

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

S. MARTIN TEEL, JR.
Judge

E. BARRETT PRETTYMAN COURTHOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20001
202-354-3530 (Ext. 1)

September 23, 2013

Members of the Bar
Practicing in the Bankruptcy Court

Re: Bankruptcy Assistance Center: Pro Bono Opportunity for
Volunteer Attorneys

Dear Members of the Bar:

I am pleased to announce that the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia has opened its Bankruptcy Assistance Center this month. The Bankruptcy Assistance Center, which will be located within the United States Courthouse, is designed and intended to offer help to *pro se* filers to insure that their filings with the Clerk's office are correct, complete and proper. Participating professionals will be available at a set time in the courthouse and will answer questions and help complete forms that *pro se* filers may require in order to complete their filings in a deficiency free manner with the Clerk's Office.

There are many talented professionals in this legal community, and I am certain that many of you would be interested in participating in the Bankruptcy Assistance Center. Typically, on the first and third Friday of each month, a volunteer attorney would staff the Center for 2 hours, between 11:00 and 1:00. The Center will be located in Room 1207 of the Courthouse, which the United States Trustee uses for meetings of creditors at other

times. (The United States Trustee has graciously granted permission for the use of that room for the Center.) The Center will have a telephone, and a computer with Internet access (including PACER access), and a printer to facilitate the volunteer attorney's ability to answer questions about the *pro se* participant's prior filings, and the status of the case, and to provide access to forms that need to be filed, and so forth.

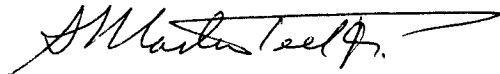
The Bankruptcy Court cannot offer compensation to those participants who devote their time to the Center, but I intend to express my appreciation for the time and effort volunteered by the participating attorneys from time to time as it progresses, including posting recognition of the contributions of the participating attorneys on the Bankruptcy Court's website.

Jeffrey M. Sherman has agreed to serve as the Director of the Center. Along with me, he is coordinating the operations of the Center. He will be primarily responsible for scheduling volunteers, as well as providing oversight and guidance for the volunteers with respect to the scope of services and other administrative matters. Mr. Sherman will also be a participating professional in the Center, and already staffed it on its first day of operation. If you are interested in volunteering, to learn more about the Center, how to participate, and so forth, please contact him at either jeffreymsherman@gmail.com or (703) 358-9568.

We are exploring obtaining malpractice insurance coverage for the participation of attorneys in the Center, but at this juncture, no mechanism is in place to provide malpractice insurance coverage. You may wish to check with your malpractice insurance carrier to assure that its coverage will extend to your participation as a volunteer attorney in the Center. If that poses a problem for you, please let Mr. Sherman know so that we will know whether we need to expedite our efforts to arrange for malpractice insurance coverage, and so that your name is on file as a possible volunteer if we succeed in obtaining malpractice insurance coverage.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. Martin Teel, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. Martin Teel, Jr.
United States Bankruptcy Judge