately settled down in Melbourne, Florida. In fact, because he lived in Spain, the first language Judge Williamson spoke was Spanish (but after listening to him practice his Spanish for Judge May's wedding, it's probably fair to say he hasn't used it in a while). After graduating from high school, Judge Williamson attended West Point for two years before deciding to pursue his dream of becoming a lawyer. Serving as a bankruptcy judge allows him to serve the public like his father—just in a different way.

2. Speaking of big shoes to fill, he is the sixth Chief Judge of the Middle District, which was established by Congress in 1962. Not surprisingly, Judge Paskay was the district's first Chief Judge. He served from 1979 to 1999. There was no "chief judge" from 1962 to 1979 since there were no bankruptcy "judges" until 1979. Most recently, of course, Judge Jennemann served as our Chief Judge from 2011 to 2015. In between Judge Paskay and Judge Jennemann were Judge Proctor, Judge Baynes, and Judge Glenn. We are confident Judge Williamson will carry on the legacy of his predecessors.

3. There are ten official court holidays. Although the court is closed on those days (and weekends), it is not unusual to find Judge Williamson in chambers working. About the only time he is not in the office is when he is traveling for a Bar, NCBJ, or FJC event (or a speaking engagement) or visiting family. Judge Williamson and his wife, Linda, do travel a couple of times a year to see their kids. In fact, they just got back from a trip to see their daughter, Michelle, son-in-law, Nathan, and their three grandchildren. We hear Michelle and Nathan are skilled and disciplined parents who keep the kids well-behaved, happy, and on a routine, even when it comes to bedtime. Judge Williamson and Linda also saw their son, Scott, recently when they met up for a ski trip in Park City. Scott lives in L.A. and works as an editor for Seismic Productions. Scott has been in L.A. since he graduated from FSU. We know Judge Williamson and Linda are proud that Scott has not given up on his dream as he has worked his way through the ranks in the industry. We constantly remind Judge Williamson that he can actually take days

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off now that he no longer has a billable hour requirement to meet and doesn't get year-end bonuses like in his old law firm days. Obviously, he just loves what he does!

4. Speaking of law firms, serving as Chief Judge is not Judge Williamson's first management job. Before being appointed to the bench, he served as the President and Managing Partner of Maguire, Voorhis & Wells, where he led the firm's merger with Holland & Knight. The merger was necessitated because the legal market was moving from "niche" firms like Maguire, Voorhis & Wells to larger, full-service firms like Holland & Knight. At the time, Maguire, Voorhis & Wells had 67 attorneys. As Chief Judge, he is now responsible for overseeing 110 employees, who process approximately 35,000 bankruptcy cases annually.

5. Judge Williamson is definitely a creature of habit. He eats the same thing for breakfast every day....at the same place....at the same table. Oh, and he goes for a run every day at noon and has a protein shake for lunch before getting ready for his afternoon hearings. Although it's easy to find him at breakfast and lunch time, we don't suggest frequenting a local breakfast eatery or taking up jogging as a way to get ex parte hearings.

6. While perhaps a tad bit obsessive compulsive about his daily routine, if we had to describe Judge Williamson's management style, we would say he is a delegator. Of course, delegating only works when you are surrounded by people who have the knowledge, skills, and motivation to get the job done. In chambers, he requires each of us to sign our Chamber's Team Commitments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commitment is "Excellence." It reads:

We are the best. That is why we are here. Our work product reflects that excellence.

We know he believes that is true district-wide, too. He has told us how fortunate he is to get to work with the best Clerk of Court in the country; the brightest and most collegial group of bankruptcy judges of any district; and as talented, dedicated, and hard-working group of case managers, chambers staff, IT staff, and other support staff as you'll find.

7. As a sophomore in high school, Judge Williamson was a running back on the state champion Melbourne High Bulldogs football team. They beat the Ft. Lauderdale Flying L's to win the state championship 31 to 12 on December 9, 1966. As one of the youngest kids (the only sophomore) on the team, we're sure he learned the importance of each player performing their role to form a cohesive team because he was named a team captain his senior year.

8. Speaking of great teams, as Chief Judge, his motto is "One Court. One Team." During her term as Chief Judge, Judge Jennemann encouraged us to think district-wide as she embarked on an ambitious goal of streamlining our procedures and making it easier for attorneys to practice throughout the Middle District. Thanks to her "Think Bottom-Up, Not Top-Down" approach, Judge Jennemann was able to make incredible progress moving toward a unified district in such a short period. Since Judge Williamson views his role as finishing what Judge Jennemann started, he chose "One Court. One Team."

## **FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT**

On January 21, 2016, the District and Bankruptcy Courts in the Middle District of Florida celebrated “Fifty Years of Justice: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.” Hosted by the Orlando Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association, the program featured a number of excellent speakers and panelists, including prominent bankruptcy attorney, Jules S. Cohen, who spoke on the history of the Middle District Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Cohen’s presentation was very well received and is reproduced below.

### **A Brief History of the Middle District Bankruptcy Court**

By Jules S. Cohen, Esq., Akerman, LLP

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a District. The Bankruptcy Court has always been a part of the Middle District for those 50 years.

Fifty years ago we had a Bankruptcy Court but we did not have any Bankruptcy Judges. We had bankruptcy referees. The referees were appointed by the District Judges and were called referees because the District Court referred bankruptcy cases to them which were filed in the District. More than 50 years ago, referees were often part-time positions held by attorneys who also conducted their own private law practices. They sometimes conducted bankruptcy court in their private law offices.

Fifty years ago there were two bankruptcy referees in the Middle District, Judge Alexander L. Paskay in Tampa and Judge Charles Merritt in Jacksonville.

Judge Paskay had an interesting background. He was born in Hungary where he grew up and graduated college and law school. Shortly after he finished law school, Germany invaded Hungary in World War II. The German army conscripted all young Hungarian men, including Judge Paskay, into the German Army. They trained the Hungarian young men and taught them to march but never trusted them enough to give them weapons. They just kept them marching. In the course of the war, they marched all the way from Hungary to France where they were when the war ended. Judge Paskay later said that at the time he thought, “If I ever get out of this thing, I’m never going to walk anywhere again.”

Judge Paskay spoke English, Hungarian, German, Italian, and French. When the Germans abandoned their Hungarian “soldiers”, Judge Paskay continued walking forward until he encountered American troops who hired him as a translator.

He eventually immigrated to Miami. He applied for admission to The Florida Bar. The Bar responded by telling him they could not read his law diploma from Hungary because it was in Latin. He took the diploma to a Catholic priest who translated it to English. Judge Paskay sent the English translation to The Florida Bar which decided it would not accept the law degree from Hungary.

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Judge Paskay then enrolled in the University of Miami Law School, graduated, and became a law clerk to District Judge Joseph Lieb in Miami. When the Middle District was created, Judge Lieb transferred to Tampa taking Judge Paskay with him as his law clerk. When the Tampa bankruptcy referee retired in 1963, Judge Lieb, as District Judge, appointed Judge Paskay as the bankruptcy referee.

Judge Paskay had his office and the clerk's office in Tampa, but also handled Orlando bankruptcy cases since Orlando had no bankruptcy referee. There was no bankruptcy clerk's office in Orlando. Judge Paskay would come to Orlando about two days every two weeks to preside over Orlando cases. He would bring with him two briefcases bulging with the court files for the Orlando cases set for hearing. He had no clerk, no courtroom deputy, no judicial assistant. He would open his briefcases, put the stack of files on the bench, call the first case and proceed to conduct court.

Judge Paskay retained his heavy Hungarian accent throughout his life. This was an advantage to those of us who practiced before him regularly and learned to understand his accent. I recall one hearing I had before Judge Paskay. My opposing counsel did not come to bankruptcy court often. We made our arguments. Judge Paskay made his ruling and explained his reasons for the ruling. After the hearing, as I started down the hall, opposing counsel grabbed my sleeve and said to me, "What did he say?"

Judge Paskay went on to become a prolific publisher of opinions, an author of books on bankruptcy law, a professor at Stetson Law School, and a nationally recognized authority on bankruptcy law.

Fifty years ago the District Court in Orlando was located in the post office building in downtown Orlando. The bankruptcy court was in a large hearing room across the hall from the District Court courtroom. As the years passed, the number of bankruptcy cases increased to the point where Judge Merritt from Jacksonville began coming to Orlando to take half of the Orlando cases. Judge Merritt could be somewhat whimsical. At one time he was questioning a debtor in court and learned that the debtor was originally from France. At that point Judge Merritt began speaking to the debtor in French, and the debtor responded in French. The court reporter stopped taking down the proceedings because, unfortunately, she did not speak French.

As the years passed, some large companies filed Chapter 11 reorganization proceedings including some companies that were publicly owned. Important issues of commercial law were being litigated in the bankruptcy courts.

