

## **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.