

Out of Tragedy Comes Love

By: Lee Ann Bennett, Clerk of Court

On June 12, 2016, tragedy hit Orlando and the nation when a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 others inside the Pulse nightclub. The deadliest act of violence since September 11, 2001, happened in our community. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer stated, “We will be defined by how we respond, how we treat each other.” Oh how we have responded! From numerous vigils, not only in Orlando, but in cities across the nation and in other countries, to blood drives, interfaith services, and several memorials. Many of our court staff attended the vigils and participated in other events to support the victims and our community.



In addition, fund drives (GoFundMe and OneOrlando) have raised millions of dollars for the victims, a record for GoFundMe. Love and support have been overwhelming in this city we love. It was so fitting that a beautiful rainbow appeared over the city during a vigil attended by 50,000 people held at Lake Eola.



Photo credit @Tweags

Last Saturday, during a run through my neighborhood, I was struck by the number of signs placed in my neighbors' yards. Some homemade signs, some purchased. The messages on the signs reflect how this community in the Middle District of Florida responded – “Orlando Strong,” “Orlando One City, One Heart,” “Orlando Love Wins,” “Orlando United, We Stand Together As One Community.” The signs were in the yards of the elderly, in the yards of the young, in the yards of the single and the married, and in the yards of those with children and teenagers. I couldn't help but choke up while seeing how our community has responded. I have never been prouder that my Court is located in the city that stands united. Orlando is called “The City Beautiful,” and the response to the tragedy truly demonstrates how fitting that title is. Words in our mission statement also came to mind: “treat everyone with dignity, integrity, and respect.” May we always live by those words, may we always stand united, may we always love.

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Volume No. 5 – Issue No. 3
July 2016



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,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49.

Love Wins
Orlando United, We Stand Together As One Community
One Court, One Team.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

TBBBA Past Presidents' Reception

July 21

University Club – Tampa

*

ABI Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop

July 21 - July 24

Ritz Carlton - Amelia Island

*

IWIRC Luncheon

July 22

Ritz Carlton - Amelia Island

*

OCBA Bankruptcy Seminar

July 29

OCBA Center, Orlando

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JBBA Annual Seminar

August 26

Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach

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CFBLA Clerks' Appreciation

Luncheon

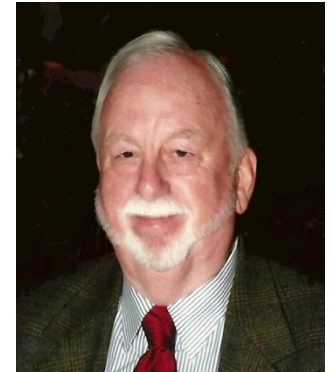
September 14

Citrus Club, Orlando

TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Meet Leigh R. Meininger, Chapter 7 Panel Trustee, Orlando

By: Jill Kelso, Orlando Office of the U.S. Trustee



Leigh R. Meininger is a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee for the Middle District of Florida, Orlando Division. Leigh, who was born in Buffalo, New York, is a second career attorney. Before graduating from the University of Florida with Masters of Accounting and Juris Doctor degrees in 1988, Leigh worked in various businesses and held accounting positions with Arthur Andersen & Co., Associates Corporation of North America, Aristar, Inc., and John Alden Life Insurance Company.

Leigh received his appointment to the panel in 1988, right after graduating from law school. He had no prior bankruptcy experience. In addition to serving as a chapter 7 trustee, Leigh has also represented debtors, creditors, and other interested parties in chapter 7, 11, and 13 bankruptcy cases and other bankruptcy matters.

In speaking about his position as a chapter 7 trustee, Leigh stated that, “[w]hat I like about being a trustee is that it involves numerous areas of law (i.e., family, contracts, real estate, personal injury, etc.), and it allows me to utilize my experiences in accounting and business. Each case is a new and a separate experience. Although many cases are routine, I am frequently assigned cases that challenge my legal and business knowledge.”

On a personal note, bankruptcy is a family matter for the Meiningers. Leigh has been married to his wife, Joni, for 59 years. Joni has worked as his case manager throughout the duration of Leigh’s appointment as a chapter 7 trustee. Leigh and Joni have six children, two of whom are bankruptcy lawyers, 17 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Leigh’s son, John, practices bankruptcy law in Orlando, and his son, Stephen, is a bankruptcy lawyer and chapter 7 panel trustee in Tampa. In addition, Leigh’s son-in-law, Robert Ewald, is the president of Ewald Auctions, Inc., which has handled numerous bankruptcy auctions.

For fun, Leigh is somewhat of a technology enthusiast, especially in the area of audio/video. As a result, his home systems include various high-tech electronic gadgets, such as a music server (for which he is still working out the kinks) and satellite, cable, and over-the-air receivers. Leigh's components are all linked together with a Denon A/V receiver. Leigh realizes that the satellite (DIRECTV), cable and over-the-air services are redundant since they all get the same programming. But he just could not resist getting all three!

LEIGH'S PRACTICE POINTER FOR ATTORNEYS:

Many debtors come to Section 341 Meetings of Creditors not knowing what to expect. As a result, many debtors are nervous and even fearful of the experience. Trustees are required to ask a number of specific questions mandated by the U.S. Trustee's Manual. In addition, other questions by the trustee can be anticipated based on information set forth in the debtors' bankruptcy schedules and statements. If debtors' attorneys would take the time to inform their clients as to what questions will be asked and why the trustee is asking these questions, it would go a long way to reduce debtors' stress at Section 341 Meetings.

PRO BONO CORNER

Barnett Wins First Ever TBBBA Pro Bono Service Award

By The Honorable Catherine Peek McEwen

The Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association announced during its annual dinner in June that it has instituted an annual Pro Bono Service Award. Its inaugural winner was a no-brainer: Michael Barnett. “It is not surprising that Michael Barnett is the first recipient of the TBBBA Pro Bono Service Award,” said Chief Judge Michael G. Williamson. “Throughout his career he has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services for debtors who have not had the resources to retain counsel. His commitment and energy in the delivery of pro bono serves as a model for others in the legal profession. Thanks Mike! We appreciate all you do for our Court and the public it serves.”

Mike is a board certified consumer bankruptcy lawyer with over 30 years of experience. Although he has a very busy practice, he has found time to selflessly serve his community by, for example, being a mainstay for the TBBBA’s pro bono courthouse clinic, logging in over 100 hours of volunteer time to the clinic over the past year and this year to date. He also authored an op-ed piece to educate consumers about how a chapter 13 can be used to successfully save a home (<http://www.tbo.com/list/news-opinion-commentary/michael-barnett-for-people-with-mortgage-woes-there-is-hope-x2014-if-you-follow-the-rules-20150721/>).

