

Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants



Picture courtesy of Tampa Visitors Center



Picture courtesy of Tampa Visitors Center



Picture courtesy of Tampa Visitors Center

26th Annual Educational Conference Professional Skills Seminar

October 7-9, 2015, Tampa, Florida

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA President's Welcome



Welcome! Welcome!

Tampa is the place to be for this year's ABJA Annual Conference. The programs continue to expand the educational training applicable to our professions. The CBA program will enhance your knowledge of Grammar, Code & Rules, and Ethics while the Professional Skills program will broaden our educational training with speakers such as judges, attorneys, and other government entities as well as motivational speakers.



As we continue to strive and put forth the best in our chosen field, I want to thank everyone for their support and membership in the ABJA. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to all the Officers and Committee Chairs along with their supporting casts. Everyone does such a wonderful job to make this organization run smoothly and put on a fantastic conference each year – one that we all can be proud of.

This year has definitely been a growing experience for me. I have tapped into many unknown talents and honed in on those skills that I do have. As my term comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to say that I am truly thankful and blessed for being able to serve as your President and to work with an exceptional group of talented and dedicated people. I hope that each of you will continue to support the ABJA with your membership and participation.

See you in Tampa.

Wishing you all my best,

Dorothy

Dorothy Clay, 2015 ABJA President

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE



Bob Buckhorn
Mayor

Greetings:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the *Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants' (ABJA) 26th Annual Educational Conference* on October 7-9, 2015 at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore Hotel in Tampa, Florida. This important event includes training and certification opportunities through ABJA's *Bankruptcy Certification Program*.

The Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants was established in 1989, and it is committed to serving its members by promoting their general welfare, continuing education, high standards of conduct, and it fosters camaraderie and confidence. The organization established the Bankruptcy Certification Program to promote and maintain professional standards, and it is the only bankruptcy certification program for non-lawyers in the United States. Bankruptcy laws have evolved over the years, and conferences such as this provide the opportunity for judicial assistants to be even more proficient through education.



For those of you who are visiting for the first time, I hope you will have the opportunity to experience the many cultural and historical attractions Tampa, Florida has to offer. Whether you visit one of our landmark attractions, ride the streetcar from downtown to Ybor City, enjoy a meal at one of our fine restaurants or take a stroll along Bayshore Boulevard or Tampa's Riverwalk, we are sure you will find your stay to be an unforgettable experience. We know you will soon learn what so many others have already discovered - Tampa is vibrant, full of energy and one of the greatest cities in Florida.

Again, welcome and best wishes to all those attending.

Sincerely,

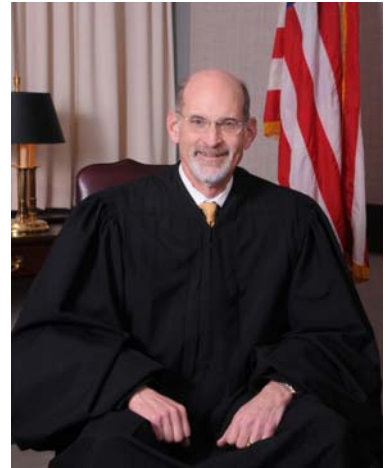
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Buckhorn". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Bob Buckhorn

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE



954 La Mirada St. | Laguna Beach, CA 92651 | 949.497.3673



2014-2015 NCBJ Officers

President

HON. ROBERT E. NUGENT
401 North Market, Rm 104
Wichita, KS 67202

President Elect

HON. MARY GRACE DIEHL
75 Spring St, SW, Rm 1215
Atlanta, GA 30303

Secretary

HON. LAUREL ISICOFF
301 N. Miami Ave., Rm 817
Miami, FL 33128

Treasurer

HON. BASIL H. LORCH
121 W. Spring St., Rm 107
New Albany, IN 47150

Immediate Past President

HON. EUGENE R. WEDOFF
Chicago, IL

Board of Governors At Large

HON. TRISH M. BROWN (2015)
Portland, OR

HON. BETH BURRIS (2016)
Spartanburg, SC

HON. DENNIS R. DOW (2015)
Kansas City, MO

HON. MARY F. WALRATH (2017)
Wilmington, DE

Circuit Representatives

First Circuit

HON. FRANK J. BAILEY (2015)
Boston, MA

Second Circuit

HON. COLLEEN A. BROWN (2016)
Burlington, VT

Third Circuit

HON. KATHRYN C. FERGUSON (2016)
Trenton, NJ

Fourth Circuit

HON. NANCY V. ALOQUIST (2017)
Baltimore, MD

Fifth Circuit

HON. BARBARA HOUSER (2017)
Dallas, TX

Sixth Circuit

HON. ARTHUR I. HARRIS (2017)
Cleveland, OH

Seventh Circuit

HON. CAROL DOYLE (2015)
Chicago, IL

Eighth Circuit

HON. KATHLEEN SANBERG (2017)
Minneapolis, MN

Ninth Circuit

HON. JIM D. PAPPAS (2016)
Boise, ID

Tenth Circuit

HON. ROBERT H. JACOBVITZ (2016)
Albuquerque, NM

Eleventh Circuit

HON. WILLIAM R. SAWYER (2016)
Montgomery, AL

Retired Judges

HON. JOEL B. ROSENTHAL (2015)
Natick, MA

NCBJ Office

JEANNE B. SLEEPER
Executive Director
JSleeper@JBSmgmt.com

July 14, 2015

Ms. Dorothy L. Clay, ABJA President
Chambers of Hon. Jack B. Schmetterer
United States Bankruptcy Court
Everett McKinley Dirksen
United States Courthouse
219 South Dearborn Street, Room 600
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Ms. Clay:

Congratulations to you and your colleagues on your 26th Annual Education Conference. I regret that your conference will not coincide with the NCBJ's Annual Meeting this year as meeting and getting to know your members is always one of the highlights of the event.

