

Midde District of Florida

# Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Clinic

The Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Clinic is a nonprofit charitable organization comprised of attorney volunteers in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association.

The Clinic is staffed by experienced bankruptcy attorneys who offer free information and guidance at the courthouse, by telephone, and online to individuals who are not represented by an attorney in their bankruptcy cases (pro se individuals). The volunteer attorneys explain the bankruptcy process to pro se individuals and provide limited case-specific advice. However, the attorneys cannot represent pro se individuals in court or file court pleadings or papers on the individuals' behalf. Because the Pro Se Clinic is a volunteer program, the attorneys may not suggest that the pro se individuals hire them. The volunteer attorneys do not give additonal advice on any issues outside the Clinic. **The Bankruptcy Pro Se Assistance Clinic is not affiliated or related in any way to the United States Bankruptcy Court.** 

Every Wednesday 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. No appointments necessary



Location: Sam M. Gibbons, U.S. Courthouse 801 N. Florida Ave., (9<sup>th</sup> Floor- Room 964) Tampa, Fl 33602.

## TELEPHONE AND ONLINE ASSISTANCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE

In many cases, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association can provide telephone and online consultations with volunteer attorneys at no charge by appointment. To request an appointment email-<u>tbbbaprobonoclinic@gmail.com</u>.

WHAT WE DO	WHAT WE DO NOT DO
Provide limited legal advice and information	We <b>DO NOT</b> give advice on
on bankruptcy issues in the Middle District of	-Criminal legal issues
Florida.	-State court cases
	-Non-bankruptcy related issues
Assist you in preparing court documents.	-Appellate issues
	-Tax advice
Provide referals to other legal aid organizations and other resource information.	We <b>DO NOT</b> provide representation in court and will not represent you as your attorney.
	We <b>DO NOT</b> file pleadings or papers on your behalf, but we can assist you in preparing
	pleadings and papers that you may can file
	with the Court.

### WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO BRING TO THE CLINIC?

Bring the most recent court papers that were served on you or that you filed with the court.

If you have already filed a bankrutpcy case, be sure to have your bankruptcy case number with you.

Bring all documents, contracts, and paperwork related to your case; including the bankruptcy schedules of assets, liabilities, income, and forms 122 (the means test).

Be ready to dentify any deadlines and tell us about them first.

#### WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE CLINIC?

Before an attorney can see you, you will need to complete an intake form and liability waiver at the clinic. The Clinic takes individuals on a first come first serve basis.

#### HOW LONG IS MY CONSULTATION?

Consultations may take up to 30 minutes, though often can be completed more quickly. We may need to limit the time for consultations if a number of people are waiting.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

You can obtain additional information at: <u>http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/filing\_without\_attorney</u> Also be sure to watch the video on what goes on in a bankruptcy case at: <u>www.flmb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcybasics/</u>. (available en Espanol and Creole).

Depending on their income level, individuals involved in some types of disputes may qualify for a free attorney. Information on the Court's Legal Assistance Program for Low Income Parties involved in certain adversary proceedings and contested maters may be obtained at the Court's 5<sup>th</sup>-floor intake office or at:

http://www.flmb.uscourts.gov/filing\_without\_attorney\_1/legalAssistance.htm.