All of the Tampa judges join Chief Judge Williamson in congratulating Michael and thanking him for his pro bono work.



Pictured: Judge McEwen presenting the Pro Bono Award to Michael Barnett.

PRO BONO CORNER

Make-Me-Smile Moments and Shout-outs

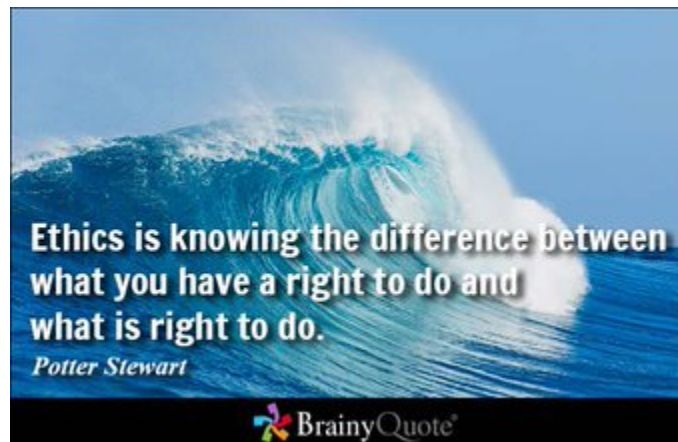
Submitted by Judge McEwen

High fives for open court volunteerism go to:

- ✓ Lynn Sherman for volunteering to take a student loan dischargeability action
- ✓ Frank Principe for volunteering to help a pro se debtor complete some petition package paperwork that the debtor's petition preparer failed to provide

The Tampa Division also thanks Shawn Yesner for taking on an adversary proceeding through the Court's Legal Assistance Program for Low-Income Individuals.

Are you interested in tapping into such an opportunity, which may lead to hard-to-come-by trial time for board certification? Go here for more info and to print out a sign-up sheet: http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/legal_assistance/



PRO BONO CORNER

New Hours for TBBBA Courthouse Clinic

The new hours for the courthouse clinic operated by the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association (thanks, TBBBA!) are Mondays and Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. in the 9th floor attorney lounge.

In a given year, we will need 312 hours of volunteer time (to staff 6 hours of clinic time per week). If just 50 people signed up for 6 hours of duty, we'd be totally covered. Reminder: The Florida Bar's aspirational goal, which must be reported with each bar year renewal, is 20 hours.

Go here for the July calendar open

spots: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4eafad28a1f58-july>

Go here for the August calendar open

spots: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4eafad28a1f58-august>

Future months' sign-ups will be posted on the TBBBA's homepage at www.tbbba.org.

ATTENTION PEOPLE WITHOUT AN ATTORNEY

Volunteers from the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association are available to help you with your bankruptcy case **free of charge.**

Attorneys are available in the Attorney Resource Room on the 9th floor of the **United States Courthouse** (turn right after passing Courtroom 9B) located at **801 N. Florida Ave.** on the following days and times:

Monday 1:00 – 4:00

Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00

An attorney will be available to:

- Provide limited legal advice and information on bankruptcy issues in the Middle District of Florida.
- Assist you in preparing court documents and presenting your case.
- Provide referrals and other resource information.

An attorney will not:

- Give advice on:
 - Criminal legal issues
 - State court cases
 - Non-bankruptcy related issues
- Provide representation in court and will not represent you as your attorney.
- File papers on your behalf.



Additionally, people involved in some specific disputes may qualify for a free attorney, depending on their income level. Information on the Court's Legal Assistance Program for Low-Income Parties Involved in Certain Adversary Proceedings and Contested Matters may be obtained at the United States Bankruptcy Court's 5th-floor intake office or at www.FLMB.USCourts.gov/LegalAssistance/.

Also, be sure to watch the video on what goes on in a bankruptcy case at www.FLMB.USCourts.gov/BankruptcyBasics/ (available in Spanish and Creole).

You can obtain additional information at www.FLMB.USCourts.gov/FilingWithoutAttorney/.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association presented Stetson student Correy Karbiner with the Alexander L. Paskay Award.



Pictured: Chief Judge Williamson presenting the Paskay Award to Stetson student Correy Karbiner.

Ten Years of Tenure

July 7, 2016 marked the ten-year anniversary for Lee Ann Bennett as Clerk for the Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Court. In those ten years, the Courts have faced challenges, yet this Court has made tremendous progress serving the public while overcoming obstacles in everything from budget to automation to substantial changes in the Bankruptcy Code. In addition to the leadership she has shown in our own district, Clerk Bennett has been a leader nationwide, serving as President and a Board Member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks. For proof of our good fortune in calling her our Clerk these ten years, one need look no further than her recent receipt of the 2015 Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership given by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

In characteristic manner, Clerk Bennett attributed her ten years of tremendous success as Clerk to the entire staff of the Middle District, stating that “each member of the Clerk’s office, each member of Chambers and each Judge has helped me every step of the way.” She noted that it is “hard to put into words how much this Court means to me and how much I have enjoyed the last ten years.” The Middle District of Florida is certainly glad that Clerk Bennett is enjoying her tenure (and all of the flowers she received that day) and hopes to call her their Clerk for many more years to come.



JUDGES' CORNER

Judge Delano's chambers and former law clerks, Kathleen DiSanto and Sandra Ransdell, celebrated Judge Delano's 8th Anniversary on the bench and also bid farewell to the judge's law clerk, Phil Nodhturft, during lunch at Bella's. Phil is leaving the Court to pursue his L.L.M. degree.