Congratulations, too, on your association's ongoing continuing education efforts. Your history reflects your members' deep understanding of the bankruptcy courts' function and the role of judges and chambers in it. Your commitment to that, and to your judges, is much appreciated.

On behalf of all of my colleagues, we thank ABJA and each member for the service you provide to us and to the patrons of our courts every day. Those of us who are lucky enough to have judicial assistants know that we couldn't do what we do without each of you. I only hope we express our gratitude often enough.

My best wishes for a successful meeting in Tampa!

Best regards,

Robert E. Nugent, III
President

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

General Information – Tampa, Florida

HOTEL INFORMATION

HILTON TAMPA AIRPORT WESTSHORE
2225 N. Lois Ave.
Tampa, Florida, 33607-2355

All guest rooms and meeting rooms have complimentary wireless internet access. If you're not a Hilton Honors member, sign up now because all attendees will receive DOUBLE rewards points for their stay.



During breaks from the Conference relax by the outdoor pool, work up a sweat at the fitness center or enjoy a favorite beverage or light snack at the Bay Breeze Lounge.



BREAKFAST

Registered attendees will receive coupons for a full breakfast buffet in the hotel: one each for Thursday and Friday. No continental breakfast will be provided. Additional coupons are available for purchase.

ATTIRE

The dress code for the educational seminars is business casual. Closing dinner is your favorite island wear.

RESERVATIONS

The Group rate is \$104 single/double and will be honored 3 days pre/post, based on availability. Hilton has created our own reservation web link.

[ABJA HILTON RESERVATION](#)



If you prefer to call the hotel directly to make your reservation, you must refer to our group code:

ABJA15

**Telephone Number for Reservations:
813-877-6688.**

Extending your stay

Make your reservation for the conference dates only; get your confirmation number, and then contact the Hilton's Shelly Caruthers at 813-877-6688 to check availability for dates 3 days before October 5, 2015 and after October 9, 2015.

TRANSPORTATION

The Hotel provides complimentary airport transportation and shuttle service within a 3 mile radius of the hotel.

Upon arrival at the airport go to the baggage claim area, and then **call hotel @ 813-877-6688**. You will be directed where to go to wait for the shuttle.

Parking

Complimentary self-parking for anyone driving.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

CBA Program Agenda

Tuesday, October 6

- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Registration
- 8:50 - 9:00 a.m. Welcome
- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Grammar Usage and Writing**
(Instructor: Steve Berman, Esq., Partner at Shumaker, Loop, & Kendrick, Tampa, FL)
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 p.m. **Grammar Usage and Writing** (continued)
- 12:00 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch (on your own)
- 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. **Legal Research**
(Instructor: Prof. Tamara Blenkhorn, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL)
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:15 - 5:00 p.m. **Exam** (Grammar Usage and Writing; Legal Research)

Wednesday, October 7

- 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. **U.S. Bankruptcy Code & Rules** (Instructor: Hon. Catherine McEwen (Judge - Florida Middle Bankruptcy Court, Tampa, FL)
- 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45 - 12:00 p.m. **U.S. Bankruptcy Code and Rules** (continued)
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch (provided)
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. **Ethics**
(Instructor: Hon. Douglas D. Dodd (Chief Judge - Louisiana Middle Bankruptcy Court, Baton Rouge, LA)
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. **Exam** (U.S. Bankruptcy Code and Rules; Ethics)

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Program Agenda

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

5:00 p.m. Registration - Hospitality Suite on first floor by the pool exit.

Thursday, October 8, 2015

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Registration

8:45 - 9:00 a.m. Welcome & Introductions - Dorothy Clay, President of ABJA, Hon. Michael G. Williamson, Chief Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL, and Kathy Deetz, Deputy-in-Charge of Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Florida, Tampa

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. **Strip Down or Strip Off?** Lien Stripping - What is the Difference? Hon. Michael G. Williamson, Chief Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL

9:45 - 10:30 a.m. **Organizational Efficiency in Hearing & Trial Preparation** Ed Comey, Law Clerk, Middle District of Florida, Tampa, FL

10:30 - 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 - 12:00 p.m. CBA BREAKOUT SESSION Practice Excellence - Tips for Organizing your Attorney - Barbara Hart, Esq. and Lara Fernandez, Esq., Tampa, FL, and Jake C. Blanchard, Esq., Largo, FL

10:45 - 12:00 p.m. JA BREAKOUT SESSION The Importance of a Judicial Assistant Judge Coleman will give his perspective on the importance of having a Judicial Assistant; Hon. Edward J. Coleman, III, Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy, Southern District of Georgia, Savannah, GA

12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch On Your Own

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. **Structured Writing** - Learn how to analyze, organize, and present reader focused information Esther DeVries, Ed.D., Federal Judicial Center, Washington, D.C.

