

SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

TBBA Newsletter

Message from the President

It is now a little over half way through the term of service for this year's TBBA Board, and I am happy to report that we are in the middle of an extremely productive year.

Over the course of this year, I and other members of our board have been privileged to have several meetings with Chief Judge St. John and Judge Santoro on behalf of the TBBA, and to discuss our plans to improve bench-bar relations, the quality of representation offered by our membership, and the opportunities we offer our members for education and improvement. It was out of these conversations that several of the TBBA's recent initiatives arose, including our spring luncheon, the mentorship program, and "Welcome to Bankruptcy," an introductory CLE designed to welcome new practitioners to our Court and our Bar.

I am particularly proud of this year's TBBA board and its efforts to improve every aspect of bankruptcy practice in Hampton Roads. If you have any suggestions or concerns for our bar, do not hesitate to contact me or any member of our board.

On behalf of your board, thank you for the privilege of serving,

**Ken Whitehurst,
President**

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It is the Board's plan to improve bench-bar relations, the quality of representation offered by our membership, and the opportunities we offer our members for education and improvement in the upcoming year.

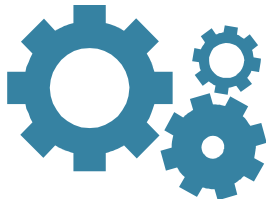
The Spring Luncheon

As many of you will recall, we were extremely fortunate to welcome our judges to our spring luncheon for a spirited question and answer session. The Judges graciously and candidly answered a wide range of questions submitted anonymously from our membership. Based on the feedback we received from those of you in attendance, and from the judges themselves, we are very pleased with the event, and will keep the concept in mind for future luncheons. On behalf of the TBBA, I would again like to thank Chief Judge St. John and Judge Santoro for their willingness to answer our questions candidly and to allow our membership an insight into their views from the bench.

The TBBA welcomes new attorneys for membership and invites them to join its new Mentorship Program.

2013 Board of Directors

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Please have your new attorneys and staff attend the "Welcome to Bankruptcy" CLE. It's free!

TBBA Mentorship Program

As you are likely aware, one of the current concerns across the practice of law is the influx of younger attorneys into the practice (and this economy) without the benefit of guidance from older partners or a larger law-firm structure. New attorneys are opening up their own practices at a higher rate than in the past, due largely to the economy. Some find themselves in our courtrooms and 341 hearing rooms for the first time, wondering who is who, and how and why things are done here.

The TBBA welcomes new attorneys, and, for those who may not have a wizened older partner on whom to rely for bankruptcy advice, is forming a Mentorship Program, headed up by our own Immediate Past President, John Ryan. As you will see below, John has enough dirt on a variety of our most experienced members to convince them to act as mentors for those who may just be looking for someone to bounce ideas off of.

If you are in a small or solo firm and are new to the area, the practice, or our Bar, I encourage you to get in touch with John, and give our Mentorship Program a shot. It is intended to be highly informal, and to be a useful resource for you when you need it. Please see page 3 for more information on the Program and our Mentor's profiles.

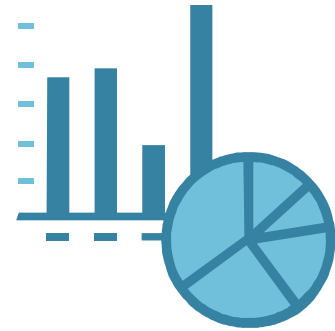
Welcome to Bankruptcy

Although you may think it every time you open a bill, "Welcome to Bankruptcy" is actually the name of our upcoming CLE for practitioners new to bankruptcy, who dabble in bankruptcy, or who are simply curious about how our system works. The CLE, organized by TBBA board member Clara Swanson, will be held on October 24, 2013 from 1:30-4:30 in a United States District Courtroom on the First Floor of the Walter E. Hoffman U.S. Courthouse in Norfolk.

THIS CLE IS NOT INTENDED FOR EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONERS. It is designed to introduce lawyers and their staff to our judges, our clerks, the U.S. Trustee's Office, and Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 trustees, and will include a mock 341 meeting, and a mock evidentiary hearing concerning the stripping of a lien from residential property. If you have newer attorneys or staff in your office, especially those who cover hearings or 341 meetings for you and your clients, please encourage them to attend. If you have referral sources or colleagues who dabble in bankruptcy or wonder just what it is we do, encourage them to come as well.

Upcoming Events

In addition to these new and exciting projects, be sure to mark your calendars for our Fall Luncheon on October 18 at The Chamberlin, the November 1st cocktail hour at The Big Easy, and December's holiday party. The TBBA also continues to work towards its signature annual Seminar, the Hal J. Bonney, Jr., Seminar on Bankruptcy Law and Practice, scheduled for February 21, 2014. Co-chairs Ann Brogan and Donna Hall already have an excellent cadre of speakers lined up, and are looking forward to another excellent day of education and fellowship. See attached fliers for more details on upcoming events!



Mentor Profiles

The Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association would like to offer young or less experienced bankruptcy lawyers a platform to facilitate interaction with respected and more experienced TBBA members that are willing to lend an ear. To that end, the TBBA is trying a mentorship program. The program will consist of very informal social interactions, a small cocktail party here, a lunch there, with specifics of which to be determined by the amount of interest the program generates.