In 1975, Judge Merritt resigned and Judge George L. Proctor was appointed as a referee in Jacksonville and was also to handle the Orlando cases. Judge Proctor claimed that before he was selected as referee, no one told him that he would be handling Orlando cases. On his first day in office his secretary said to him, "Should I make you a hotel reservation in Orlando?" He said, "Why would I want to go to Orlando?" It was at that point that his secretary told him that he would be going to Orlando every other week to preside over Bankruptcy Court there.

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As a young man Judge Proctor was in the Marines and went on to the beach in the Normandy invasion on D-Day in World War II. He sometimes wondered why he survived that terrible battle when so many of his comrades did not. Although he didn't like traveling or staying in motels or eating out or being away from his wife, for 12 years, like a good Marine, he did his duty and came to Orlando every other week to be the Bankruptcy Judge in Orlando.

One of the highlights of practicing in Judge Proctor's court occurred when he would have in the courtroom an aggressive attorney from New York. When a question of procedure would arise, the New York attorney would jump up and say, "Judge, let me tell you how we do it in New York." Judge Proctor would let him go on for five minutes telling us all about how they did it in New York, and then Judge Proctor would look down at the New York attorney from the bench like the New York lawyer was some kind of bug and would say to him in his Jacksonville drawl, "We don't care how you do it in New York."

In 1978, a complete overhaul of the bankruptcy law was enacted by the Bankruptcy Code. That law made the bankruptcy referees Bankruptcy Judges appointed by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Judges Paskay and Proctor were appointed Bankruptcy Judges. That law also established the U.S. Trustee program.

In 1987, Tampa received its second bankruptcy judge, Thomas Baynes, an accomplished lawyer, author and law school professor.

In 1988, Lionel Silberman, a bankruptcy lawyer in Orlando, was appointed the first full-time Bankruptcy Judge in Orlando. Unfortunately, Judge Silberman died suddenly after only six months on the bench. He was succeeded by Judge Timothy Corcoran who had practiced with the Carlton Fields firm in Tampa.

When an opening for Bankruptcy Judge occurred in Tampa, Judge Corcoran transferred to Tampa and Judge Arthur Briskman, who was serving as a Bankruptcy Judge in Mobile, Alabama, was appointed to the Orlando judgeship. When Judge Corcoran finished his 14-year term, he decided to attend a Catholic seminary. He graduated and was ordained as a Catholic priest and now serves as the priest for a parish near Tampa.

In the 1990's, the population of the Middle District grew substantially and the number of bankruptcy case filings soared. The national average caseload for bankruptcy judges was 2,000 cases per judge. Tampa Bankruptcy Judges had caseloads of over 10,000 each and the Orlando and Jacksonville judges over 5,000 each.

In 1992, Congress approved two more judges for Tampa and one more each for Orlando and Jacksonville which resulted in the selection of Judge Karen Jennemann as the second bankruptcy judge in Orlando, Judge Jerry Funk as the second bankruptcy judge in Jacksonville, and Judge Paul Glenn as an additional Bankruptcy Judge in Tampa.

Later years saw the appointment of Bankruptcy Judges Michael Williamson, Rodney May, Catherine McEwen, Caryl Delano, and Roberta Colton in Tampa and Judge Cynthia Jackson in Orlando.

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In the past 50 years, the number of bankruptcy cases filed in the Middle District increased from hundreds of cases a year to tens of thousands of cases per year. The District went from having two bankruptcy referees in Tampa and Jacksonville to having ten Bankruptcy Judges in Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. As the population of Florida and the Middle District continues to increase we can expect an increasing number of bankruptcy cases and continued growth of the Bankruptcy Court in the Middle District.

## **FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT**

### **Fort Myers Bankruptcy Attorney Officiates Super Bowl 50**

By Luis Rivera, Esq.

You probably noticed that defense dominated the action (or lack thereof) in Super Bowl 50. But, did you notice the familiar face patrolling the line of scrimmage – Fort Myers attorney and NFL Umpire J. Jeffrey Rice? As the Umpire, Rice was responsible for policing the line of scrimmage, where the Broncos and Panthers did most of the battling. And, in a game like Super Bowl 50 where most of the action took place on the line of scrimmage, Rice was a busy man.

Although Rice's father, Bob Rice, was himself an official in the NFL, Rice didn't begin officiating until 1973 when he was a first-year law student at Case Western Reserve University. At the time, Rice figured officiating would be a good way to make some extra money to help pay his way through law school. However, upon graduating from law school in 1975 and beginning the practice of law in Fort Myers, Rice continued officiating as a way to stay active. Rice began by officiating high school and Pop Warner games, but eventually moved his way up to the collegiate level with the former Metro Conference (the predecessor to the current Conference USA).

Rice started work with the NFL in the 1990s as an official in the NFL's World League. Rice made his NFL debut in 1995 and quickly became among the league's highest graded officials. Officials are graded on every play and every call. Only those officials with the highest grades become eligible to work post-season games. And, only those officials graded as the "best of the best" are selected to work the Super Bowl.

Super Bowl 50 was Rice's third Super Bowl appearance. Rice also served as umpire in Super Bowl XXXVI in 2002 in New Orleans and Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 in Houston. Rice was also selected and served as an alternate on the officiating crew for Super Bowl XXXV in 2001 in Tampa.

Of course, being an NFL official is only Rice's side job. Rice is the Managing Partner of Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, P.A. in Fort Myers. Rice emphasizes his practice on commercial law, construction law, and construction lien cases. Rice also often represents both debtors and creditors in cases under all Chapters of the Bankruptcy Code. Asked how he manages to juggle these two demanding roles, Rice said, "I'm very fortunate because I've been around the legal field long enough that a lot of my peers are judges and everybody thinks it's kind of neat what I do, so they've been very cooperative with me in scheduling and working out any conflicts that might occur."

## FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

### Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law Students Compete in St. John's University's 24th Annual Duberstein Moot Court Competition

By Alexis Leventhal



From Left to Right: Team Coach and Shared Law Clerk, Alexis Leventhal; Barry Law Student, Dalya Zalloum; Barry Law Student, Geraldine Pena; and Team Coach and Barry Law Professor, Linda Coco.

A motor vehicle company reeling from the recession files for Ch. 11 bankruptcy protection and successfully sells its “good” assets to a newly created entity in a free and clear sale. The proceeds of that sale along with the remaining assets are liquidated and used to pay creditors—leaving the newly created entity to march happily along until a class of unsecured creditors, deliberately deprived of notice of the entire bankruptcy proceeding, pops up over a year later suing in state court on a successor liability theory for injuries suffered pre-petition due to an accelerator defect. The state court litigation was removed to the bankruptcy court, where the bankruptcy judge determined the free and clear sale would be effective against the injured plaintiffs. And then the real trouble began....

This was, more or less, the fact pattern law students from all over the country were asked to consider and argue—both as the class action plaintiffs and the “new” car company—at this year’s Duberstein Moot Court Competition at St. John’s University in New York City. Students were asked to argue the bankruptcy court’s related-to jurisdiction in enforcing the free and clear sale, as well as whether the lack of notice made the free and clear sale unenforceable against the injured plaintiffs. The hypothetical fact pattern is, in fact, modeled after the Motors Liquidation Co. case currently before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Barry Law made its first appearance at the Competition represented by 2Ls, Dalya Zalloum and Geraldine Pena, along with Coaches, Professor Linda Coco and Law Clerk Alexis Leventhal. Barry Law was one of 52 teams to compete in this year’s Competition and, although unable to make it through the initial cut of competitors, proved worthy opponents in both their mastery of the bankruptcy issues and effectiveness as oral advocates.

The full fact pattern, competitor briefs, and results of the competition can be found here: <http://www.stjohns.edu/law/center-bankruptcy-studies/duberstein-moot-court-competition>



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April is Financial Literacy Month**

**2016 Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference is May 5 - 6**

**2016 Annual Florida Bar Convention is June 15 - 18**

**Local Bar Association Annual Seminars will be held:**

- CFBLA - April 29
- OCBA - July 29
- JBBA - August 26

## **JUDGES' CORNER**

### **Welcome aboard Judge Colton!**

On April 1st, the Honorable Roberta A. Colton was sworn in as the newest bankruptcy judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division. The Honorable Charles R. Wilson, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, administered the ceremony in Tampa.