3:00 - 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 - 4:30 p.m. **Emotional Intelligence and Work/Life Balance** - Learn how to attain a work-life balance using core concepts of emotional intelligence (EI); Professor Russell Clayton, PH.D, St. Leo University, St. Leo, FL

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. ABJA Business Meeting

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Program Agenda

Friday, October 9, 2015

- 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Welcome & Overview - Dorothy Clay, President of ABJA
- 8:45 - 10:00 a.m. **Volunteer (Pro Bono) Attorney Help Desk**
Jake C. Blanchard, Esq., Largo, FL
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Strengths Finders - Using Your Talents to Reach Your Maximum Potential**
Beverly Griffeth-Bryant, Training Specialist, Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- 11:45 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch On Your Own
- 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. **Working Smarter Not Harder With Your Chapter 13 Trustee**
Kelly Remick and Jon Waage, Chapter 13 Trustees, Tampa, FL
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. CBA BREAKOUT SESSION Practice Excellence**
Chapter 13 Trustees' Tips for Effective Case Management;
Discussion and Idea Exchange facilitated by Chapter 13 Trustees,
Kelly Remick and Jon Waage, Tampa, FL
- 2:45- 3:45 p.m. JA BREAKOUT SESSION Driving Your Growth and Development**
Judicial Assistant Resources
Beverly Griffeth-Bryant, Training Specialist, Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

CBA Speaker Bios



Steven M. Berman is a partner in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group in the Tampa, Florida office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. Mr. Berman has over 25 years of experience and has focused his practice as a business bankruptcy litigator representing creditors, distressed debt lenders, trustees, committees and business entities litigating disputes in bankruptcy court. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in both Creditors' Rights Law and Business Bankruptcy Law and is a member of both the Florida and California Bars. He is a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law 1990, J.D., and Florida State University 1987, B.S., Multinational Business Operations.



Tamara Blenkhorn is a legal writing professor at Florida State University College of Law in Tallahassee. In addition to legal writing, she teaches legal research, legal citation, and client interviewing and counseling. She is a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law and is a member of The Florida Bar.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

CBA Speaker Bios



Catherine Peek McEwen is a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. She was appointed to the bench in August 2005 and sits in Tampa, Florida. She is also an adjunct professor at the Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. After graduating from Stetson University College of Law in 1982, she entered private practice, representing parties in bankruptcy cases. Prior to attending law school, she was a sportswriter from 1975-1979 for the Tampa Tribune and the Tampa Times.



The Honorable Douglas D. Dodd is the United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana. He graduated from Stanford Law School in 1982, after receiving his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* with interdisciplinary honors in 1977 from Tulane University, where he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. Judge Dodd practiced law in New Orleans for nearly 20 years before his appointment to the bench in May 2002. He has taught advanced bankruptcy law at Tulane Law School and currently serves as an adjunct professor of law at the LSU Law Center, teaching a seminar in bankruptcy reorganization.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Speaker Bios



The Honorable Michael G. Williamson was appointed to the bench on March 1, 2000. He sits as a bankruptcy judge in the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division. He also currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at Stetson University College of Law teaching Bankruptcy Law and as Co-Author of West's Bankruptcy Law Manual. Judge Williamson graduated from Duke University in 1973 and from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976. He began his bankruptcy practice serving as a Chapter 7 panel trustee from 1977 to 1979. Thereafter, in the following 20 years, he represented numerous Chapter 11 corporate debtors, creditors' committees, and trustees in bankruptcy cases pending throughout the state of Florida. Judge Williamson is past chair of the Committee on Creditors' Rights, Section of Litigation, American Bar Association; past chair of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar and that Section's Bankruptcy/UCC Committee; and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. (Judge Williamson will be sworn in as Chief Judge on October 1, 2015).



Ed Comey is a law clerk to the Hon. Michael G. Williamson, Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division. Before joining Judge Williamson's chambers, Mr. Comey practiced commercial litigation and creditors' rights in the Tampa office of a national law firm. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Florida and with highest honors from the Florida State University College of Law and is a member of the Order of the Coif. In his spare time, Mr. Comey is the editor of the Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer magazine.



Lara Roeske Fernandez is a Shareholder with Trenam Kemker and is leader of the firm's Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights & Insolvency Practice Group. Ms. Fernandez is also Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy. Her practice area includes business reorganizations (debtor and creditor representation), trustee representation, bankruptcy litigation, and commercial foreclosures. Ms. Fernandez has served as a Chapter 11 trustee and liquidation trustee as well. She joined the firm in November 2004, after serving as the career judicial law clerk for the Honorable Alexander L. Paskay, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Emeritus, Middle District of Florida, from 2001 through 2004, as well as in 1996, after graduating from law school. From 1997 through 2001, she practiced creditors' rights in the private sector.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Speaker Bios



Barbara Hart is a shareholder with the law firm of Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Prosser, P.A., having joined the firm in 2009. Since joining Stichter Riedel, Ms. Hart has focused much of her practice on the sale of distressed assets and the workout of commercial debts, both in and out of state and federal courts. Ms. Hart has practiced in the area of bankruptcy and commercial litigation since graduating with honors from Stetson University College of Law in 2001, where she served as the Managing Editor of the Stetson Law Review, and was the recipient of the Judge Stanley Milledge Award and the McBride Family Scholarship. Prior to joining Stichter Riedel, Ms. Hart had extensive experience with the representation of both debtors and creditors in bankruptcy cases, out of court workouts, and state court proceedings. Ms.

