



THE BANKRUPTCY ADVISOR



A Periodic Publication of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida

In this issue...

Views & News from the Bench	2
Pro Bono Honor Roll	2
Did You Know? U.S. Courts Website	3
Getting to Know You: Shirley Palumbo	3
FLNB Mile Markers: Chief Judge Karen K. Specie	3
Paralegal & Legal Assistant Training to be Held	4
Help Desk Hints: "Judges" Tab on FLNB Website	4
Holiday Closings	4
Getting to Know You: William Wohlsifer	5
Tips & Tricks: The WRONG Way to Redact	5
ECF Essentials: Amended Documents	5
Bar Association News: Annual Seminar	6
Getting to Know You: Stephanie Lieb	8
Office Closings Due to Inclement Weather	8
FLNB Resources	9
5 Year Filings - FLNB	9

Proposed Revision to Local Chapter 13 Form Plan Effective December 1, 2017

Amendments to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3015 and 3015.1, effective December 1, 2017, if approved by the Judicial Conference, will implement a uniform national chapter 13 plan unless a local form satisfying the conditions of the Rule 3015.1 is adopted by the individual court.

An *ad hoc* committee consisting of attorneys throughout the Northern District representing both debtor and creditor interests, the Chapter 13 Trustee, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office was convened and opted to develop a local plan which meets the requirements of the Rules while also meeting the needs of our District.

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie approved the proposed form plan and an invitation for public comment was issued. The proposed form will be submitted to the Administrative Office for the United States Courts for final approval.

Upon final approval of the local plan form, the form will be posted to the Court's website in fillable, portable document format (PDF), and provided to the bankruptcy petition software vendors for inclusion in their programs.

We would like to thank the following attorneys for volunteering their time to serve on this committee:

Martin S. Lewis, Chair
Lewis & Jurnovoy, P.A.

Allen Turnage
Allen Turnage, P.A.

James E. Sorenson
Sorenson Van Leuven, PLLC

Kathryn Hathaway
Hathaway Law Firm

Leigh D. Hart
Chapter 13 Trustee

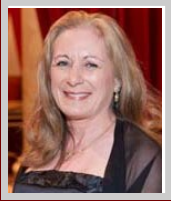
Robert R. McDaniel, II
Robert R. McDaniel, II, P.A.

Sarah Walton
Philip A. Bates, P.A.

Sharon T. Sperling
Law Office of Sharon T. Sperling

William Miller
Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee

Our Mission: To administer justice fairly while providing excellent service to those we serve.



Views & News from the Bench

By: Karen K. Specie
United States Bankruptcy Judge
Northern District of Florida

I look forward to seeing and talking to as many of you as possible at the Annual Reception, Meeting and Seminar of the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association at the Hotel Duval in Tallahassee, on October 19-20, 2017. Because of that approaching opportunity to give the "state of the court" address, here I will be brief.

What stands out from this past quarter is the reminder of the high caliber of attorneys who practice in this district. Aside from competence and professionalism, our practitioners care: about their clients, the public and each other. During the past few weeks, happily some of our colleagues have celebrated joyous events. But some others have suffered enormous personal tragedy. Yet others have faced significant health issues.

For the benefit of the public and this court, members of our bar have recently taken on *pro bono* representation of self-represented debtors dealing with reaffirmation of debt, defending adversary proceedings seeking denial of discharge, and facing loss of their homes. For each other, lawyers have recently filed motions seeking continuances on behalf of opposing counsel who suffered a catastrophic personal loss. I've recently witnessed at least three lawyers step in and handle hearings for another attorney who suffered an unexpected medical condition.

"Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." Anthony J. D'Angelo.

It is rewarding to have experienced first-hand the wonderful, caring sense of community within the bankruptcy bar of the Northern District of Florida.

PRO BONO HONOR ROLL

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida takes pleasure in recognizing the efforts of those attorneys who provide legal assistance, without compensation, to those who face substantial economic hardship so that they are able to navigate through the bankruptcy process. These services greatly benefit our nation's bankruptcy system and all of its components. Those volunteer efforts include *pro bono* legal representation for qualifying parties in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings, reaffirmation agreements, and stay relief. We recognize and thank the following *pro bono* volunteers for their current and continued support in serving the people of our district:

Gregory Boyd Wilhelm
Baybridge Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

India Footman
Footman Law Firm, P.A.

Kathryn Hathaway
Hathaway Law Firm

Leighanne Boone
The Boone Law Firm, PA

Thank You!