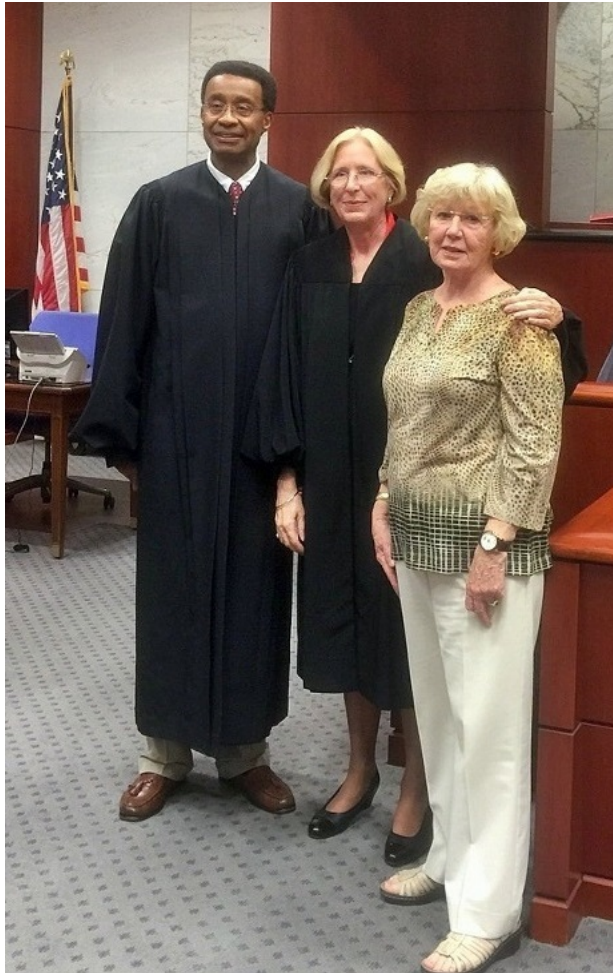
Click [here](#) to read the press release.

Pictured at right: Judge Wilson (left) swearing in Judge Roberta Colton (right) as her mother, Roberta, holds the Bible.



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Members of Judge Colton's family were present to congratulate her after the ceremony.



Pictured after the ceremony: Judge Wilson, Judge Colton, and her mother Roberta. At right, Judge McEwen joins her newest colleague.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

On January 28, 2016, Judge McEwen accepted the Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award at the Florida Supreme Court.



Pictured: Chief Justice Jorge Labarga and Judge Catherine Peek McEwen



## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Former law clerk, Cissy (Skipper) Sevelin, received the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. Established in 1981, the award was intended to encourage lawyers to volunteer free legal services to the poor and communicate to the public some sense of the substantial volunteer services provided by Florida lawyers. The honor was well deserved.

In 2014, Cissy donated an astounding *863 pro bono hours* to various organizations—and even more in 2015! Among the organizations Cissy provided pro bono services to are Bay Area Legal Services' Volunteer Lawyers Program, Crossroads for Florida Kids, Inc., Are you Safe, Inc., Teen Court, and the Guardian Ad Litem program. More important than providing pro bono legal services, Cissy makes frequent trip to jail to visit troubled teenagers as part of the Crossroads for Kids program, counseling them to make better choices. In nominating Cissy for the award, a staff attorney with Bay Area Legal Services wrote: "Ms. Sevelin has not only provided significant pro bono legal assistance to indigent clients but has also made a substantial emotional impact on each of these clients' lives."

We would like to recognize Cissy, who is now in private practice in Thonotosassa, for such a well-deserved honor.

## PRO BONO CORNER

### *Pro Se Clinic* Volunteer Spotlight: Linda Coco and Barry Law Students

By Alexis Leventhal



Linda E. Coco  
Associate Professor of Law  
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law

53 hours.

This is how much time Professor Linda Coco volunteered to the *Pro Se Clinic* in the Orlando Division in 2015—far and above any other single volunteer. Professor Coco, overseeing a group of her dedicated bankruptcy students, commits to counseling *pro se* litigants every week. Her efforts are deeply appreciated not only by the individuals she counsels, but by the students who benefit from this practical exercise, as well as by all the Judges in the Middle District. With over 20% of all filings done *pro se*, Professor Coco’s contributions to assisting these parties are critical to the efficient handling of these cases.

Student volunteer, Thomas Edens, “absolutely loved” his experience in the *Pro Se Clinic* with Professor Coco because of the opportunity to work with “real people who have real problems” and get “great experience going over schedules and identifying common issues.” Thomas’s sentiments are echoed by fellow student volunteer, Jackie LaVerne, who says “Professor Coco always finds a way to assist clients in the best way possible. She is great at comforting clients, as well as giving them the straight forward legal advice that they need. Not only does Professor Coco help the clients, but she empowers students to help clients as well.”

In addition to her service in the *Pro Se Clinic*, Professor Coco is the resident Bankruptcy Professor at Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law. She also teaches Commercial Law, Civil Procedure, and a Bankruptcy Practice Ready course at Barry.

Thank you, Professor Coco, for your commitment to serving *pro se* parties in the Middle District!

## **PRO BONO CORNER**

### **Make-Me-Smile Moments from the Courtroom**

Submitted by Judge McEwen

Donald Golden stepped up and adopted a chapter 13 case for a *pro se* debtor who is completely blind and on full disability. The case was in total disarray, and Mr. Golden promised to be flexible with his fee.

Thank you to Kelley Petry for helping the Court when a *pro se* debtor attempted to make an *ore tenus* Motion for Mediation before Judge McEwen. Ms. Petry went online and gathered all the relevant information, including service addresses, for the Court to be able to properly enter the mediation order.



## TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

### **Problems to Avoid When Filing Chapter 7 Consumer Cases in the Middle District of Florida**

By Cindy Burnette, Assistant U.S. Trustee, and Jill Kelso, Trial Attorney,  
Office of the U.S. Trustee, with input from the Chapter 7 Panel  
Trustees in the Middle District of Florida

Section 521 of the United States Bankruptcy Code contains a list of the debtor's duties in bankruptcy cases, which includes a duty to cooperate with the trustee as necessary and to surrender to the trustee all property of the estate, including books, documents, records, and papers relating to property of the estate. Rule 4002 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure requires that the debtor, among other things, provide the trustee with (i) a statement for each of the debtor's depository and investment accounts that includes the transactions as of the date of filing the petition, and (ii) the debtor's most current tax return at least 7 days before the meeting of creditors.

Many of the inconveniences which occur early in a case, such as repeated requests for additional documents or information or the requirement to attend a continued meeting of creditors, could be avoided if the bankruptcy forms were completed as intended and the documents required or requested by the trustee were provided in advance of the meeting of creditors. The new bankruptcy forms, which became effective on December 1, 2015, are detailed and were designed to increase the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in the documents. The forms are accompanied by a booklet of instructions which provides guidance, examples, and a glossary of terms. The instructions and forms are specific in that they instruct you to provide an answer to ALL questions.

The trustees for the Middle District of Florida highlight the following areas where increased attention and cooperation would be appreciated:

1. Use data-enabled pdfs to complete the schedules and statements (as opposed to scanning these documents) so that trustees can directly import the data using their software.
2. Complete the bankruptcy forms fully and accurately as required. Avoid leaving blanks and using zeros for values unless appropriate. (Helpful Hint: Be sure to include the date a debt is incurred and whether it is an individual or joint debt.)
3. The information on the bankruptcy forms should be current and reflect the debtor's assets and financial condition as of the date of filing. (Helpful Hint: The information should be updated if there is a delay in filing it with the court.)
4. Asset descriptions should be specific, including real property parcel numbers, make and model of vehicles, vehicle VIN numbers, and basis for valuation. (Helpful Hint: Provide the source document for valuation and disclose any defects in the property.)



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5. Creditor information should be as accurate as possible, ensuring that the amount listed for a secured debt is not overstated, that a secured claim provides sufficient information to link the claim to the asset on Schedule A/B, that the date the debt was incurred is completed, and that all persons responsible for payment of the debt are identified. (Helpful Hint: Have the credit report available for the trustee if requested.)
6. On Schedule A/B list the names of all financial institutions and each account where the debtor has an open account. “Money in Bank” is not an acceptable description.
7. Provide bank statements for ALL scheduled accounts, ensuring the statements are complete, organized, and include the date of filing information. (Helpful Hint: If bank statements do not contain daily balances, ask the debtor to provide an ATM slip with a balance as of the date of filing.)
8. Ensure that you provide the trustee with the tax return for the most recent tax year ending immediately before the commencement of the case for which a tax return was filed. Be prepared to provide the tax return later, if not filed on the date of the petition, and to instruct your client regarding the estate’s interest in any anticipated refund.
9. Check for consistency among information entered on the schedules and statements. For example, an interest in an on-going business included on the SOFA should be listed and valued on Schedule A/B.
10. In appropriate cases, you may wish to consider requesting that the client obtain an appraisal of personal property. An appraisal might allow you to better advise the client regarding exemptions and options available to retain assets.
11. Please provide documents that are required in advance of the meeting of creditors unless otherwise requested.
12. On the date of the meeting of creditors, be prompt, ensure your clients are prepared and have their proof of identity and social security number, and advise the trustee in advance as to any problems or delays.

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## **UPDATE FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE**

### **New and Amended Local Rules Posted for Comment**

Proposed new and amended local rules to be effective July 1st are posted on the Court’s website for public comment. Click [here](#) to view the proposed rules and comment submission form. The deadline for comments is April 30th.

The Court and the Local Rules Lawyers’ Advisory Committee value your input!