Hart is "AV" rated in Martindale-Hubbell and also served a two year term as law clerk for the Honorable Judge K. Rodney May, United States Bankruptcy Judge, Middle District of Florida.



Jake C. Blanchard practices in the areas of bankruptcy, business and commercial litigation, foreclosure, personal injury and contract disputes. Mr. Blanchard obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Information Services from the University of South Florida summa cum laude. He graduated from the Honors Program at Stetson University College of Law in 2008 where he obtained his Juris Doctor magna cum laude. While in attendance at Stetson, Mr. Blanchard was an Articles and Symposia Editor for the Stetson Law Review. He also worked as a judicial intern at the United States Bankruptcy Court in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Blanchard's professional affiliations include the American Bankruptcy Institute and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. He is presently on the board of directors of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Blanchard owned and operated a collateral recovery company in the Tampa Bay area for approximately 10 years. He has extensive experience representing Chapter 7, Chapter 13, and Chapter 11 debtors, unsecured creditors' committees, creditors, Chapter 7 Trustees, and foreclosure and collection defendants.



The Honorable Edward J. Coleman III was sworn in on June 27, 2013, by the Honorable Frank M. Hull of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of Georgia with a duty station in Savannah, Georgia. He received his B.B.A. in 1979 from Emory University where he majored in accounting and received his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Georgia School of Law where he served on the Moot Court Executive Board. From 1982 until his appointment in June 2013, Judge Coleman practiced with the law firm Surret & Coleman, P.A. in Augusta, Georgia. In private practice, Judge Coleman concentrated on domestic relations, as well as criminal defense and insurance defense. He served as Chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia in 2008-2009 and served on the Executive Committee of that section from 2003-2010. He was a frequent speaker at both domestic relations and bankruptcy conferences,

especially on the intersection of bankruptcy and family law. His bankruptcy practice centered primarily on his duties as a chapter 7 panel trustee in the Southern District of Georgia where he served from 1994-2013.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Speaker Bios



Esther DeVries, Ed.D., is the Director of the Information Technology Office (ITO) for the Federal Judicial Center. The ITO is responsible for developing, delivering, and supporting IT for the Education, Research, History, International, Communications Policy, Human Resource, and Finance divisions of the FJC. Prior to moving to the ITO, Ms. DeVries was an FJC Educational Specialist and worked on the Judges' Information Technology initiative, Structured Writing, and other technology-based programs. Before joining the FJC, Ms. DeVries worked as a freelance developer on a variety of private industry and government software projects. She was also adjunct faculty for the University of Maryland. She taught both online and classroom

based courses in Web design, programming, and software usability. Ms. DeVries has earned a Masters in Computer Science and a doctorate in Instructional Technology.



Dr. Russell Clayton (Ph.D. University of Mississippi) teaches and researches in the area of management. His research on work-life balance has been published via the Harvard Business Review and has been mentioned in such popular-press outlets as NBC News, CNBC, USA Today, Fast Co., Inc., and the Huffington Post. In addition, he has had the opportunity to publish research on work-life balance in high-quality academic journals (e.g., Human Resource Management, Journal of Vocational Behavior) and present at academic conferences such as the Academy of Management and Southern Management Association. Dr. Clayton also enjoys researching management history and writing case studies.



Beverly Griffeth-Bryant is a Training Specialist for the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court and the resident Gallup Certified Strengths Coach for her court unit. She has worked for the courts for 30 years, originating her service to the courts in the Eastern District of Michigan - United States District Court in 1985. During her years of service, she has participated in the Federal Court Leadership Program, where her project was to develop a strengths path that was practical and economical for her court unit and others to follow. That strengths path was implemented by her court unit and the strengths journey is ongoing. Ms. Griffeth-Bryant has presented her "**Talents2Strengths**" presentation at the NCBC (National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks) San Francisco in 2012 and at the NCBC Information Sharing in St. Louis

in 2014 showcasing her court unit's 10 year strengths journey.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Speaker Bios

Jon Waage – Chapter 13 Trustee

Mr. Waage currently serves as a consultant to the Forms Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. He is Board Certified in Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Mr. Waage is a member of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization Bankruptcy Law Exam Commission (writer and examiner from 2003-2009); member of the District Wide Steering Committee for the Middle District of Florida in 2013 and 2014; and chairperson for the NACTT Committee on the Proposed National Plan 2014 and 2015. He is licensed in: The Supreme Court of the United States of America; Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit; Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit; Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit; District Court, Eastern District of Texas; District Court, Northern District of Texas; District Court, Southern District of Iowa; District Court, Northern District of Iowa; The Supreme Court of the State of Texas; and The Supreme Court of the State of Iowa. Mr. Waage received his law degree with honors from Drake University and a Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. In 2004 he was appointed the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for the Middle District of Florida and concurrently also serves as the Standing Chapter 12 Trustee. From 1992 to 2004 he was a partner at the law firm of Waage & Waage, L.L.P. in Denton, Texas, where he represented debtors in Chapter 7, 11, and 13 cases. He is a United States Navy Veteran who proudly served this country on active duty for 6 years. Mr. Waage is an avid runner and triathlete, competing in over 75 marathons (including being an invited runner at 6 Boston Marathons).