Bankruptcy Information Available on U.S. Courts' Website

The website of the United States Courts (www.uscourts.gov) is available to you, your clients, the media, and the general public and provides [bankruptcy information](#) in a plain language, easy to understand format with links to fee schedules, forms, tax information, creditor counseling, debtor education resources, and more. The site also provides information regarding pending Rules and Forms amendments.

Getting to Know Shirley Palumbo

Greenspoon Marder, P.A.

What would you be doing if you weren't an attorney? Librarian

How do you recharge/what do you like to do in your spare time? Read, work out, share with my family

What characteristic do you most admire in others? loyalty, respect, positive attitude

If you ruled the world, what would you change on day 1? The traffic system

What one thing in your life are you the most proud of? Board certified in bankruptcy/3 kids

What job have you held in the past that would be a surprise to us? Fitness Coordinator at LA Fitness

What is the last really great book you read, and why? The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks - First embryonic stem cell- Hela cell -was derived from cervical cancer cells from Henrietta Lacks who died of cancer-the cells were taken without her knowledge and massively reproduced.

What is your favorite sports team? If it's a collegiate team, did you attend there or grow up nearby? Vicariously, through my husband

What one tidbit of advice would you give to others? Don't fret the problem, find the solution.



Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie

5 years

By Traci E. Abrams

Chambers and Clerk's Office staff celebrated the five-year anniversary of Chief Judge Karen K. Specie a day early on July 24, 2017. The celebration included words of appreciation by Clerk of Court Traci Abrams, Law Clerks Samantha Kelley, John Van Hise III, and Byron "Trey" Wright III, and Courtroom Deputy Janet Weems as well as an excellent strawberry shortcake desert crafted by Samantha Kelley.

Judge Specie began work immediately upon her appointment in 2012, and has been a whirlwind of activity ever since that day. Her dedication to the law, court staff, and to court constituents is second to none. To honor this special occasion, and for the first time in the history of this court, Judge Specie was presented with a five-year certificate of appreciation signed by Chief District Judge M. Casey Rodgers. A second certificate signed by all members of Clerk's Office and chambers staff was also presented to Judge Specie as a token of appreciation for her work and dedication.



Professor Vandercreek's Supreme Court Seminar, Florida State University, Spring 1978



Judge Specie and Chambers Staff, July 2017

Paralegal and Legal Assistant Training Seminar Friday, October 20, 2017

The Clerk's Office for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida will host a half-day training seminar for paralegals and legal assistants in conjunction with the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association Annual Conference. The agenda has not yet been finalized but will include the following:

- Appeals
- Day in the Life of a Case Administrator
- Effective 12/1: Law Changes, Chapter 13 Form Plan, and ECF Upgrade
- Local Rules Revision Update
- Negative Notice
- Proposed Orders: Formatting, Preferences, and Examples
- Service of Documents and Objections to Claim
- Submission Error Notifications (SENs)
- Update on NextGen ECF - Single Sign On

The seminar will be held in Tallahassee at the U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse, Second Floor Courtroom, 100 E. Park Ave., Tallahassee, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Eastern Time, with video broadcast to the following locations:

- Gainesville: U.S. Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room, 401 SE First Ave.
- Panama City: U.S. Courthouse, Courtroom, 30 W. Government St.
- Pensacola: Winston E. Arnow Federal Building, Courtroom 1, 100 N. Palafox St.

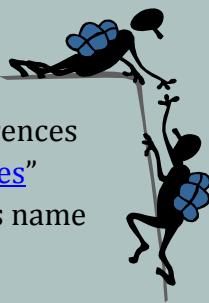
Please pre-register at <http://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/paralegal-seminar-registration>. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Gibson at Julie_Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov or by phone at 850-521-5014.

HELP DESK HINTS...

"Judges" Tab on the FLNB Website

Judge-specific information, including preferences and requirements, is available via the "Judges" tab of our website. Selecting Judge Specie's name provides quick access to:

[Chambers Contact Info](#)
[Court Calendar](#)
[Guide to Judicial Practices in Florida's Federal Courts](#)
[Instructions and Procedures](#)
[Local Rules](#)
[Mortgage Modification Mediation](#)
[Opinions](#)
[Pro Bono Resources](#)
[Proposed Orders Guidelines](#)
[Requirements for Voluminous Pleadings](#)
[Standing/Operational/District Court Orders](#)
[Telephonic Appearances via Court Call](#)



Holiday Closings

The Office of the Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 6103:

Monday, September 4 - Labor Day
Monday, October 9 - Columbus Day
Friday, November 10 - Veterans' Day
Thursday, November 23 - Thanksgiving
Monday, December 25 - Christmas

CM/ECF and PACER will be available for filing and/or viewing cases.