Pictured left to right: Lisa Mills, Dana Robbins, Phil Nodhturft, Judge Delano, Kathleen DiSanto, Sandra Ransdell, and Laura Stevenson

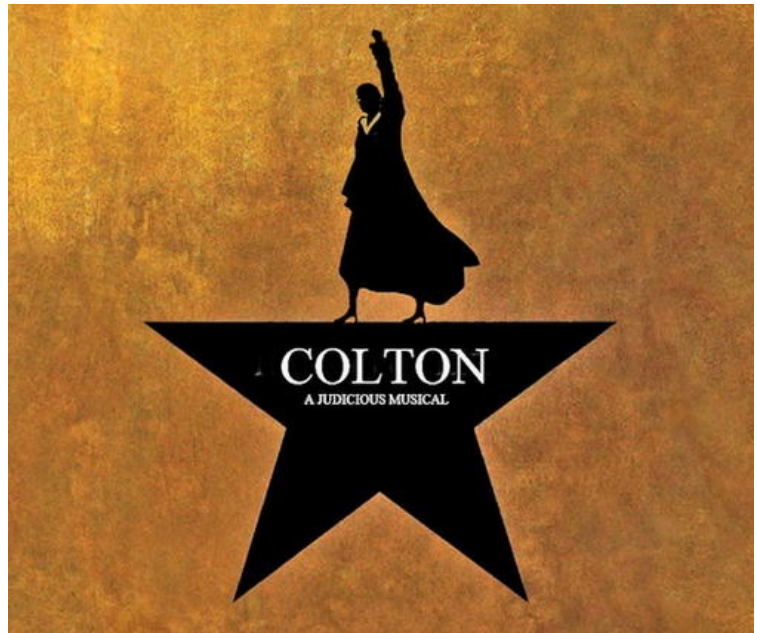


Judge Delano and Phil Nodhturft

JUDGES' CORNER

On July 15th, the formal Investiture Ceremony for Judge Roberta A. Colton was held. The reception that followed had a special Broadway flair.

Judge Colton is a huge Broadway musical fan, with a particular penchant for *Hamilton*. Pictured at right, is one of the backdrop slides from the Investiture reception; her friends created the “COLTON – A Judicious Musical” playbill for the event.



Her friends also performed a *Hamilton*-style number with special rap lyrics, followed by their rendition of *Hello, Robbie!* to the tune of *Hello, Dolly*.

Below at left, Judge Colton watches as she's superimposed into a scene from *Hello, Dolly*.



JUDGES' CORNER

Following a Turnaround Management Association conference in Nashville recently, Judge McEwen gave into her inner country singer persona by wearing (mostly) black and standing in the same spot as Johnny Cash once did at the Mother Church of Country Music, the Ryman Auditorium, where the Grand Ole Opry used to run.



A few days before the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, this year's "judge school" took place in Philadelphia, the city where the Declaration was signed. After school hours were over, some of the judges visited the Independence National Historical Park, which encompasses Independence Hall (where the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution were signed), the remains of President George Washington's home, and the Liberty Bell. Judge McEwen was caught by Judge Isicoff (FLSB) admiring the Liberty Bell.



UPDATE FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE

Newly Filed Cases not in CM/ECF (Paper) Report

A new report is now available to assist agencies with locating new cases filed in paper format that are not yet entered into the Court’s electronic filing system (CM/ECF). The Clerk’s office strives to enter any cases filed in paper into CM/ECF within 24 hours of filing.

If you are checking for a new case filing not in CM/ECF, you may click the “**Newly Filed Cases, not in CM/ECF (Paper) Report**” link available on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle Florida website, www.flmb.uscourts.gov, under **Court Resources**, to review the report.

Once a paper case has been opened in the CM/ECF system, the case will automatically be removed from the report.

The **Newly Filed Cases not in CM/ECF (Paper) Report** features:

- The chapter of the new case;
- The receipt number of the new case;
- The name of the debtor and/or joint debtor;
- The last four digits of the debtor and/or joint debtor’s social security number in parenthesis;
- The case number (as formatted below);
Office Code- Year- Case Type- Case Number
EXAMPLE: 3: 16 - bk -1122
Office Codes: 3=Jacksonville; 6=Orlando; 8=Tampa; 9=Fort Myers
Case Type Code: bk= Bankruptcy
- The date and time the paper case was filed.

Below is an example of an entry on a report. Please note: this is not a real case.

Newly Filed Cases not in CM/ECF (PAPER)		
Chapter	Receipt No.	Case #/Debtor/Date
13	00802	MACK, KALLIE M (0001) 6:16-bk-9000 06/28/2016 at 09:47 am Orlando

Questions? Please contact the Court’s Help Desk at: ecfhelp@flmb.uscourts.gov

UPDATE FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE

Federal Bankruptcy Rule 3015 and new Rule 3015.1 Published for Public Comment

On July 1, 2016, the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules published a proposed amendment to Bankruptcy Rule 3015 and a new Rule 3015.1 and requested that they be circulated to the bench, bar, and public for comment.

The proposed amendments, rules committee reports explaining the proposed changes, and instructions on how to submit comments are posted on uscourts.gov.

The public comment period ends on October 3, 2016.

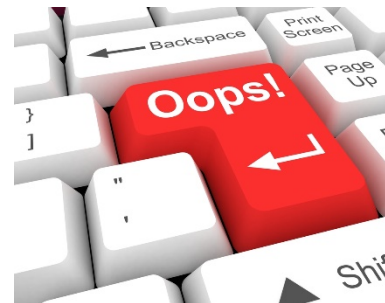
Enhanced Corrective Action Process Coming Soon

By Jill Norris

Please note that an enhanced Corrective Action Process will go into effect on August 1, 2016. If you receive an email from the Court, please review it carefully to determine if you are required to take any additional action.

Major changes include the ability for e-Filers to correct erroneously registered claims and documents where the pdf image (document) does not match the docket entry.

We hope you will find these corrective entries to be clear, concise, and helpful with your CM/ECF electronic filing.



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COURT COMMITTEE REPORTS

District-Wide Steering Committee Update

In the second quarter of 2016, the Judges reviewed the Steering Committee's Report and Recommendations on the Topic of Unbundling Services (the "Report") and requested that the Local Rules Committee consider amending Local Rule 2090-1 to include provisions for coverage attorneys during the next Local Rules cycle. The Judges agreed with the Steering Committee's suggestion in the Report that attorneys be allowed to use the form "Notice of Limited Appearance on Behalf of Coverage Attorney" currently being used in the Orlando Division. A copy of the form will be placed on the Court's website.

For the third quarter of 2016, the District-Wide Steering Committee will consider Chapter 11 issues for district-wide uniformity. The Chapter 11 Sub-Committee will delve into Chapter 11 procedural uniformity issues and then report back to the Steering Committee for discussion, which will result in a report to the Judges. The Steering Committee will also be focusing its efforts on planning and organizing the annual Bench Bar Conference to be held in November 2016.

If you have any immediate questions regarding the District-Wide Steering Committee, please contact Chair Elena Paras Ketchum at eketchum@srbp.com.

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CASE LAW UPDATE FOR Q3 2016

By: Bradley M. Saxton & C. Andrew Roy, Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A.