The TBBA has been very fortunate to obtain the commitment of the following mentors:

- **Michael P. Cotter.** Mike became a Standing Chapter 13 Trustee on July 1, 2010. Prior to that, Mike handled much of the creditors' rights work at the Vandeventer Black law firm. He must have loved the practice so much it rubbed off. Mike's daughter Cara went to work for the Wilson McIntyre law firm in 2012.
- **Karen M. Crowley.** Karen clerked for the late Judge Bonney, became a partner at Marcus, Santoro & Kozak, and formed the firm now known as Crowley, Liberatore, Ryan & Brogan, in 2009. Karen has focused on complex debtor's side representation for almost 20 years. During her spare time, Karen plays volleyball and manages a substantial family.
- **Lawrence H. Glanzer.** Larry, perhaps our only natural-born mentor, holds forth with skill, fervor, and grace on a wide variety of subjects. Larry's been practicing in this arena since 1976, he's often a patient listener, he's a partner with the firm Roussos, Lassiter, Glanzer & Barnhart, and he's a Chapter 7 Trustee.
- **John D. McIntyre.** After clerking for Judge Bonney, John practiced bankruptcy law with Willcox & Savage for more than 15 years before starting his own firm, Wilson & McIntyre, PLLC, in 2010. John has successfully represented both creditors and debtors in a wide variety of complex bankruptcy matters. He still maintains a sense of humor.
- **Tom C. Smith.** When Tom was appointed to serve as a Chapter 7 Trustee in 1979, bankruptcy schedules were carved from stone tablets. Tom is a no-nonsense Chapter 7 Trustee and a competitive power lifter.
- **Clara P. Swanson.** Clara is a gentlewoman, she sits as a substitute JDR Judge in Newport News, she is a Chapter 7 Trustee, and she is the First Lady of Peninsula bankruptcy.
- **Pete Zemanian.** Pete, another WilSav alum, is a creditor's lawyer's creditor's lawyer, and, seriously, somewhat unique among the "mature" members of the bankruptcy bar for consistently showing up to bar functions. Keep it up Pete!

If you or someone you know would like to participate as a mentee, we'd love to hear from you. Email John Ryan, at jryan@clrbfirm.com, to express your interest or for additional information. **There are ONLY 7 mentors and each mentor will only be assigned a single mentee, so get moving! Mentees will receive a mentor on a first come –first served basis.**

Announcements

- ❖ On August 26, 2013, the Hon. Keith L. Phillips was sworn in as bankruptcy judge in the Richmond Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Phillips was appointed to replace Judge Tice, who retired on June 30, 2013, but has been recalled for a term of six months.
- ❖ Paul Markham Black has been appointed to serve as bankruptcy judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. Mr. Black was chosen to succeed the Hon. William F. Stone, Jr., upon his retirement, for a term of fourteen years. Mr. Black is expected to take the bench late 2013/early 2014.

Upcoming Events

Fall Luncheon @ The Chamberlin	Oct. 18
Welcome to Bankruptcy CLE	Oct. 24
November Cocktail Hour @ The Big Easy	Nov. 1
Annual TBBA Holiday Party	Dec. 5
Annual Hal J. Bonney, Jr. Seminar	Feb. 21

Annual Report

Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association
Annual Report
March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013

		<u>Prior Year</u>
Beginning cash	\$17,526.38	\$ 20,699.63
Receipts		
Dues	\$10,750.00	12,400.00
Seminar	\$28,750.00*	20,800.00
Other/Events	120.00	265.00
Interest	\$0.93	4.60
	\$39,620.00	\$ 33,469.60
Expenses		
Meetings/Events	\$5,357.81	6,989.14
Annual Seminar	\$16,447.42	18,082.00
Board Meetings	\$265.07	658.89
Office Expenses	\$100.00	70.00
Website	\$899.40	1,214.30
Donations/Gifts		
Professional Fees		9,658.24
	\$23,069.70	\$ 36,661.25
Ending cash	\$27,976.23	\$ 17,507.98

2012 Board of Directors:

John Ryan, President
Kelly M. Barnhart, Past President
Ken Whitehurst, President-Elect
Cullen Speckhart, Treasurer
Stephanie Gilbert, Social Events Chair
Clara Swanson, Member at Large

Tom Dickenson, Secretary
Melissa Watson-Goode, Seminar Chair
Ann Brogan, Seminar Vice Chair
John Bollinger, Communications Chair
Ismael Calderon, Jr, Member at Large
Donna Joyce Hall, Member at Large

*Receipts related to 2012 Seminar total \$24,750.00.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

**TIDEWATER BANKRUPTCY BAR
ASSOCIATION
FALL LUNCHEON 2013**



WHERE:

**THE CHAMBERLIN
CHESAPEAKE DINING ROOM
2 FENWICK ROAD
HAMPTON, VA 23651**

WHEN:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 at 11:30 A.M.
Plated Lunch Served at 12:00 P.M.
Presentation begins at 12:15 P.M.

TOPIC:

Social Media: Pitfalls for Lawyers and Clients
Presented by: Leslie Haley, Esq.
Pending Approval for Ethics CLE Credit

Please RSVP by October 11, 2013 to Stephanie Gilbert, sgilbert@wilsav.com



New to Bankruptcy Practice? Need *FREE* CLE Credit?

YOU'RE IN LUCK!

The TBBA is sponsoring a ***FREE* 3-hour CLE** presentation titled **"Welcome to Bankruptcy: An Introduction into Practicing in the Eastern District of Virginia"**



WHERE:

**Judge Davis' Courtroom, 1st Floor
Walter E. Hoffman U.S. Courthouse
600 Granby Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510**

WHEN:

Thursday, October 24 from 1: 30 to 4:30 P.M.

TOPIC:

A basic introduction to bankruptcy law and representing debtors in the Eastern District of Virginia. Meet the Judges, Clerks, Trustees and UST.

Reserve your spot today by emailing Stephanie Gilbert at sgilbert@wilsav.com