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## **UPDATE FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE**

### **Corrective Action Overhaul**

By Kathy Deetz

Be prepared for a new and improved corrective action process. The new process will provide clear and uniform directives and simplified docket text to assist e-filers with the ability to correct their own errors. May 9, 2016 is the target date for implementation. Further notification to e-filers will be forthcoming.

## **COURT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **District-Wide Steering Committee Update**

By Douglas W. Neway

In the first quarter of this year, the District-Wide Steering Committee considered three new issues: Unbundling Bankruptcy Services/Limited Appearance Attorneys; Proposed Local Rules on Discovery; and Chapter 11 Issues that might be ripe for district-wide uniformity. Sub-Committees were formed to address each of these issues, and as of the date of this publication, both the Sub-Committee on Unbundling Services and the Sub-Committee on the Proposed Local Rules on Discovery have met and reported their concerns and recommendations to the Steering Committee. After lively discussion by the entire Steering Committee, reports have been drafted and submitted to Chief Judge Williamson to circulate to the bankruptcy judges to discuss and take action. The Chapter 11 Sub-Committee has a more involved topic to delve into and should provide feedback to the Steering Committee in this upcoming quarter.

If you have any immediate questions regarding the Steering Committee or for its members, please contact Elena Ketchum at [eketchum@srbp.com](mailto:eketchum@srbp.com).

## COURT SERVICES

### Check-Out the Court's External Procedure Manual

By Hon. Karen S. Jennemann, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

Over the last five years, every person working at the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida has worked together to develop consistent and internal procedures to process the common matters filed before our Bankruptcy Court. The work was tedious, difficult, and ultimately resulted in a manual our staff uses district-wide. We call it “The Source.” Our goal now is to transform these *internal* procedures into *external* procedures our attorneys, their staff, and our litigants can use to comply with our requests.

Now, I am so pleased to announce we recently posted our first attempt at an External Procedure Manual. If you go to the Procedures tab on our website, you can scroll down and find this link for the manual: <http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/proguide/index.htm>.

In this initial version, you will see a list of items routinely filed with our Court. The items are divided between Adversary Proceedings and main case Bankruptcy items. They follow the procedures we internally use every day district-wide.

Each entry also contains (when appropriate) sample motions and orders you and your staff can use to draft your own papers. Remember, though, these forms are generic suggestions. Parties and their attorneys must revise them to address the unique circumstances of each case. But, they are starting templates. Every month we will add to and improve this list. Eventually, over the next year, we slowly will migrate other procedures into the manual. And, the External Procedural Manual will be the “one-stop shop” to answer your questions.

We also want to make the manual as user-friendly as possible. In three months, we will conduct a formal survey to get your input. But, prior to then, please email me questions or suggestions ([Karen\\_Jennemann@flmb.uscourts.gov](mailto:Karen_Jennemann@flmb.uscourts.gov)). This is truly a work in progress. We want to make this the best tool possible to help our attorneys and litigants.

The External Procedure Manual, even in this nascent stage of development, was the work of many people bringing special gifts to the project. **Jessica Ronay** and **Sarah Weiner** had the vision and prepared the initial draft, after scouring years of internal procedures. Our IT experts, **Bill Miguenes** and **Marco Eguia**, transformed the manual into a text searchable format we hope is user-friendly. **Raymond Waguespack** and **Christine Baker** oversaw the final revisions and the entire posting process, which involved a multitude of final decisions and revisions. Together these folks (and many others) converted every single internal procedure into an external version including checklists, sample forms, and sample orders. They each deserve a special thank you.

The best way for you to show your appreciation is to use the External Procedure Manual. We are keeping track of the “hits” on the website. So, every time you click on the manual, you are saying “Thank you for your work.” We hope you will use it OFTEN!

## COURT SERVICES

### Get Financially Literate in April

April has been designated by Congress as National Financial Literacy Month. The United States Bankruptcy Judges of the Middle District of Florida are participating in this annual promotion of financial well-being and invite you to browse the following resources for acquiring good financial habits:\*

#### **National Financial Literacy Month Home Page**

A wealth of materials is available through the National Financial Literacy Month home page. The home page includes a link to 30 steps to financial wellness. The steps include such things as a self-assessment quiz, suggestions for clearing out financial clutter, correcting credit reports, planning savings accounts, and creating a spending plan. In addition, the home page includes a link to Tools for Success, which then links to different resources, such as different worksheets and an eBook titled “Tips for Change.”

Go here for the home page: [www.financialliteracymonth.com/](http://www.financialliteracymonth.com/).

#### **United States Financial Literacy Website**

MyMoney.gov is the United States government’s website dedicated to teaching all Americans the basics about financial education. The site revolves around five financial principles: “Making the most of your money starts with five building blocks for managing and growing your money —The MyMoney Five.” Dive in to see what they are. The site includes a collection of resources for all kinds of people – kids, teachers, parents, caregivers, the military, women, retirees, and employers. Go here for the website: <http://www.mymoney.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

#### **C.A.R.E. — “It’s a matter of life or debt.”**

Credit Abuse Resistance Education — C.A.R.E. — is the brainchild of a bankruptcy judge in New York. This financial literacy outreach program has grown to almost all 50 states. Go here for the home page, which has links to pages for students, parents, educators, and professionals: <http://care4yourfuture.org/>. The information available on each page includes handouts, articles, and videos on topics such as budgeting, credit card information, buying a car, minimizing debt, and predatory lending. The site includes a couple Spanish language handouts, as well.

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\* The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida provides this information as a service to those who are interested in learning more about making good financial decisions, but the Court does not endorse any host of or any advertiser on any website mentioned in this article, nor does it guarantee the accuracy of any information noted at the websites included in this article. **If clicking on a link does not bring up the page, then copy and paste the URL into your browser.**

**FoolProof®**

Billed as C.A.R.E.'s financial literacy partner and endorsed by the National Association of Consumer Advocates, FoolProof® provides online modules and videos (over 100) for all age groups: middle and high school students, parents, college-age students, young adults, and adults. Go here: [www.aboutfoolproof.com/programs.php](http://www.aboutfoolproof.com/programs.php).

**Collection of articles on financial skills**

Get Rich Slowly is a site that features articles about basic financial skills, such as budgeting, handling bank accounts, credit and credit cards, and investing. Go here for a collection of the site's best articles: <http://www.getrichslowly.org/blog/>. The site includes a page that has an interactive tool to weigh job prospects and the cost of education.

Go here: <http://www.getrichslowly.org/blog/category/career-education/>.

**Online financial courses**

Money Essentials is an online series of lessons on major financial life decisions hosted by CNN Money. Go here: <http://money.cnn.com/pf/money-essentials/>.

An online course dealing with retirement planning is sponsored or offered by Rutgers. Go here: [www.extension.org/pages/10984/investing-for-your-future](http://www.extension.org/pages/10984/investing-for-your-future).

**Webinars especially for small businesses**

Money Management webinars on budgeting and credit reports are offered by Money Management International. Go here for the current calendar of offerings: <http://www.moneymanagement.org/Budgeting-Tools/Credit-Webinars.aspx>.

**Especially for college kids**

Forty Money Management Tips Every College Student Should Know is posted by the National Endowment for Financial Education.® That organization started the annual Financial Literacy celebration. Go here:

<http://www.smartaboutmoney.org/Portals/0/ResourceCenter/40MoneyManagementTips.pdf>.

**More for high school kids**

The High School Financial Planning Program® of the National Endowment for Financial Education® is a free turnkey financial literacy program specifically focused on basic personal finance skills that are relevant to the lives of teens in Grades 8-12. There are separate login portals for getting materials for teachers, students and parents, and classroom volunteers. Go here (be sure to also visit the tab marked "Resources" on the home page): <http://www.hsfpp.org/>.

**DEAR POINT AND CLICK:**  
**Answers to technical questions**

**Question:** I have a paper that we would like to file under seal. Do I need Court approval?

**Answer:** Prior approval is required before filing a paper under seal. To request approval, a party must file a Motion to File Paper under Seal. When filing the motion in CM/ECF, it is very important to use the filing event Motion to File Paper under Seal, which is located in the Motions/Applications/Objections event categories under both the Bankruptcy and Adversary menus. Immediately after filing the motion, a proposed order should be submitted using the Courts eOrders process.

**Question:** Should I attach a copy of the paper to be filed under seal?

**Answer:** It is very important that a filer not attach a copy of the paper to be filed under seal to ensure the proposed sealed paper is not viewable. Only after an order granting the motion is entered should the paper be filed.

**Question:** How do I submit the sealed paper to the Court?

**Answer:** The sealed paper may be filed electronically using the Sealed Paper docketing event located in the Miscellaneous event categories located under both the Bankruptcy and Adversary menus. Upon filing, the Judge assigned to the case is notified of the filing.

