



Assisted District Court Judges
**BANKRUPTCY
PRO SE CLINIC**

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December 29, 2016

To: All Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Professionals:

***Re: Thank You from Middle District of Florida Pro Se
Bankruptcy Legal Assistance Clinic***

Dear Valued Volunteers:

As 2016 comes to a close, it is human nature for all of us to reflect back on the year at hand. We think about our family, friends, election results as well as our own respective legal practices. From the Clinic's unique perspective, we think about the hundreds of volunteers who assisted thousands of individuals in need across Central Florida, the strides our organization has made over the last few years and the tremendous support each one of you has made to make the Clinic possible.

Since the creation of the District-wide Clinic last year, we have seen the clinics and programs in Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville and Fort Myers become harbingers for the rest of the country. As a direct result of the countless hours that each one of you has dedicated to furthering the cause of the Clinic, new bankruptcy *pro se* clinics have blossomed across the country. The work you have provided is truly unprecedented and is an inspiration to thousands of other bankruptcy professionals from St. Louis to Montana and even California.

The Court has also been, and continues to be, extremely supportive of our efforts. In fact, earlier this month, the Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Judges agreed to support the respective clinics' decisions in distributing a list of attorneys who would take cases for compensation, provided that the attorney either has taken a *pro bono* case within the last year or has volunteered each quarter at the Clinic. Consequently, another significant benefit to volunteering is born.

However, as with any successful enterprise, the challenges and work of the clinics shall never be complete. Individuals who lack resources to afford competent bankruptcy counsel will continue in the foreseeable future, despite general market conditions. It is incumbent upon each

of us to rise up to address these continued challenges on a perpetual basis. If past performance is any indication of future results, we know that the clinics' success will continue to grow.

From all of us at the Clinic, Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

Yours Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Justin M. Luna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin M. Luna, Esq.
President

cc: All Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Judges & Associations