Getting to Know William Wohlsifer

William R. Wohlsifer, PA

What would you be doing if you weren't an attorney?

Reading about World Religions and rowing on our Heritage 15.

How do you recharge/what do you like to do in your spare time? I am energized by political discourse and attending my wife's live performances as a jazz pianist and vocalist.

What characteristic do you most admire in others?

Willingness to admit errors or flaws.

If you ruled the world, what would you change on day 1?

I would restock the rivers and oceans with fish and other marine life.

What one thing in your life are you the most proud of?

Earning a law degree at age 42, while also running businesses and raising children.

What job have you held in the past that would be a surprise to us?

I was a stage lighting technician for The Ramones (and 100s of other performers circa 1978 through 1988).

What is the last really great book you read, and why?

Alchemy and the Tarot: An Examination of the Historic Connection, by Robert M. Place.

What is your favorite sports team?

I do not have a favorite sports team. But living and working in Tallahassee I think I'm obligated to say, Go Noles!

What one tidbit of advice would you give to others?

The attainment of our higher selves evolves in direct proportion to our ability to voluntarily and willingly surrender our egos.



Tips & Tricks

The WRONG Way to Redact:

- **Changing your font color to white:** This may look like your words are hidden, but they aren't. Highlighting the area with a mouse, allows you to read the font in the colored background.
- **Failing to remove metadata:** All word processing programs retain hidden code (metadata) which can reveal all kinds of information you didn't intend to be seen. Be sure to "flatten" your PDF before filing in CM/ECF to remove metadata.
- **Using the "black box":** Redaction by use of a black box over the text does not secure your information. The box can be moved by viewers, revealing the text underneath.

There are many commercially available software programs that provide redaction features and there is a plethora of "how to" suggestions available on the internet.

The court does not claim to be experts on redaction methods, nor do we endorse any specific method of sanitizing your documents, however, failure to properly redact may result in your document being restricted from viewing on the docket.

ECF Essentials

Change to Filing of Amended Documents

You may have noticed a recent change when filing amended documents (Amended Document, Amended Motion, and Amended Application). This change includes a prompt for you to advise that you are correcting a Submission Error Notification (SEN) so that the court can ensure that all appropriate follow-up actions are performed. These actions might include scheduling a hearing, issuing subsequent notice, forwarding the matter to Chambers for review and/or an order, or adding statistical information in CM/ECF for BAPCPA reporting, to name a few.

Please use the appropriate "amended" event when filing amended documents to aid in this process and to avoid receiving additional SENs. Use the "Search" button in the blue menu bar at the top of the CM/ECF screen to find "amended" events available to you. If you have any questions or problems, please contact our help desk at (888) 765-1752 or by email at CMECF_HelpDesk@flnb.uscourts.gov.

BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS



2017 Annual Seminar - Hotel Duval, Tallahassee October 19-20, 2017

REGISTRATION

Registration Fee (through August 31, 2017): \$220 and \$240 thereafter. Fee includes annual membership dues, cocktail reception on Thursday night at the Tallahassee Garden Club (located one block north east of Hotel Duval), and breakfast, lunch, and beverages during the seminar Friday.

HOTEL DUVAL

Seminar Room Rate: \$189.00 per night. **Must book by September 19, 2017.** Reserve at (888)717-8854 or online using this link: [FL Bankruptcy Bar Association](http://FL.Bankruptcy.Bar.Association). Overnight Parking \$10/Event Parking \$5.

GOLF OUTING & COCKTAIL RECEPTION - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

A golf outing will take place on Thursday afternoon at 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Please contact Michael A. Wynn for more information at Michael@wynnlaw-fl.com no later than October 1st to submit your reservation for the golf outing. *An alternate afternoon outing for those who do wish to golf is being planned, schedule permitting.*

The Annual Cocktail Reception will be Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. at the Tallahassee Garden Club.

DINNER - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

The board will host dinner for the Judges and speakers at the Hotel Duval's Mahogany Room at 7:45 p.m.. Spouses are welcome to attend. Please see the NDFLBBA [seminar website](#) for more information.

SEMINAR & MEMBERSHIP MEETING - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20

We will seek Florida CLE accreditation to include ethics and technology.