Kelly Remick is the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Tampa Division of the Middle District of Florida. Prior to her appointment as Trustee she worked for Jon Waage, Chapter 13 Standing Trustee as his Senior Staff Attorney for almost nine years. She also represented creditors in private practice for many years in bankruptcy and state court proceedings. She received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

CBA Course Descriptions

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 6 & 7, 2015

U.S. BANKRUPTCY CODE AND RULES

Bankruptcy is a remedy for people or businesses who are having trouble paying their debts. Bankruptcy is governed by the Bankruptcy Code and Rules. Learn who appoints a bankruptcy judge; what the Bankruptcy Code and Rules are and how they interact; how a case commences and moves through the system; basic bankruptcy terminology; who is eligible to file; the Means Test; general background and differences among Chapters 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15; the relief available for each Chapter; adversary proceedings; appeals; and getting a fresh start!

GRAMMAR USAGE AND WRITING

Necessary for use in letters, pleadings, orders, memoranda, and life in general. In the ever changing world of bff, LOL, and ttyl, knowing what you are communicating to the world is essential. Learn: writing skills, grammar, and punctuation taught at a freshman college level by a published, bankruptcy litigator. *#knowledgeispower!*

LEGAL RESEARCH

Judges interpret the law and apply it. Knowing where to find the law and applying it will make you and your documents credible and persuasive to the court! Learn: how to use the Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation; binding vs. persuasive; Supreme law of the land; citing legal authority; primary, secondary, and tertiary sources of law; precedential vs. non-precedential; make up of the Federal Circuits; legal terminology, i.e., *supra*, *infra*, and *Id.*

ETHICS

If you thought ethics was just for attorneys—think again! Ethics is the study of moral values and rules. It's motivation based on ideas of right and wrong. Ethics has implications for law office management, paralegals, legal assistants, and judicial assistants. Choose integrity! Learn: Code of Conduct for government employees; general ethics; using ethics in the workplace; ethical and professional standards when communicating with judges or their staff; who is considered an officer of the court; appearance of impropriety; hear various scenarios of how things go wrong when they involve dishonesty, fraud, deceit, and greed. Remember—pigs get fed and hogs get slaughtered!

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY - OCTOBER 9 & 10, 2015

PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

Bankruptcy moves fast and assisting bankruptcy attorneys can be challenging, but beyond managing the calendar, there are a number of ways that you can organize your attorney. This session will discuss the use of task lists and check lists, calendaring do's and don'ts, and a discussion of the knowledge base essential to making you an irreplaceable resource.

PRACTICE EXCELLENCE - CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEES

Tips for effective case management and smooth operation for both debtors' and creditors' firms when dealing and working with Chapter 13 Trustees. Discussion and idea exchange. To be facilitated by Trustees Kelly Remick and Jon Waage.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Course Descriptions

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 2015

STRIP DOWN OR STRIP OFF? LIEN STRIPPING – WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

This course provides general procedural information on how a lien can be stripped off in the bankruptcy court via a motion or an adversary proceeding and how a lien strip may be treated in the national form Chapter 13 plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY IN HEARING AND TRIAL PREPARATION

This course will include a Demonstration of Microsoft OneNote as a tool for management of hearing/trial preparation and other case management functions. Discussion to follow.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

Judge Coleman will give his perspective on the importance of having a Judicial Assistant.



STRUCTURED WRITING

This Structured Writing session will cover:

- analyzing, organizing, and presenting information;
- formatting content for quick reading and increased comprehension;
- creating content that is reader focused; and
- understanding research on how people process information.

Structured writing can be used for policies, procedures, instructions, proposals, and a variety of other documents. This interactive session will provide you with principles and examples that you can start using right away. Based on past feedback, one or more of the things you learn in the session will change the way you write.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND WORK/LIFE BALANCE

This session will show participants that attaining work-life balance is possible by using many of the core concepts of emotional intelligence (EI). Each participant will take a short EI quiz in order to get a “ballpark” idea of their level of EI. Then, we will discuss how EI can lead to work-life balance and how we can take steps to increase our level of EI.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Course Descriptions

FRIDAY OCTOBER 9, 2015

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY HELP DESK

This session will provide a detailed overview of the Pro Bono attorney help desk program. Mr. Blanchard spearheaded the help desk program located in Florida Middle District. The Help Desk provides assistance to Pro Se Debtors and Creditors. This service provides great assistance to the court by providing free legal advice and help in preparation of bankruptcy petition schedules and forms.

STRENGTHSFINDERS - USING YOUR TALENTS TO REACH YOUR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL

The presenter will assist attendees in answering the following questions. Do you ever wonder why you make certain choices? Why you do what you do? Why you like certain things? Why you are better at some things than others?



Gallup, after more than 30 years of research around these questions, studied one million teams, and interviewed more than ten million individuals to develop an assessment tool called the Clifton StrengthsFinder. To date, more than 11 million people have taken the StrengthsFinder, and have discovered a language and a theory to describe and understand how they are uniquely talented. Participants who attend this presentation will learn: What is the Clifton StrengthsFinder? What are talents vs strengths? How do I transform talents into strengths?