Supreme Court Cases

Husky Int'l Electronics, Inc. v. Ritz

136 S. Ct. 1581, 62 Bankr. Ct. Dec. 156, 26 Fla. L. Weekly Fed. S 135 (S. Ct. May 16, 2016)

The Supreme Court analyzed the term “actual fraud” under §523(a)(2)(A) and, to give it the meaning it has long held, concluded that “actual fraud” encompasses fraudulent conveyance schemes, even ones that do not involve a false representation.

Eleventh Circuit Cases

Johnson v. Midland Funding, LLC

2016 WL 2996372 (11th Cir. May 24, 2016)

The Eleventh Circuit again dealt with the issue of filing time-barred claims in bankruptcy cases and the overlap of the FDCPA. The Court discussed its prior holding in *Crawford* and recognized that the Bankruptcy Code does allow for the filing of a proof of claim that appears time-barred on its face. However, when a specific type of creditor, a “debt collector” under the FDCPA, files a claim it knows to be time-barred, that creditor can be vulnerable to a claim under the FDCPA.

Bankruptcy Court Cases

In re Mitchell

2016 WL 3003440 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. May 17, 2016) (Glenn, J.)

The Bankruptcy Court finds debts to be non-dischargeable under §523(a)(2)(B) where debtor made representations in writing regarding his net worth and the value of his art collection, but at trial debtor failed to provide any support for his representations regarding the value of the artwork. Additionally, the debtor’s discharge was denied under §727(a)(5) where he failed to provide any records or explanation for the enormous discrepancy between his representations prepetition and the assets actually recovered in the bankruptcy case.

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In re Electric Maint. & Constr., Inc.

2016 WL 2985025 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. May 19, 2016) (Delano, J.)

Because §1141(a) provides that a confirmed plan is binding on the debtor and its creditors, and §1127(b) provides that only the plan proponent or the reorganized debtor may seek to modify a plan after confirmation, the court denied a motion by a creditor that sought to force a modification to a plan where the debtor and a secured creditor that was provided for in the plan reached an agreement that effectively paid that secured creditor off from non-debtor sources.

In re Woide

2016 WL 3537468 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. June 22, 2016) (Briskman, J.)

Bankruptcy Court finds that debtors' actions in defending a foreclosure case and seeking to rescind a note and mortgage, after receiving a discharge and after the case was closed, violated their duty to surrender the property under §521. Therefore, the Court granted a motion by the creditor to reopen the bankruptcy case and further ordered the debtors to not take any action to defend or oppose the foreclosure action.

In re American Managed Care, LLC

2016 WL 3621534 (Bankr. M.D. Fla. June 28, 2016) (May, J.)

Bankruptcy Court grants summary judgment in favor of plaintiff in a fraudulent transfer case, finding that the elements of constructive fraud are met when the defendant law firm was engaged to represent the parent company, but the payments were made by the debtor, a subsidiary of the parent company, which did not receive any value for the payments. The court briefly addressed, but rejected, the defendants' argument that the debtor and subsidiary shared an identity of interest.

BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS

Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association News

On June 22, 2016, the JBBA had its annual meeting at the River Club and installed its officers for the 2016-2017 year: Katie Fackler, President; Dan Blanks, Vice President; John Freeman, Treasurer; James Eidson, Secretary; and Kevin Paysinger, Chairman. The JBBA will hold its annual seminar on Friday, August 26, 2016 at the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Please contact the JBBA's Executive Administrator, Allison Abbott, at info@jaxbkybar.com for additional information.

Orange County Bar Association News

Upcoming Events:

- On July 29th, OCBA is holding its Bankruptcy Law Committee Major Seminar.

5 CLE Credits are Available

Agenda:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 8:30 am | Registration |
| 9:15 am - 10:15 am | Charlie Price – “Your Client can’t pay the IRS, now what?” A practical approach to solving IRS problems |
| 10:15 am - 11:15 am | Elizabeth McCausland, Esq. – “The times are changing and so are retainer agreements” |
| 11:15 am - 12:15 pm | Megan Johnson Judd, President of Metropolis Real Estate – “History of appraisals and their role in our financial system and how best to ‘use’ an appraiser in the courtroom” |
| 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm | Lunch |
| 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm | Jill Kelso, Esq. and Elena Escamilla, Esq. – “Discussion on issues related to the dismissal of chapter 7 bankruptcy cases, including recent case law addressing the means test and the totality of the circumstances/bad faith under section 707(b)(3). Discussion of issues related to competence and ethics in bankruptcy” |
| 1:45 pm - 2:00 pm | Q&A |

BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS

Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association News

CFBLA is keeping the summer hot with activity.

A big “Thank You” to our newest Judge, The Honorable Roberta A. Colton, for allowing our group to get to know her a bit better at our June monthly meeting. We’re delighted to have her calling Orlando home.

CFBLA has a big July scheduled with Akerman’s **Ed Foster** presenting “**Capturing Unicorns: Collecting Judgments in Florida and Other Difficult Tasks.**” It’s not too late to sign up for what promises to be an entertaining and informative program on Thursday, July 21, 2016. Contact Noreen today at cfblabankruptcybar@gmail.com to reserve your seat now.

Our August 18th meeting program is brought to you by the CFBLA Diversity Committee, chaired by **Scott Shuker** of Latham, Shuker, Eden & Beaudine LLP. **Rachel Luce-Hitt**, Educational/Training Programs Coordinator: UCF Office of Diversity and Inclusion, will present a program on **Inclusive Communication**. This workshop identifies some common mistakes made when communicating about age, class, disabilities, ethnicity, gender, language, looks, race, religion, and sexual orientation. It also highlights words, phrases, and behaviors that can enhance the process of communicating across various dimensions of difference.

CFBLA will not be slowing down in the dog days of summer.

September brings our annual **Clerks’ Appreciation Luncheon**, which will be held at the Citrus Club. More details will follow. Watch our website www.cfbla.org for more information.

October will feature the annual **Fall Festival**. The Fall Festival is a family friendly event featuring good food and libations, with a place for adults, babies, and fur babies of all ages to gather for a good time with plenty of laughs and good conversation.

Next year brings some exciting changes with **Chief Judge Michael Williamson** presenting his **State of the District** address during the **May 5, 2017 CFBLA 2017 Annual Bankruptcy Seminar**. In addition, the 2017 seminar will be extra special because CFBLA will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary. In honor of the 25th Anniversary, the Annual Seminar will be held at the Citrus Club. So get your Cinco de Mayo on and plan to attend the 2017 Annual CFBLA Bankruptcy Seminar.