8:00	Continental Breakfast & Late Registration	1:00	Exemptions Update - John E. Venn, Jr., Chapter 7 Panel Trustee
8:45	Welcome - Sarah S. Walton, Philip A. Bates, P.A., President of NDFLABBA	1:30	Zealous Advocate or Zealous Zealot - Jodi Daniel Cooke, Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A., and Stephanie Lieb, Trenam Law
9:00	Caselaw Update - Bradley M. Saxton, Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman, P.A., and Michael Wynn, Charles M. Wynn Law Offices, P.A./ Bay County Public Defender's Office	2:20	Coffee Break
10:00	Mediation in Bankruptcy - Lewis M. Killian, Jr., Berger Singerman	2:30	View from the Bench - Honorable Karen K. Specie, FLNB, Honorable Henry A. Callway, ALSB, and Honorable Jerry C. Oldshue, ALSB
10:40	Coffee Break	3:30	U.S. Trustee's Office - Guy G. Gebhardt, Acting U.S. Trustee
11:00	Technology & the Law - Jeff Childers, Childers Law	4:00	Clerk's Update - Traci E. Abrams, Clerk of Court
12:00	Lunch, Pro Bono Update & Annual Membership Meeting	4:30	Closing Remarks - Sarah S. Walton, Philip A. Bates, P.A., President of NDFLABBA

SPONSORSHIP

If you or your firm would like to sponsor the seminar or provide office supplies for use at the seminar, please contact Trevor Thompson at (850) 320-6827 (tthompson@clarkpartington.com) or Sarah Walton at (850) 470-0091 (swalton@philipbates.net), or return the sponsorship form with your check.

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION
2017 Annual Seminar Brochure
Seminar Registration Form**

Complete and return this with your check (made payable to the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association, Inc.) to: Trevor Thompson, tthompson@clarkpartington.com, (850) 320-6827, Clark Partington, P.A. | 106 East College Avenue, Suite 600 | Tallahassee, FL 32301.

- _____ I am attending the seminar and joining NDFLBBA for the first time. (\$220 early bird or \$240)
- _____ I am attending the seminar and renewing my membership in NDFLBBA. (\$220 early bird or \$240)
- _____ I am attending the seminar as a full-time legal services attorney or a first year attorney. (\$150)
- _____ I am not attending the seminar but would like to join/renew my membership in NDFLBBA. (\$50)
- _____ I am a speaker. (\$0)
- _____ My contact information has changed since last year.

Name: _____

Firm Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION
2017 Annual Seminar Brochure
Sponsorship Form**

Complete and return this with your check (made payable to the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association, Inc.) to: Trevor Thompson, (850) 320-6827, Clark Partington, P.A. | 106 East College Avenue, Suite 600 | Tallahassee, FL 32301 or Sarah S. Walton, (850) 470-0091, Philip A. Bates, P.A. | 25 W. Cedar Street | Suite 550 | Pensacola, FL 32502.

A check is enclosed for the following sponsorship level:

_____ Bronze (\$150) _____ Silver (\$300) _____ Gold (\$500) _____ Platinum (\$750)

Name or Firm Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Getting to Know Stephanie C. Lieb

Trenam Law

What would you be doing if you weren't an attorney? My dream has always been to open a holistic medicine day spa. Maybe someday...

How do you recharge/what do you like to do in your spare time? Run.

What characteristic do you most admire in others? The ability to really listen.

What one thing in your life are you the most proud of? My husband and two boys.

What job have you held in the past that would be a surprise to us? Server at a sports bar.

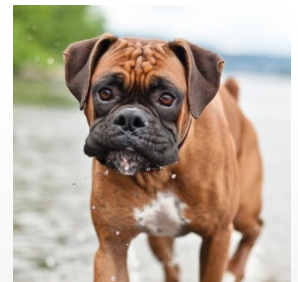
What is the last really great book you read, and why? I just finished reading the first Harry Potter book to my kids. I was surprised at how good it was, and the kids loved it.

What is your favorite sports team? Tampa Bay Lightning- Go Bolts!

What one tidbit of advice would you give to others? Kindness goes a long way.

Office Closings Due to Inclement Weather

According to [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#), the “dog days of summer” ended with the sunrise on August 11; not that we would know it considering that it’s definitely not cooling off! For those of us in the panhandle of the “sunshine state,” we’ve had more rain than sunshine this summer, and we are still in the midst of hurricane season so it may not be over just yet.



We want to remind you that, should we need to close one or more offices or reschedule or relocate court due to severe weather, you will be advised through phone message recordings, instant notifications of *Court Announcements & News* posted to the Court’s website, and/or mass email to all registered users of our CM/ECF system. For closures affecting court hearings, a notice rescheduling or relocating those hearings will also be docketed, if possible.

