

The Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association Pro Bono Initiative

Rule 4-6.1 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar sets forth *pro bono* service guidelines for attorneys admitted to practice in the State of Florida. The goal of The Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association ("NFBBA") is to facilitate individual efforts to meet these guidelines. All Florida lawyers are encouraged to participate by providing *pro bono* opportunities to those who have a legitimate need.

In an effort to further the NFBBA's goal, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida (the "Court") has worked with the NFBBA to create the "Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Bono Initiative". This Initiative seeks to encourage members of the NFBBA to provide *pro bono* services for individuals that may have been identified by the Court or the NFBBA as being in need of *pro bono* representation.

The Initiative will work as follows:

- 1. Attorneys who are interested in providing pro bono services may submit their name to the NFBBA by calling the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Bono Initiative at 866-570-6692.
- 2. When a party in need of *pro bono* representation is identified by the Court, the NFBBA, or another entity or outlet, Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Bono Initiative staff will attempt to match the prospective client with an attorney.
- 3. If the attorney undertakes the representation and is required to appear in Court on a matter related to the representation, whenever possible, the Court shall call the matter as early in its calendar as possible to minimize the attorney's waiting time.
- 4. The NFBBA shall provide assistance during this process as needed.

This Initiative can only be successful if members of the NFBBA are active participants in the program. Notice of the Initiative will be placed on the NFBBA website, the Court's website, and will be provided to other appropriate outlets. Attorneys who participate in the program will be recognized in these outlets and at the NFBBA's annual retreat.

The Board of the NFBBA encourages all members to participate in this wellmeaning and rewarding Initiative. If you have any questions, please contact the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Bono Initiative at 866-570-6692.