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 and click the membership application link. If you’re new to CFBLA check out our website for some great information and how to become a member.

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Upcoming Events:

July 21, 2016 – Capturing Unicorns: Collecting Judgments in Florida and Other Difficult Tasks,
Ed Foster, Akerman LLP

August 18, 2016 – Inclusive Communication, Rachel Luce-Hitt, Educational/Training Programs
Coordinator: UCF Office of Diversity and Communication

September 14, 2016 – Clerks’ Appreciation Luncheon – Citrus Club

December 8, 2016 – Holiday Party hosted by Broad and Cassel

May 5, 2017 – 2017 Annual CFBLA Bankruptcy Seminar – Citrus Club

BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS

Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association News

On June 23rd, the TBBBA held its annual Installation Dinner at the Centre Club. The 2016-2017 officers and directors installed were:

- President - Kelley Petry
- Chair - Adam Lawton Alpert
- Vice President - Scott Stichter
- Secretary - Suzy Tate
- Treasurer - Lori Vaughan
- CLE - Jake Blanchard
- CLE - Kathleen DiSanto
- Community Service/Pro Bono - Tim Sierra
- Community Service/Pro Bono - Barbara Hart
- *Cramdown* newsletter- Noel Boeke
- Judicial Liaison - Denise Barnett
- Consumer - Brad DeBeaubien
- Membership - Patrick Mosley
- Technology - Steven Wirth
- Historian - Megan Murray

Michael Barnett was presented with the Pro Bono Award in recognition of the many hours he has devoted to the *Pro Se* Clinic. And the Association also presented Stetson student Correy Karbiner with the Alexander L. Paskay Award.

Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association News

By Luis Rivera

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:

- July 28, 2016;
- August 25, 2016, when Michael J. Corso, Esq. of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., will present *Minefields of A Law Practice: Avoiding Malpractice*; and
- September 22, 2016, when Joy Augustine and Gwen Hutto, of Read & Kelley Estate Services, LLC, will present on personal property appraisal in bankruptcy.

UPCOMING BAR EVENTS

Fort Myers

- July 28 @ 12:00 pm SWFBPA Monthly Luncheon
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse & Federal Building, Fort Myers
- August 25 @ 12:00 pm SWFBPA Monthly Luncheon: Michael J. Corso, Esq., Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. - *Minefields of a Law Practice: Avoiding Malpractice*
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse & Federal Building, Fort Myers
- September 22 @ 12:00 pm SWFBPA Monthly Luncheon: Joy Augustine and Gwen Hutto, Read & Kelley Estate Services, LLC - *Personal Property Appraisal in Bankruptcy*
Location: Jury Assembly Room, United States Courthouse & Federal Building, Fort Myers

Tampa

- July 21 @ 5:30 pm TBBBA Past Presidents' Reception
Location: University Club
- September 7 @ 12:00 pm TBBBA CLE Luncheon
- September 21 @ 12:00 pm Judge McEwen's Quarterly Brown Bag Mentoring Session:
A presentation on behalf of the 13th Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee on Resolving Professionalism Complaints - *That email from opposing counsel says WHAT???* (1 hr. of CLE Ethics credit)
Location: Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse, 5th Fl. Training Room
- November 17 @ 12:00 pm Judge McEwen's Quarterly Brown Bag Mentoring Session: TBA

Orlando

- July 21 @ 12:00 pm CFBLA Luncheon: Ed Foster, Esq. – *Capturing Unicorns: Collecting Judgments in Florida*
Location: GrayRobinson, 301 East Pine Street, Suite 1400
- July 28 @ 11:30 am OCBA Monthly Luncheon: Judicial Candidates Forum
Location: Church Street Ballroom
- July 29 @ 9:00 am OCBA Bankruptcy Law Committee Seminar: *Bankruptcy Law Issues to Expand and Improve Your Practice*
Location: OCBA Center, 880 North Orange Avenue

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- August 18 @ 12:00 pm CFBLA Luncheon: Rachel Luce-Hitt, UCF Office of Diversity and Communication – *Inclusive Communication*
Location: GrayRobinson, 301 East Pine Street, Suite 1400
- August 25 @ 11:30 am OCBA Monthly Luncheon: Linda Klein, ABA President
Location: Church Street Ballroom
- August 26 @ 12:00 pm OCBA Bankruptcy Law Committee Meeting
Location: OCBA Center, 880 North Orange Avenue
- September 14 @ 12:00 pm CFBLA Clerks' Appreciation Luncheon
Location: Citrus Club
- September 22 @ 11:30 am OCBA Monthly Luncheon
Location: Church Street Ballroom
- September 30 @ 12:00 pm OCBA Bankruptcy Law Committee Meeting
Location: OCBA Center, 880 North Orange Avenue
- October 23 CFBLA Fall Festival – SAVE THE DATE!

Jacksonville

- July 22 @ 12:45 pm IWIRC Luncheon during the ABI Southeast Workshop
Location: Salt Restaurant inside the Ritz Carlton, Amelia Island
- August 26 JBBA 24th Annual Seminar
Location: Sawgrass Marriott, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
- August 26 @ 12:00 pm IWIRC Lunch during the JBBA Annual Seminar
Location: Aqua Grill, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida



Join us for lunch during the JBBA Annual Seminar

Non-members—including men—welcome

Order off the menu, pay your own way

RSVP by August 19th to Adina Pollan (apollan@pollanlegal.com)

Aqua Grill

395 Front Street, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082



Please join us for a luncheon during the
ABI Southeast Workshop at

Salt Restaurant

Inside the Ritz Carlton Amelia Island

Friday, July 22, 2016

12:45 p.m.

Immediately following the panels at ABI Southeast

*Hosted by the
Alabama, Carolinas, Florida, and Georgia
IWIRC Networks*

All are welcomed and encouraged to join for lunch,
even if not registered for the ABI Southeast Workshop.