WORKING SMARTER NOT HARDER WITH YOUR CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE

This session will be a round table format facilitated by two Chapter 13 Trustees who will discuss how to improve the Chapter 13 process with regard to any forms/orders/communications. A brief discussion on how the paperwork flows/process works will be held and ideas, suggestions and tips will be exchanged.

DRIVING YOUR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

This will be an interactive session which will provide information on various resources and opportunities for continued personal learning and career development. Are you a learner who constantly strives to know more? Are you looking for new learning opportunities? Are you preparing today for tomorrow's career opportunity?

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

Restaurant Review

The Tampa area has a wonderful selection of fine restaurants, sports pubs, and casual dining. Some noted establishments are the **Capital Grille**, which notably offers fine, dry aged steaks, creative seafood dishes like the citrus glazed salmon, and an award-winning wine list. For a large selection of ocean fresh seafood in an elegant, fine dining atmosphere, visit **Eddie V's Prime Seafood**.

At the **Brio Tuscan Grill** you will experience chef-inspired Tuscan recipes that are sure to tempt your palate while served in a relaxed Italian atmosphere. Their moto is "to eat well is to live well". **Roy's Restaurant** is a high-end chain serving notable chef Roy Yamaguchi's Hawaiian fusion fare and Japanese cuisine in a contemporary setting.

Interested in an upscale Brazilian eatery featuring all-you-can-eat grilled meat carved tableside and a salad bar? Visit **Texas De Brazil** where you will experience cuisines of Southern Brazil with a spirit of Texas.

If you feel like venturing out a bit over to **Tampa's Historic Ybor City**, you can visit **The Columbia Restaurant**. This restaurant has been named an 'All-American Icon' and is named one of the "Top 25 Restaurants" in Florida. It features Spanish/Cuban cuisine, nightly flamenco dance performances, and you can even shop in the on-site gift shop for unique gifts.

Visit **Hellas Restaurant and Bakery in Tarpon Springs** for a truly authentic and cultural experience. Award winning Greek Cuisine and Greek Pastries since 1970.

If you are heading to Clearwater Beach, stop at Frenchy's Original Café. Opened in 1981, Frenchy's is a small, quaint local favorite featuring menu items, like smoked fish spread, seafood gumbo, boiled shrimp and Greek salad and, where the now famous Super Grouper sandwich made its debut. There are several locations along the Beach so be sure to try one.

If a Pub atmosphere is more your style check out **Lee Roy Selmons Sports Pub** for some great fried chicken and waffles, the **Blue Martini Lounge** offers over 42 different martinis and entertainment daily. How about a Piano Bar? **Ocean Prime** was voted #1 Piano Bar having an elegant and cosmopolitan flair. Looking for happy hour specials? **Bar Louie** offers half-price appetizers from 4-7pm.

No matter what your dining pleasure is, you will most-likely find it in and around the Tampa area. Refer to the Hilton's Map of Restaurants and the accompanying Restaurant Guide for more detailed information.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

Restaurant Guide

The following restaurants are numbered to match the map presented by the Hilton Hotel.

#54 - Texas De Brazil - 4112 W. Boy Scout Blvd. - (813) 871-1400. The restaurant is an authentic Brazilian-American "Churrascaria" or steakhouse that combines the cuisines of Southern Brazil with the generous spirit of Texas.

#27 - Kona Grill Metwest International - 4134 W Boy Scout Blvd. Kona Grill provides an escape from everyday dining. Indulge in sensational flavors by sampling any of our modern American cuisine - prepared in our scratch kitchen. Or, enjoy stunningly fresh sushi, prepared at our full sushi bar. Kona Grill is not about compromise.

#29 - Lee Roy Selmons Sports Pub - 4302 W Boy Scout Blvd. - (813) 871-EATS (3287). Lee Roy Selmon, the first Tampa Bay Buccaneer enshrined in the NFL Hall of Fame. The Pub is known for sweet heat fried chicken, chicken and waffles and baby back ribs.

#18 - Flemings Steak House – 4322 West Boy Scout Blvd. - (813) 874-9463. Located on the corner of Boy Scout Boulevard and Lois Avenue, directly across from the International Plaza. Join us for a drink after work and choose from our list of 100 wines by the glass, including 30 local selections made by our resident Wine Manager. Then stay to enjoy an exceptional selection of steaks hand-cut USDA Prime steaks.

#42 - Roy's Restaurant - 4342 West Boy Scout Blvd. - (813) 873-7697. Seafood, Japanese. Come in for inspired bites and enticing cocktails during Aloha Hour in the bar and sensational meals in the vibrant dining room.

#16 - Eddy V's Prime Seafood - 4400 West Boy Scout Blvd. The finest seafood and steaks. World-class wine and service and live jazz in the V Lounge.

#38 - Ocean Prime – 2205 North Westshore Blvd. – (813) 490-5288. Elegant, cosmopolitan hot spot with outdoor seating serves steak & seafood plus specialty cocktails. Voted "Best Piano Bar" and "Outdoor Scene" by Tampa Bay Metro.

#24 – IHOP - 4910 Spruce St. - (813) 288-8828. Chain restaurant serving a wide variety of pancakes & other American breakfast & diner fare.

#44 - Ruth Chris Steakhouse – 1700 N. Westshore Blvd. – (813) 282-1118. Known for sizzling, butter-topped beef, signature steaks and seafood served in a warm and comfortable atmosphere.

#48 – Starbucks - 1508 N. Westshore Blvd.