**Question:** Who may view the sealed papers?

**Answer:** The Court has set viewing restrictions based on the CM/ECF docket event being used. Therefore, using the correct event is crucial. Viewing restrictions on events related to filing a sealed paper are as follows:

Motion to File Paper under Seal – Viewable by the filer and all internal court staff.

Orders on Motions to File Papers under Seal – Viewable by the filer of the underlying motion and all internal court staff.

Sealed Paper – Any paper filed using this event is viewable only by the Judge assigned to the case. The Judge assigned to the case may grant viewing rights to designated chambers personnel (e.g., law clerk, judicial assistant).

For each of these filings, the Judge assigned to the case may allow viewing rights to be expanded on a case-by-case basis.

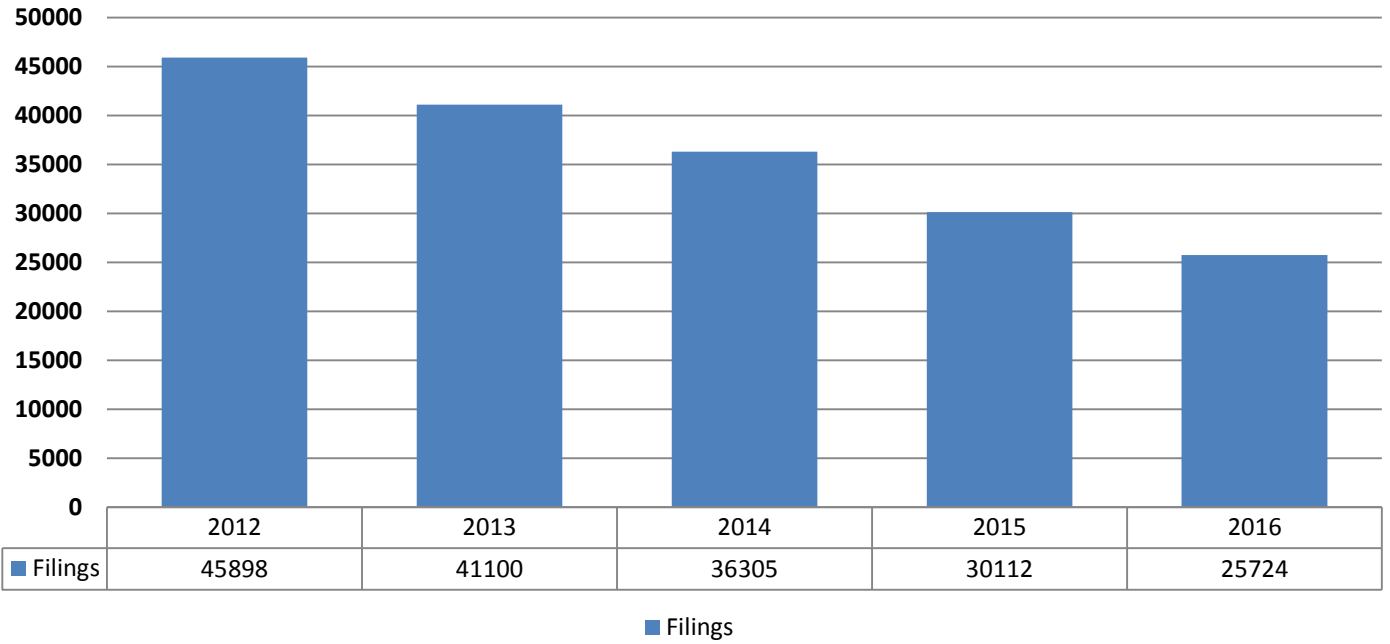
Further information on filing papers under seal may be obtained on the Court's website on the Procedures page, via the Procedure Manual link. It is also advisable to review Administrative Order FLMB-2015-3 posted on the Administrative Orders page of the Court's website.

Please note that on July 1, 2016, the Court anticipates implementing an amendment to Local Rule 5005-4 incorporating sealed paper filing provisions currently contained in Administrative Order FLMB-2015-3.



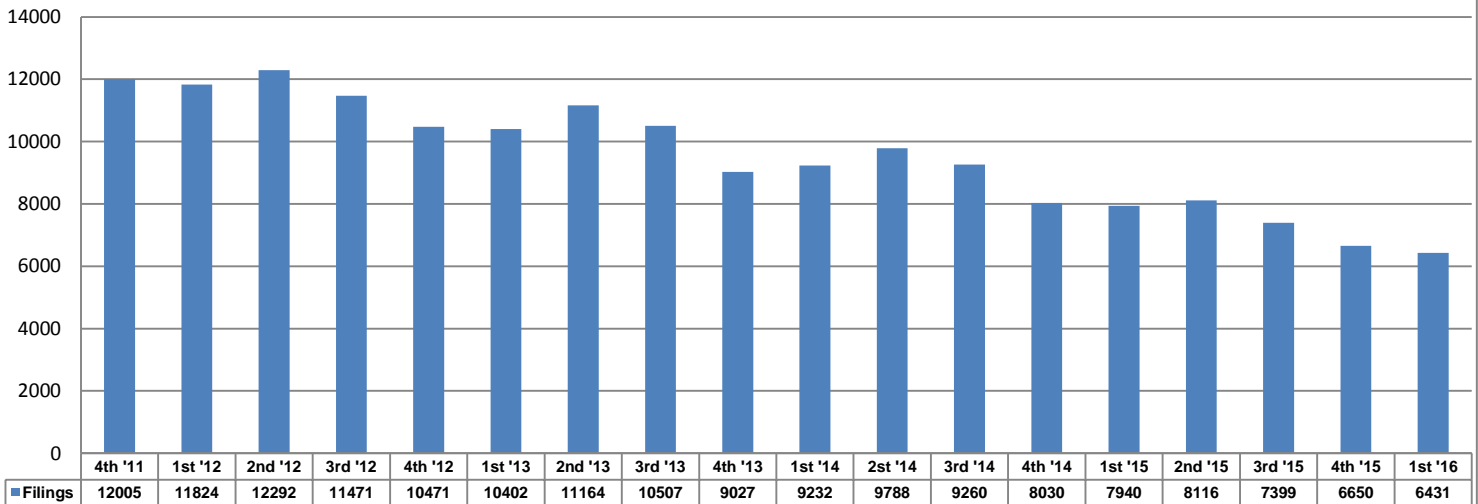
**United States Bankruptcy Court - Middle District of Florida**  
**Updated April 14, 2016 Meeting Data and Information**  
**Statistics as of March 31, 2016**

### Annual Filings

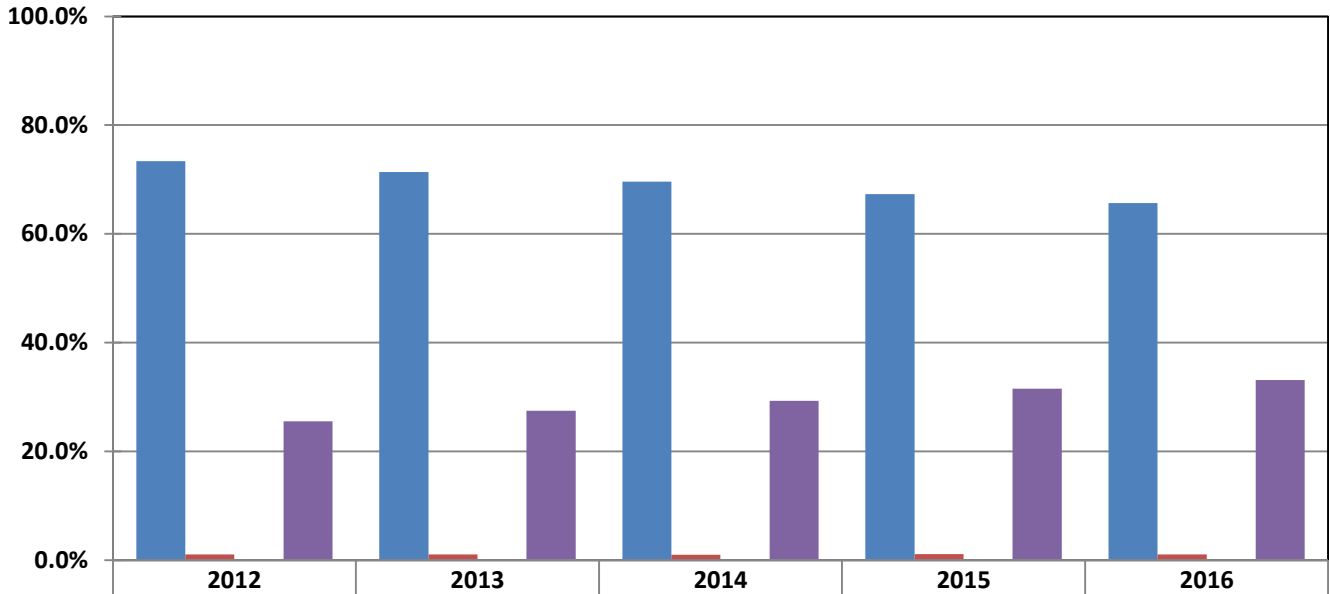


Year	Annual Filings	vs. 2012	vs. Prior Yr.
2012	45898		
2013	41100	-10%	-10%
2014	36305	-21%	-12%
2015	30112	-34%	-17%
2016	25724	-44%	-15%