**\$20 for IWIRC Members
\$40 for Non-Members
Complimentary for judges**

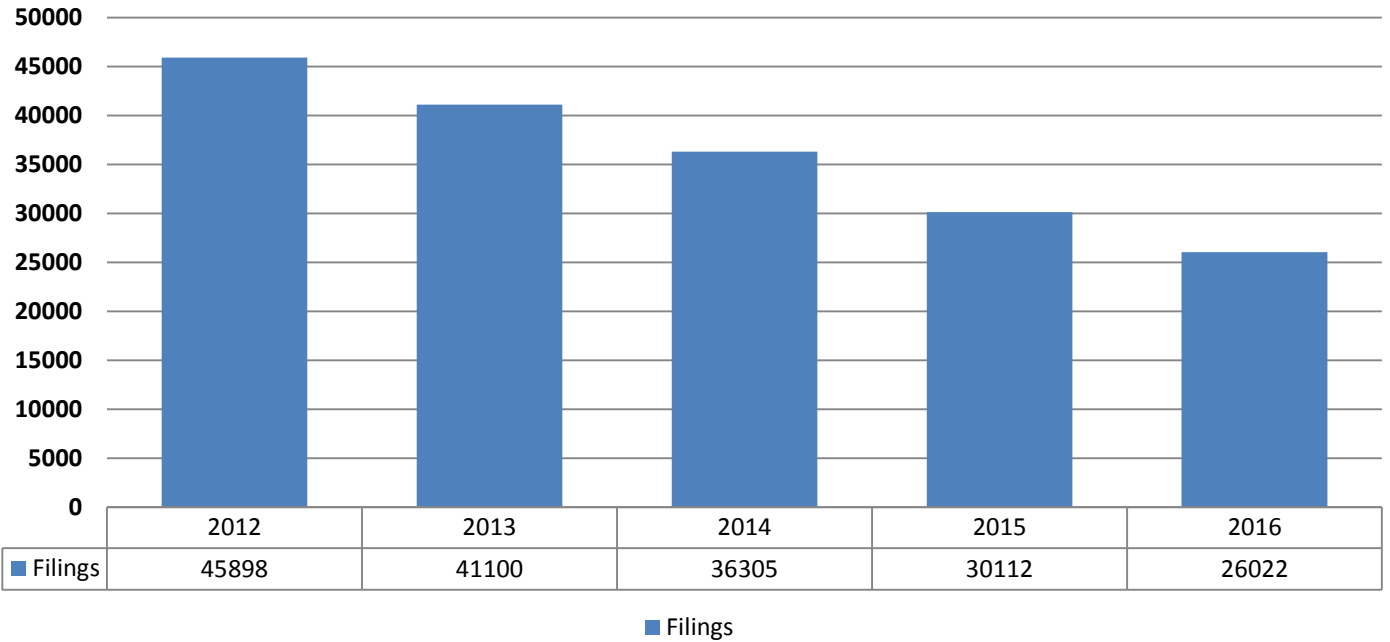


Not currently an IWIRC member?
Join now at www.iwirc.com to
register at the reduced member rate!

Please register at
[http://www.iwirc.com/networks/
georgia/events](http://www.iwirc.com/networks/georgia/events)
by Monday, July 18, 2016.

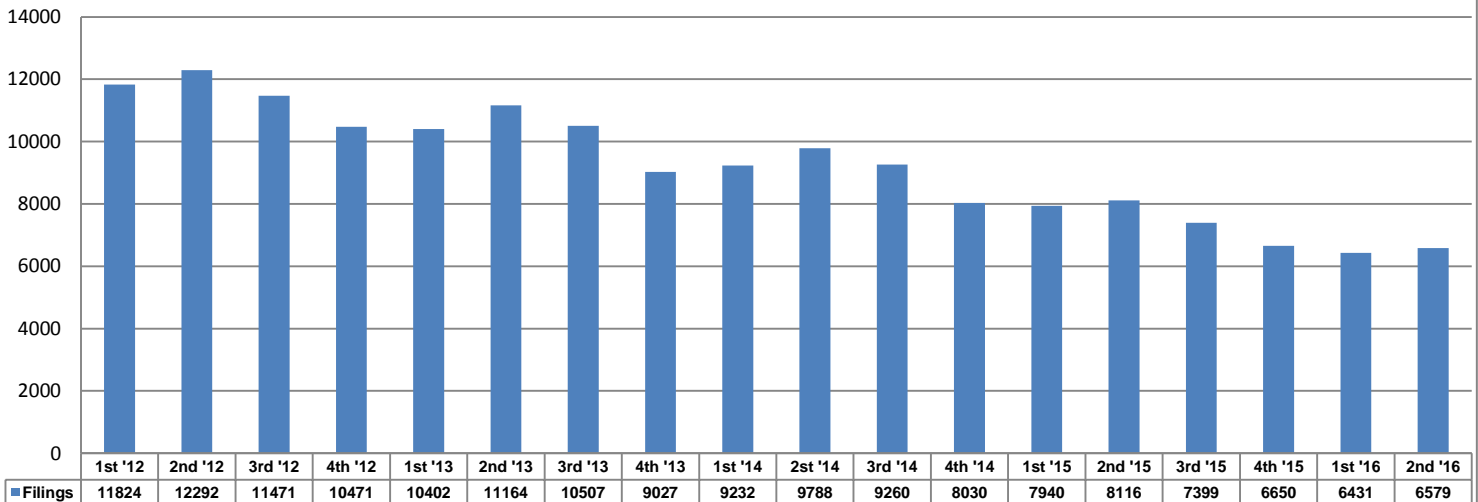
United States Bankruptcy Court - Middle District of Florida
Updated July 14, 2016 Meeting Data and Information
Statistics as of June 30, 2016