#55 – Tony's Restaurant – 1401 N. Westshore Blvd. - (813) 289-8525. Country-style breakfasts & standard American lunch fare in a simple diner setting. Serves Breakfast all day!

Restaurants at International Plaza Area & Bay Street

#2 - Bar Louie – 2223 N. Westshore Blvd. – (813) 874-1919. Happy Hour Monday – Friday 4pm-7pm (\$3.25 Drafts, \$4.25 Wines, \$5.25 Martinis, 1/2 Price Select Apps & Flatbreads)

#3 - Blue Martini Lounge - 2223 N. Westshore Blvd. #B203 – (813) 873-2583. Looking for the chicest hotspot on Florida's West Coast? Look no further than Blue Martini Tampa. Sip on one of our 42 Martinis while enjoying our delicious appetizers and live entertainment 7 nights a week.

#6 - Brio Tuscan Grill - 2223 N. Westshore Blvd. - (813) 877-3939 . A warm, relaxed Italian eatery serving Tuscan-inspired grill fare, wine and Cocktails. \$5 Martini Night every Wednesday in the bar.

#8 - The Capital Grille – 2223 N. Westshore Blvd. – (813) 830-9433. Upscale steakhouse chain offers classic American fare, dry aged Porterhouse, creative seafood dishes and award-winning wine list.

#12 - Cheesecake Factory – (813) 353-4200. American chain restaurant offering sizable portions from a vast menu including signature cheesecake.

#56 - TooJay's Gourmet Deli – (813) 348-4101 – New York Deli; Florida Style. Corned Beef, Matzo-Ball Soup and other Jewish deli favorites fill the menu at this casual chain.

#47 – Sonny's BBQ - 2551 N Dale Mabry Hwy. - (813) 871-6077. Long-standing fast-food chain specializing in meats slow smoked over oak, plus sides & salads. Known for the ribs!

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

Restaurants at International Plaza

Area & Bay Street

#36 – Moe’s Southwest Grill - 2543 N Dale Mabry Hwy - (813) 871-6637. Counter-serve chain dishing up South-western staples from burritos to nachos in a lively environment.

#31 – Longhorn Steakhouse - 2055 N Dale Mabry - (813) 879-4676. Casual steakhouse chain known for grilled beef and other American dishes in a ranch-style space.

#50 – Sweet Tomatoes -1902 N Dale Mabry Hwy - (813) 874-6566. A buffet style chain restaurant serving health-conscious American cuisine with soups made from scratch.

#32 – Macaroni Grill - 1580 N Dale Mabry Hwy - (813) 873-2878. Lively Italian chain with an open kitchen, known for small plates, pizzas, pastas and wine.

#5 – Brickhouse Tavern & Tap – 1102 N Dale Mabry Hwy - (813) 350-9108. American cuisine and sports bar.

#25 - J. Alexanders – 913 N Dale Mabry Hwy – (813) 354-9006. Contemporary, American restaurant, known for its wood-fired cuisine.

#9 - Carrabba’s Italian Grill – 700 N Dale Mabry Hwy – (813) 875-4411. Italian cuisine served in a family-friendly atmosphere.

Restaurants at Westshore Plaza

#33 - Maggiano’s Little Italy – Cotton on Westshore Plaza – (813) 288-9000. Semi-upscale chain for classic Italian fare served family-style in a relaxed, polished space. Maggiano’s has one main goal – to make people feel special.

#35 - Mitchell’s Fish Market – 204 Westshore Plaza – (813) 289-3663. Relaxing upmarket café showcasing a wide-ranging menu of seafood plus chops and cocktails. Happy Hour at the Market Bar; Sunday-Friday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

#41 – PF Chang China Bistro – 219 Westshore Plaza - (813) 289-8400. Chain restaurant known for chinese and sushi.

#45 – Seasons 52 - 204 N. Westshore Blvd. – (813) 286-1152. Casual fare made with in-season ingredients using oak-fire grilling and brick oven roasting all in an upscale setting.

#58 – Waffle House - 509 N. Westshore Blvd. - (813) 287-8875 – Breakfast with specialty waffles, omelets, also lunch and dinner.

#14 – Chipotle Mexican Grill - 309 N. Westshore Blvd. - (813) 289-9820. Fast-food chain offering Mexican fare, including design-your-own burritos, tacos & bowls.

#11 – Charley’s Steakhouse - 4444 West Cypress St. – (813) 353-9706. Upscale restaurant known for delivering wood-fired, aged steaks and seafood classics.

Kennedy Blvd. Area

Fast food galore! Taco Bell, Burger King, McDonalds, Panera Bread, GoGo’s Greek and Starbucks.

#17 – Donatello’s Italian Cuisine – 232 N Dale Mabry Hwy (813) 875-6660. An old-school, upscale Italian restaurant with live music and tuxedo-clad waiters amid stucco arches.

#23 – Havana Village Café & Sandwichshop – 120 N Dale Mabry Hwy – (813) 872-9049. Serving breakfast and Cuban cuisine.

#57 – Village Inn – 215 N Dale Mabry Hwy – (813) 877-2617. A family-friendly chain restaurant serving home-style American classics such as chicken-fried steak and pot pie.

#43 – Ruby Tuesday – 201 N Sale Mabry Hwy – (813) 879-2510. Casual chain serving American fare.