### Filings by Quarter

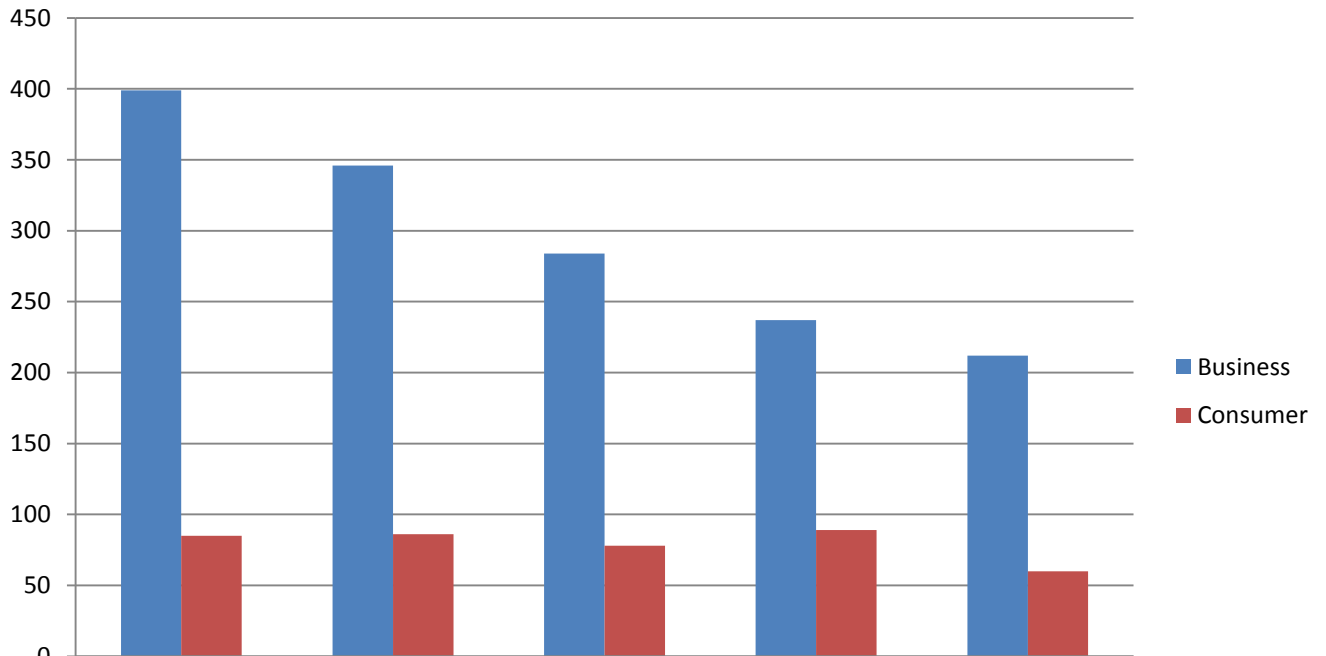


## Filings by % of Chapter Type



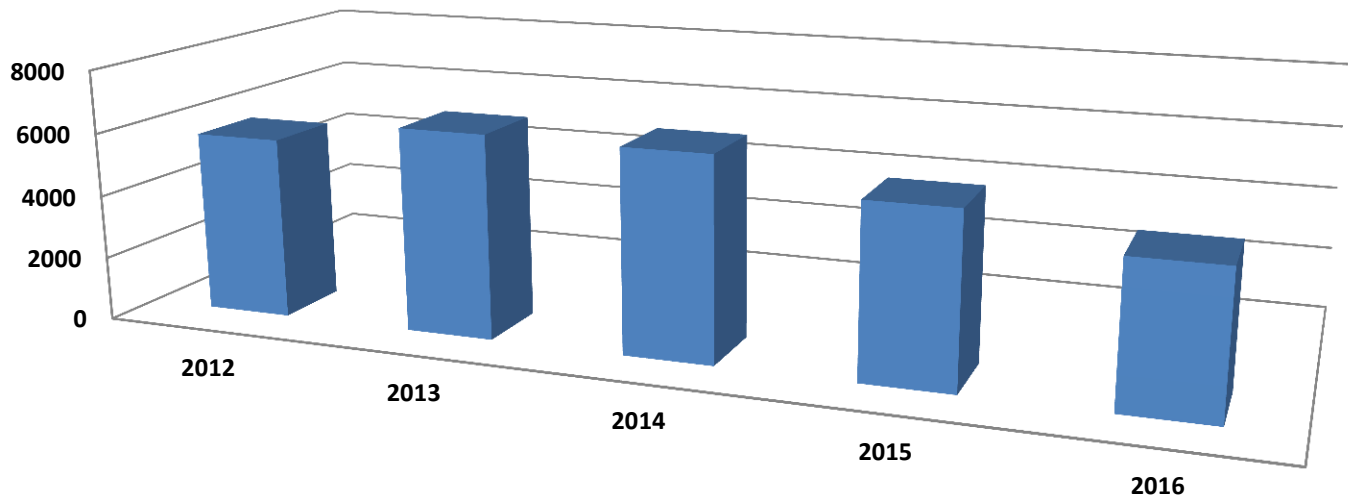
Chapter 7	73.4%	71.4%	69.6%	67.3%	65.7%
Chapter 11	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Chapter 12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Chapter 13	25.5%	27.5%	29.3%	31.5%	33.1%

## Chapter 11 Filings



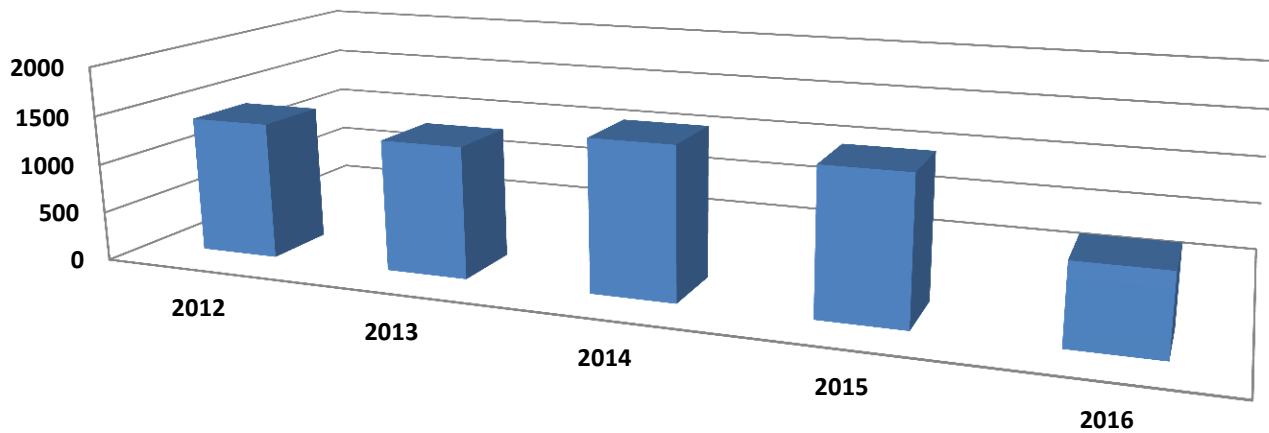
Business	399	346	284	237	212
Consumer	85	86	78	89	60