Annual Filings

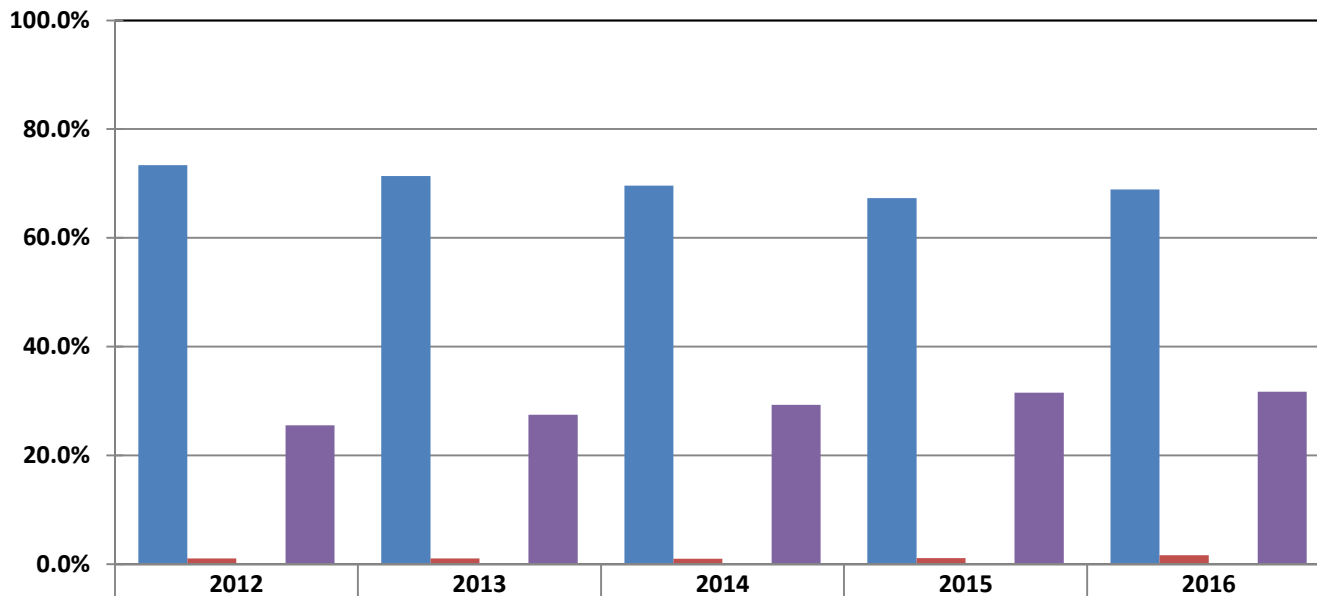


Year	Annual Filings	vs. 2012	vs. Prior Yr.
2012	45898		
2013	41100	-10%	-10%
2014	36305	-21%	-12%
2015	30112	-34%	-17%
2016	26022	-43%	-14%

Filings by Quarter

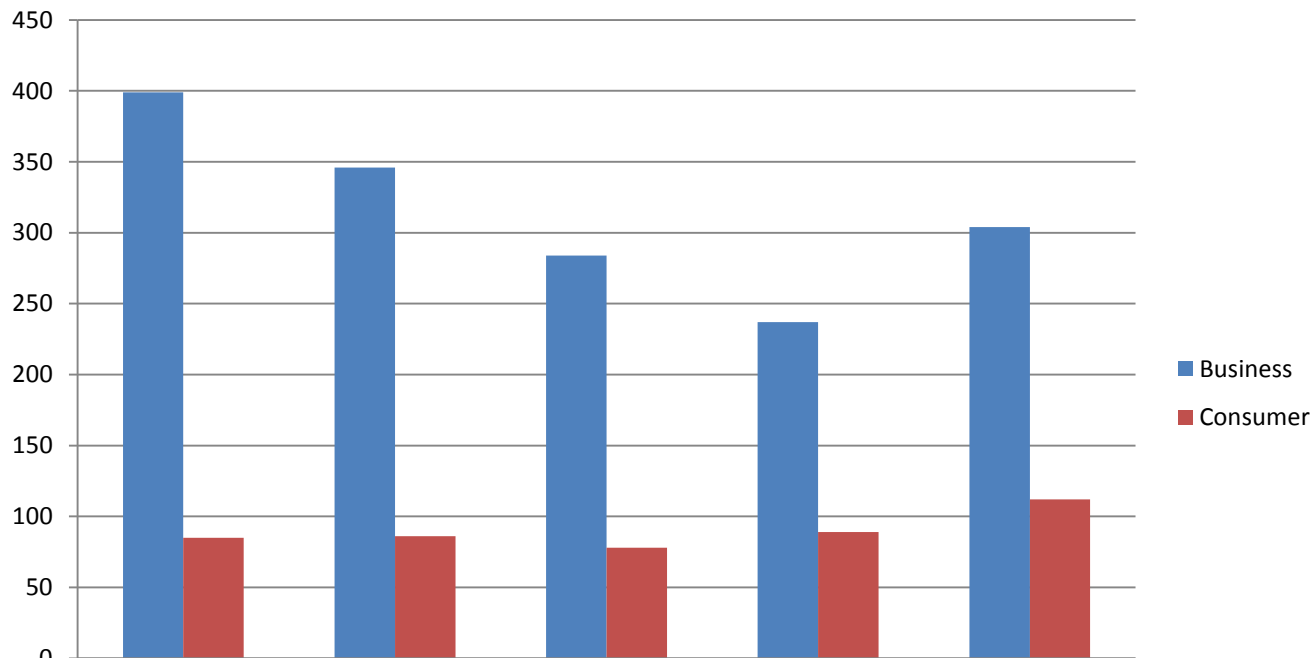


Filings by % of Chapter Type



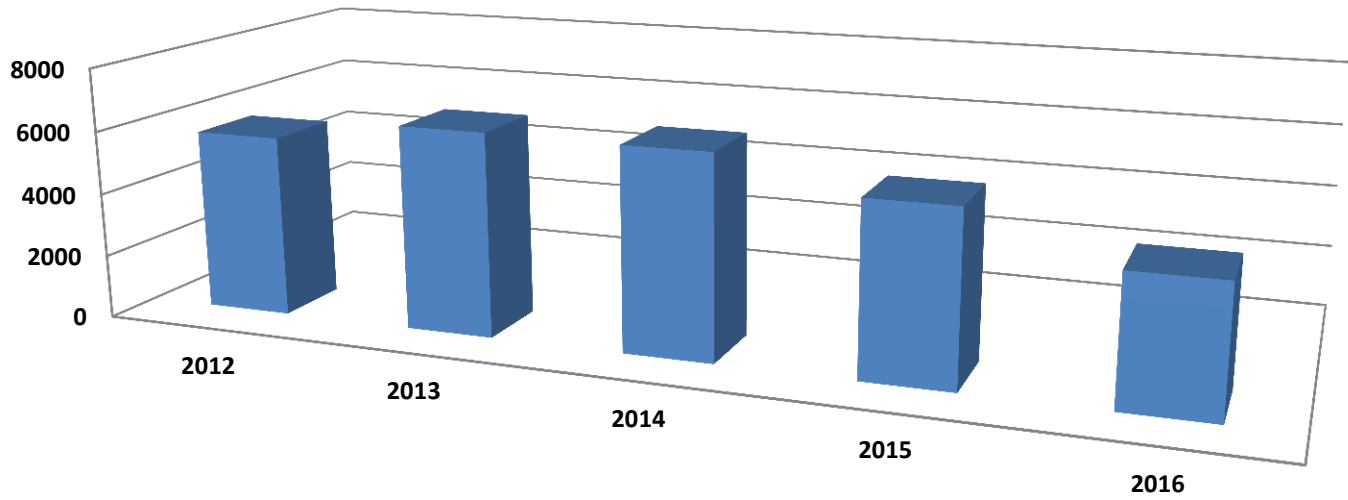
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Chapter 7	73.4%	71.4%	69.6%	67.3%	68.9%
Chapter 11	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.6%
Chapter 12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Chapter 13	25.5%	27.5%	29.3%	31.5%	31.7%

