

## The Importance of This Thing to Insolvency Law By Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen



Clerk of Court José Rodriguez and our Tampa case managers got a little background about insolvency law recently when Judge McEwen asked them why the item pictured relates to their job and to write their answers on a slip of paper. What's your guess? Write it down before you read on.

Good guesses from the Clerk and case managers abounded, include some that were on point. Here are some:

Helping mend people's situations. *Indeed, we do, but that's not it.*

Keeping things running smoothly. *Indeed, we strive for that, but that's not it.*

It takes a team—4 legs to hold up the table, otherwise there is breakdown. *Insightful answer, but that's not it.*

Communication is broken when it is not communicated properly. *True, but that's not it.*

Back in ancient times, in the marketplace, when a proprietor was out of money and couldn't pay a supplier, the supplier could break the bench on which the proprietor's wares were displayed for sale. Broken bench translates to bankruptcy. *We got a winner!*

Bankruptcy=Broken Bench. *Bingo, another winner!*

*Banca rotta means broken bench in Italian. The word bankruptcy is derived from banca rotta. And that is why the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association features a broken bench in its logo.*