## Pro Se Filings



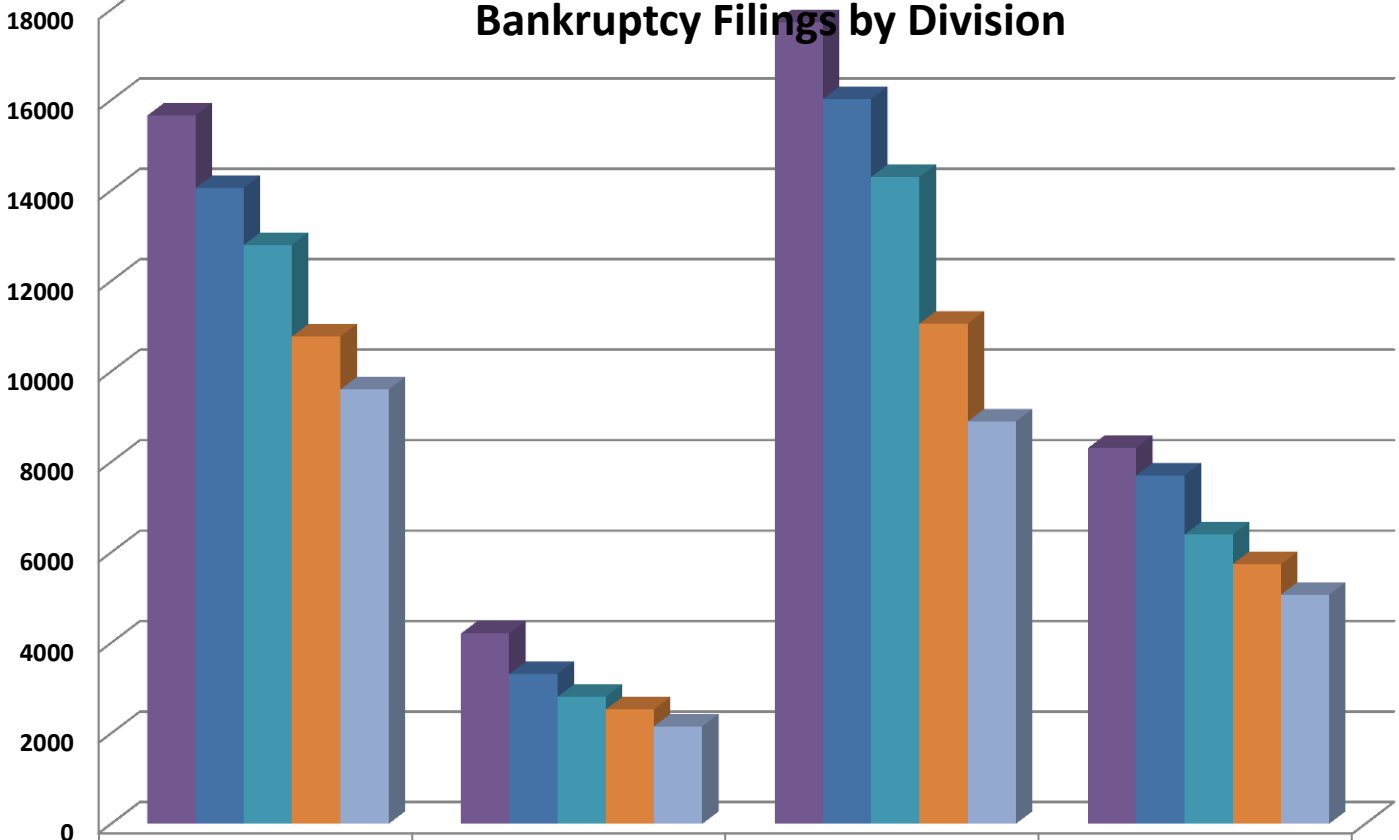
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ Pro Se	5737	6435	6387	5416	4484
% of All Filings	12%	16%	18%	18%	17%

## In Forma Pauperis Filings



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ IFP Granted	1396	1334	1529	1456	800
% of All Filings	3%	3%	4%	5%	3%

## Bankruptcy Filings by Division



	Tampa	Ft. Myers	Orlando	Jacksonville
2011	15660	4208	17718	8312
2012	12801	2806	14303	6395
2013	10775	2527	11061	5742
2015	9604	2156	8896	5068

Note: 2016 Counts are projected totals.  
 Order Granting IFP counts have been corrected to include approving language.

## **CASE LAW UPDATE**

By Bradley M. Saxton and C. Andrew Roy

### **Eleventh Circuit Cases**

***Slater v. U.S. Steel Corp.***

2016 WL 723012 (11th Cir. Feb. 24, 2016)

In an employment discrimination case, plaintiff was judicially estopped from pursuing the action because she failed to disclose the claim in her Chapter 7 case. Even after amending her schedules and SOFA, the district court still granted summary judgment in favor of the defendant based on judicial estoppel. Eleventh Circuit affirmed based on its past precedent. Judge Tjoflat with an excellent specially concurring opinion calling for an *en banc* review of the judicial estoppel doctrine.

### **Bankruptcy Court Cases**

***In re Juerakhan***

544 B.R. 711 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Feb. 4, 2016) (Williamson, C.J.)

Creditor sought to except a \$159,100 debt owed by debtor-bail bondsman from discharge under section 523(a)(4) based on the debtor's intentional failure to uphold his statutory fiduciary duty to the creditor. Creditor engaged debtor to post bail through bail bonds for creditor's son, and provided a \$100,000 cashier's check as collateral. Once creditor's son appeared in court, the debtor was to return the \$100,000. Instead, the debtor used the money for the operations of his business. The Bankruptcy Court granted summary judgment for the creditor, finding that a bail bondsman is a fiduciary under Florida Statutes, chapter 648, and that the debtor's actions constituted a defalcation within the meaning of section 523(a)(4).

***In re Kraz, LLC***

539 B.R. 887 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Oct. 27, 2015) (Williamson, C.J.)

In Chapter 11 case Bankruptcy Court granted summary judgment for debtor finding that creditor not entitled to accrued interest or attorney's fees and costs as part of its claim, based on the Bankruptcy Court's interpretation of the state court judgment.

***In re Quevedo***

2016 WL 801386 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Feb. 12, 2016) (Jackson, J.)

Debtor may not revoke his own discharge. Section 727(d) permits only the trustee, a creditor or the United States Trustee to seek revocation of a discharge.

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***In re Reynolds***

546 B.R. 232 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Feb. 12, 2016) (Jennemann, J.)

Bankruptcy Court found that only one of 3 separate obligations was non-dischargeable under Section 523(a)(15).

***In re Jans***

2016 WL 741884 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Feb. 24, 2016) (Delano, J.)

Debtor's earnings, which were primarily from real estate sales as an independent contractor, satisfied the exception under F.S. 222.11 for earnings of a head of family.

***In re Montalvo***

2016 WL 769997 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. Feb. 25, 2016) (Jennemann, J.)

Debtor remained personally liable for association assessments accruing post-petition. Association assessments are based on covenant running with the land. Surrender did not relieve debtor of obligation for assessments because surrender did not cause a transfer of title.

***In re Bremer***

2016 WL 1072501 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. March 17, 2016) (Jackson, J.)

In Chapter 13 case, debtor sought to strip off both of creditor's mortgages based on negative valuation of investment property, which negative valuation resulted from debtor burying debris on property instead of cleaning it up. Bankruptcy Court accepted debtor's appraisal, but, relying on equity, did not accept the reduction for the damage the debtor himself caused to the property that resulted in the negative valuation.

***In re Mojo Brands Media, LLC***

2016 WL 1072508 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. March 16, 2016) (Jackson, J.)

Creditor with minority interest in debtor filed motion to dismiss Chapter 7 case because the filing was not properly authorized under the debtor's operating agreement. Bankruptcy Court denied motion, finding that creditor effectively ratified the filing by actively participating in the case and waiting three months to file motion.

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## **BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association**

The Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association hosted a Clerk's Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, March 9th. Annually, the JBBA hosts a luncheon so its members can show their appreciation for the Clerk's staff. This year's luncheon was a success, with more than 130 attendees present to show their appreciation.

This year's JBBA Annual Seminar will be held on Friday, August 26th, at the Marriott Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. This year's seminar will be a great event (as always), and we encourage you to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## **BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **February's OCBA Brown Bag Lunch and Learn: Help with Student Loan Debt**

By Danielle Merola and Alexis Leventhal

The February OCBA Brown Bag Lunch and Learn featured George Jonas and Melissa Towell of Consumer Debt Counselors, Inc. and their work aiding consumer debtors with understanding and addressing student loan debt. Consumer Debt Counselors, Inc. works closely with its clients, including bankruptcy attorneys assisting their own clients with student loan debt, to articulate the particular challenges of paying off a student loan debt, counsel a course of action to successfully address the student loan debt, implement the plan developed, and monitor the client's progress with that plan. The presenters emphasized how their company is able to work with some loan servicers to negotiate repayment plans and how this practice may be implemented by attorneys.

The hour long presentation began with an overview of the serious state of educational lending: there is more than \$1.3 trillion in outstanding debt for education loans, and only 25% of those loans are performing.

The presenters next discussed the various options available to consumers. They stressed the importance of confronting student loan debt *before* entering repayment. Particularly for federal loans, the presenters noted that many consumers do not know they are automatically put in a 10-year standard repayment plan if the consumer does not choose another option. Some of the other options that consumers may consider are longer standard repayment plans or repayment plans based on the consumer's current income. Some of the costs and benefits to consider include: consolidation, the public service loan forgiveness program, bankruptcy, forbearance, and deferment, among others. The presenters also focused on how these different options could drastically affect the total amount that a consumer pays over the life of the loan. The consequences of repayment default were covered in depth, as well as the various remedies available to rehabilitate a student loan after a default has occurred.

The presentation was well received with lots of questions following. Another great Brown Bag brought to us by the OCBA!