Chapter 11 Filings



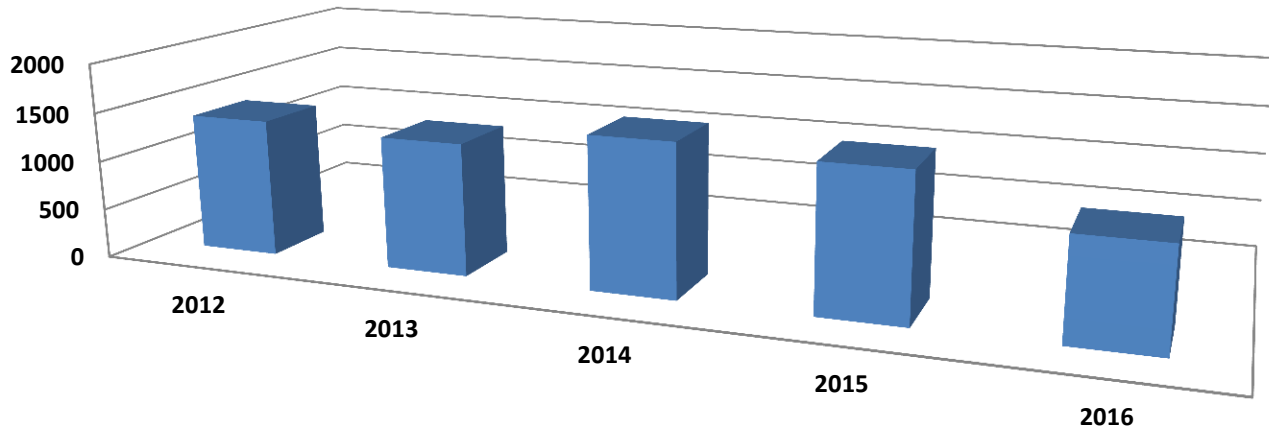
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Business	399	346	284	237	304
Consumer	85	86	78	89	112

Pro Se Filings



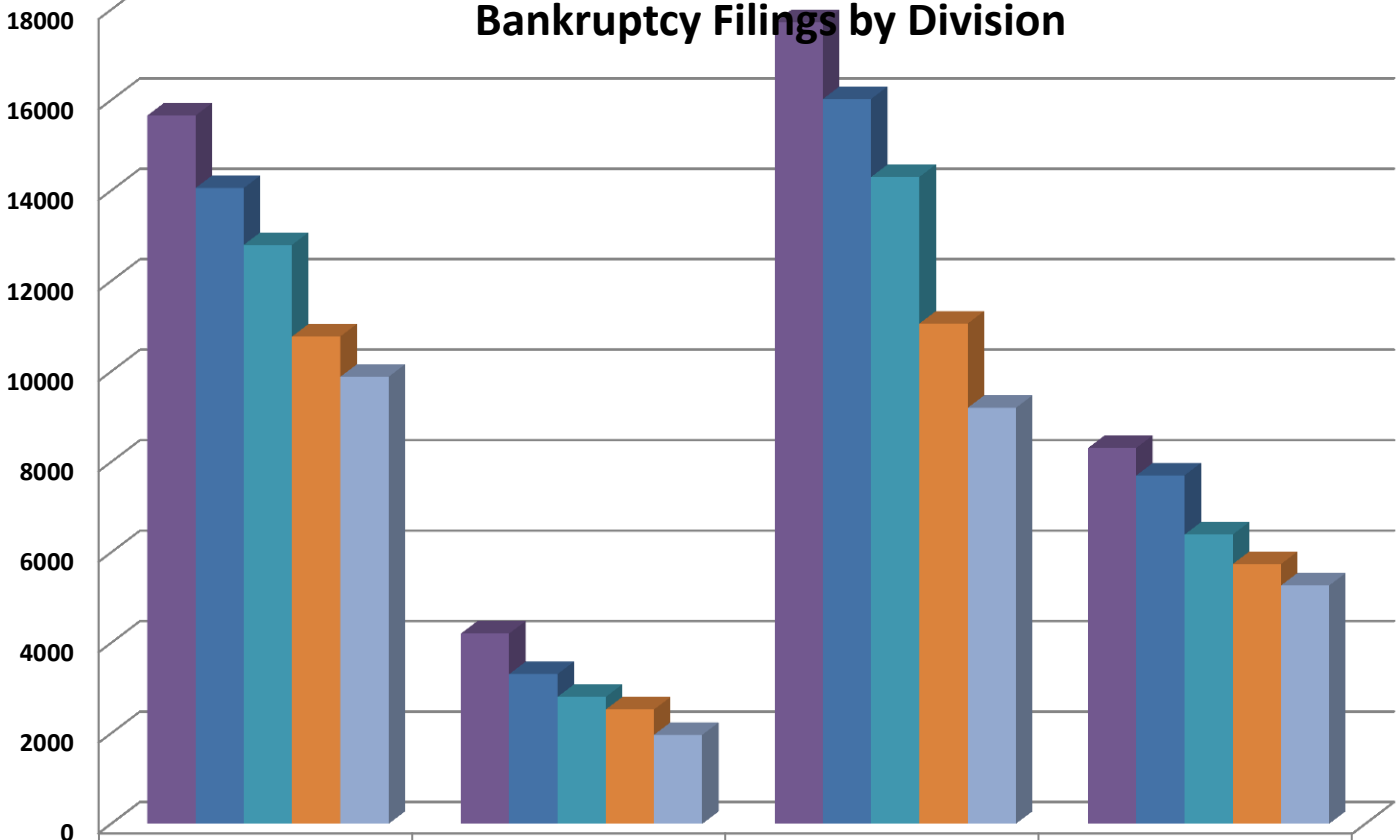
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ Pro Se	5737	6435	6387	5416	4028
% of All Filings	12%	16%	18%	18%	15%

In Forma Pauperis Filings



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
■ IFP Granted	1396	1334	1529	1456	1012
% of All Filings	3%	3%	4%	5%	4%

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	9884	1968	9196	5268

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

Court Connection
Volume No. 5 – Issue No. 3
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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 October edition by September 30, 2016
to: newsletter@flmb.uscourts.gov**