Historic Ybor City

The Columbia Restaurant – 2117 East 7th Avenue, Tampa – (813) 248-4961. This restaurant has been named an ‘All-American Icon’ and is named one of the “Top 25 Restaurants” in Florida. It features Spanish/Cuban cuisine.

Tarpon Springs

Hellas Bakery & Restaurant – 785 Dodecanese Blvd – (727) 943-2400. Traditional Greek cuisine including gyros, souvlaki, lamb and seafood.

Clearwater Beach

Frenchy’s Original Café - 41 Baymont St. – (727)-446-3607. A small, quaint restaurant serving seafood, burgers, chicken and tacos.

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

Restaurant Map



- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 5 Guys Burgers | Kennedy | 21 GoGo's Greek | Kennedy | 41 PF Chang China Bistro | Westshore Plaza |
| 2 Bar Louie | Intl Plaza | 22 Green Iguana | Dale Mabry | 42 Roy's | Boy Scout |
| 3 Blue Martini | Intl Plaza | 23 Havana Village Sandwich | Dale Mabry | 43 Ruby Tuesday | Dale Mabry |
| 4 Boizao | Boy Scout Blvd | 24 IHOP | Boy Scout | 44 Ruth Chris Steakhouse | Westshore |
| 5 Brick house | Dale Mabry | 25 J. Alexanders | Dale Mabry | 45 Seasons 52 | Westshore |
| 6 Brio | Intl Plaza | 26 Jimbo's BBQ | Kennedy | 46 Sonic | Dale Mabry |
| 7 Burger King | Kennedy | 27 Kona Grill | Boy Scout | 47 Sonny's BBQ | Dale Mabry |
| 8 Capital Grille | Intl Plaza | 28 La Teresita | Columbus | 48 Starbucks | Westshore |
| 9 Carrabba's | Dale Mabry | 29 Lee Roy Selmons | Boy Scout | 49 Subway | Walmart |
| 10 Champs | Intl Plaza | 30 Lenny's Sub Shop | Kennedy | 50 Sweet Tomatoes | Dale Mabry |
| 11 Charlies Steakhouse | Cypress | 31 Longhorn Steakhouse | Dale Mabry | 51 Taco Bell | Kennedy |
| 12 Cheesecake Factory | Intl Plaza | 32 Maccaroni Grill | Dale Mabry | 52 Thai Terrace | Dale Mabry |
| 13 Coopers Hawk Winery | Spruce | 33 Maggianos Little Italy | Westshore Plaza | 53 The Palm | Westshore Plaza |
| 14 Chipotle | Westshore | 34 McDonalds | Kennedy | 54 Texas De Brazil | Spruce |
| 15 Crazy Buffet | Dale Mabry | 35 Mitchells Fish Market | Westshore Plaza | 55 Tony's Restaurant | Westshore |
| 16 Eddie V's | Spruce | 36 Mo's Southwest Grill | Dale Mabry | 56 TooJay's | Intl Plaza |
| 17 Donatello's | Dale Mabry | 37 Mr. Empanada | Kennedy | 57 Village Inn | Dale Mabry |
| 18 Fleming's Steak House | Boy Scout Blvd | 38 Ocean Prime | Boy Scout | 58 Waffle House | Westshore |
| 19 Floridian Cuban | Kennedy | 39 Panera Bread | Westshore | 59 Wendy's | Dale Mabry |
| 20 Giordano's Pizza | Dale Mabry | 40 Perkins | Dale Mabry | | |

HILTON TAMPA WESTSHORE AIRPORT

2225 N. LOIS AVE | TAMPA, FL 33607
P. 813-877-6688 | TAMPAAIRPORT.HILTON.COM

2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

Conference Social Events!

OPENING RECEPTION ... Wednesday Evening, October 7, 2015

Join us at the Hilton Westshore pool area from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Savor Cuban delicacies while enjoying a flamenco dancer's intricate movements to the rhythm of a strumming, Spanish guitar.

- Cash bar
- Non-member/Guest Fee: \$50.00



CLOSING BANQUET ... Friday Evening, October 9, 2015

We've been telling you that Tampa is all about the water. What better way to close our conference than at Whiskey Joe's, located on the Bay. Enjoy relaxing water views during dinner. When you're not eating, take some time to have fun on the beach - play volleyball, unwind by the fire pits, or dance in the sand to live entertainment. This is a casual affair, but no bathing suits please. The closing banquet is from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

- Transportation will be provided
- Cash bar
- Non-member/Guest Fee: \$75.00

Check out Whiskey Joe's Bar and Grill

<http://www.whiskeyjoestampa.com/home>



2015 ABJA CONFERENCE

ABJA Registration - Members

REGISTRATION IS NOW ONLINE

2015 ABJA Professional Skills Registration



Early Registration Discount:

Register by August 15, 2015 and take advantage of the \$25.00 discount.

**IF YOU ARE PAYING BY CHECK, REGISTER ONLINE AND MAIL YOUR PRINTED
REGISTRATION AND CHECK TO:**

Ursula C. Hamilton, Treasurer
c/o Chambers of Hon. J. Craig Whitley
U.S. Bankruptcy Court, WDNC
401 West Trade Street, Room 111
Charlotte, NC 28202

**Deadline for registration submission is September 4, 2015.
Absolutely No Refunds After September 14, 2015
(no exceptions).**