A recording of the Brown Bag is available at the link below with your CM/ECF password:

<https://pacer.flmb.uscourts.gov/cle/index.asp>



## **BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Orange County Bar Association**

By Erin Greene

#### **Announcements**

- There will be NO OCBA Bankruptcy Section meeting in April due to the CFBLA and OCBA Seminars taking place this month.
- There will be NO OCBA Bankruptcy Section meeting in June due to the Florida Bar's Annual Convention taking place that month.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- The speaker for the May 27, 2016 OCBA Bankruptcy Section will be attorney, Charlie Price. He will be speaking on the IRS and tax issues.
- The OCBA Bankruptcy Section Seminar is scheduled for July 29, 2016 featuring 3-4 speakers. Topics will be announced soon.

## **BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association Update**

By Cynthia Lewis

#### **The Annual Bankruptcy Seminar**

Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association is hosting its Annual Bankruptcy Seminar at the Embassy Suites in downtown Orlando on Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. You may register now by going to the website at [www.cfbla.org](http://www.cfbla.org) and clicking on the “Annual Bankruptcy Seminar 2016” tab at the top of the page. This year’s Seminar features a keynote address from Bruce Blackwell on legal ethics, a panel discussion with Chief Judge Williamson, along with Bankruptcy Judges Cynthia Jackson and Arthur Briskman. The afternoon sessions will feature both consumer and business focused breakout sessions with relevant and timely topics of interest. The day will conclude with a session on social media (another ethics credit being applied for) and a networking reception.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

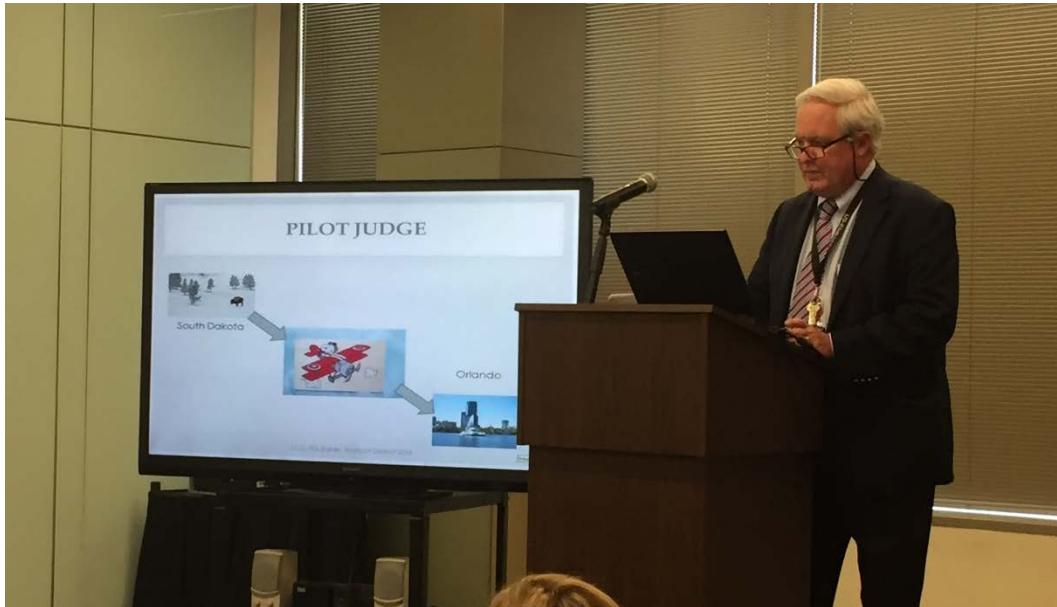
#### **CFBLA Membership Drive**

CFBLA is still accepting new Membership applications and renewals!

CFBLA provides its members with a number of CLE and networking opportunities that you won’t want to miss. If you have not already done so, be certain to begin or renew your membership right away. Go to [www.cfbla.org](http://www.cfbla.org) and click the membership application link. If you’re new to CFBLA check out our website for some great information and to become a member.

#### **The State of the District**

CFBLA hosted a State of the District Presentation given by Chief Judge Michael Williamson on February 18, 2016 in the main entry hall of the George C. Young Federal Courthouse. During the presentation our Orlando Pro Se Clinic Volunteers were recognized. Judge Williamson gave special recognition to those individuals providing over ten hours of support to the clinic. Way to Go! Anyone wishing to volunteer for the Pro Se Clinic should contact Cindy Courtney by calling (407) 476-4331 or emailing [bankruptcy400@gmail.com](mailto:bankruptcy400@gmail.com).



Chief Judge Michael G. Williamson addressing the crowd at the State of the District

The State of the District also provided a great venue for Judge Briskman and Law Clerk, Alexis Leventhal, to present the CFBLA-sponsored Book Awards to the recipients in each of their respective courses at FAMU College of Law: Caitlin Frenkel and Jennifer York, respectively.



Book Award Recipient, Jennifer York (center right), with (from left to right) FAMU Assistant Dean, Joan Bullock; CFBLA President, Cynthia Lewis; Attorney, Justin York; and Shared Law Clerk, Alexis Leventhal.

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**CFBLA's March Luncheon: Case Law Update**

The March luncheon provided a comprehensive overview of recent cases particularly of interest in our district, as well as, the definition of a meme. The annual case law update given by Brad Saxton and Andrew Roy of Winderweedle, Haines, Ward and Woodman, P.A. lived up to its reputation for being informative and humorous. Thank you, Gentlemen.

**Upcoming Events:**

April 29, 2016 – CFBLA 2016 Annual Seminar – Embassy Suites, Downtown Orlando

May 19, 2016 – Monthly Luncheon

## **BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS**

### **Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association**

By Luis Rivera, Esquire

SWFBPA Member and Past-President Gregory A. Champeau of Naples will be recognized by the Legal Aid Service of Collier County with the *Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award* at its 8th Annual Barrister's Bash, which will be held on April 28, 2016, at the Hilton of Naples. Congratulations, Greg.

Also, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professional Association will hold its monthly membership meetings commencing at noon in the Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse & Federal Building, Fort Myers, FL on the following dates:

1. April 28, 2016;
2. May 26, 2016 (Matthew S. Simmons of Fort Myers appraisal firm Maxwell, Hendry & Simmons will present on appraisal reviews and other valuation issues);
3. June 23, 2016 (Gerard "Jerry" A. McHale, a nationally recognized forensic accountant and fiduciary, will present on *Ponzi* schemes and how they are treated in bankruptcy).

## **UPCOMING BAR EVENTS**

### **Fort Myers**

- April 28 @ 12:00 pm      Monthly Luncheon  
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse &  
Federal Building, Fort Myers
- May 26 @ 12:00 pm      Monthly Luncheon: Matthew S. Simmons of Maxwell, Hendry &  
Simmons - *Appraisal Reviews and Other Valuation Issues*  
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse &  
Federal Building, Fort Myers
- June 23 @ 12:00 pm      Monthly Luncheon: Gerard “Jerry” A. McHale, nationally recognized  
forensic accountant and fiduciary - *Ponzi Schemes and How They Are  
Treated in Bankruptcy*  
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse &  
Federal Building, Fort Myers

### **Orlando**

- April 28 @ 11:30 am      OCBA Law Week Luncheon  
Location: Church Street Ballroom
- April 29                      CFBLA Annual Seminar  
Location: Embassy Suites, Downtown Orlando
- May 14 @ 8:00 am        OCBA Second Annual Law Day 5K  
Location: Lake Baldwin Park
- May 19 @ 12:00 pm      CFBLA Monthly Luncheon  
Location: Gray Robinson
- May 26 @ 11:30 am      OCBA Annual Installation and Awards Luncheon  
Location: Church Street Ballroom
- May 27 @ 12:00 pm      OCBA Bankruptcy Section Meeting: Attorney Charlie Price - *IRS Tax  
Debt & Bankruptcy: Avoiding the Traps and Pitfalls*  
Location: OCBA Center
- July 29                      OCBA Bankruptcy Section Annual Seminar  
Location: OCBA Center

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**Tampa**

- May 3 @ 12:00 pm      Consumer Lunch: Bethann Scharrer, Dawn Carapella, Lori Vaughn,  
and Lara Fernandez – *Recent Case Law on Avoidance Actions in*  
*Chapter 7*  
Location: Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse, 5th Fl. Training Room  
*Lunch provided!*
- May 10 @ 12:00 pm      Monthly CLE Luncheon  
Location: The University Club
- May 23 @ 5:30 pm      Chapter 13 Judicial Liaison Meeting  
Location: Floridan Palace Hotel
- May 25 @ 12:00 pm      Judge McEwen’s Brown Bag Mentoring Session  
Location: Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse, 5th Fl. Training Room
- June 23 @ 6:00 pm      Annual Installation Dinner  
Location: Centre Club, 123 South Westshore Boulevard, 8th Floor

**Jacksonville**

- August 26      JBBA Annual Seminar  
Location: Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach

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**The Court Connection is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October.**

**We are seeking suggestions, ideas, articles, photos, news – and anything you'd like to share.**

**Please submit all items to be considered for the July edition by June 30, 2016 to:**  
**[newsletter@fmb.uscourts.gov](mailto:newsletter@fmb.uscourts.gov)**