To ensure that you receive all notifications from our office:

- Sign up for the RSS Feed on the home page of our website to receive instant notification of Announcements.
- Ensure that the “uscourts.gov” domain is listed as a “safe” domain with your email and/or internet service provider to prevent emails from being rejected as “spam.”
- Add my email address, Julie_Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov, as a whitelisted or “safe” email address to prevent emails from being rejected as “spam.”
- Call our office before visiting or attending court to ensure that we are open and/or to receive instructions if we are not. Our Help Desk numbers are (850) 521-5002 (Tallahassee) or (888) 765-1752 (toll free).

Wishing you cooler days ahead! ~ Julie

FLNB Resources

Rev. 08/17

Cases in the Northern District of Florida are randomly assigned to Case Administrators throughout the district shortly after filing. The name of the Case Administrator to whom a case is assigned is located at the top of the docket report in CM/ECF.

Ann Laritz
(850) 470-3060

Libby Deroche
(850) 470-3061

Janet Weems
Courtroom Deputy &
Calendar Clerk
(850) 521-5009

Help Desk &
CM/ECF Access
(850) 521-5001
(866) 765-1752

Carolyn Romine
(850) 470-3062

Lisa Davis
(850) 521-5010

Tammi Boswell
Director of Operations
(850) 521-5011

Latonia Isom
(850) 521-5012

Melanie Lawrence
(407) 237-8021

For cases assigned to Judge Jennemann

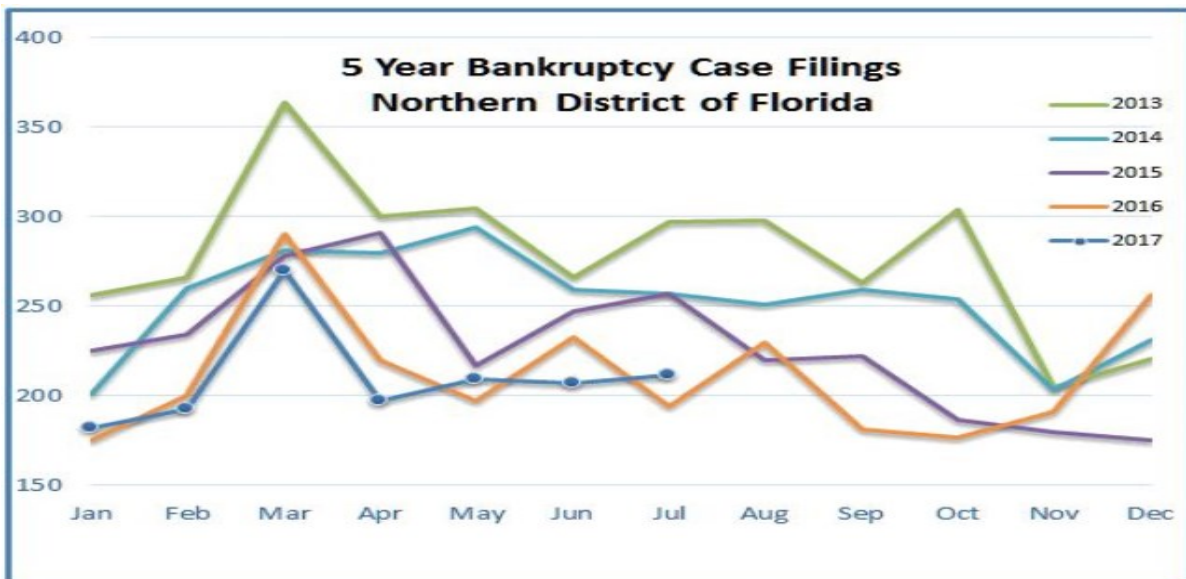
The Clerk's Office phones are answered from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on federal holidays. Please feel free to call or email the Case Administrators with your procedural questions. The Clerk's Office is not permitted to answer legal questions nor can they provide guidance as to the content or types of documents that may be required.

CM/ECF Help Desk

(850) 521-5001 or (866) 765-1752

CMECF_HelpDesk@flnb.uscourts.gov

Please visit us on the web at www.flnb.uscourts.gov



The monthly filing and closing statistics for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida are posted to the Court Resources page of our website at www.flnb.uscourts.gov. Statistical information will be available by the 15th of each month.

Questions, Comments, or Corrections

If you have questions, comments, or corrections regarding this newsletter, please contact Julie Gibson at (850) 521-5014 or by email at Julie_Gibson@flnb.uscourts.gov.