

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

SUITE 1850

211 W. FORT STREET

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

OFFICE OF  
MARCI B. McIVOR  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

(313) 234-0010

January 11, 2010.

Craig S. Schoenherr, Sr.  
12900 Hall Road, Suite 350  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Re: Development of Program to Assist Pro Se Debtors

Dear Mr. Schoenherr:

This letter is an invitation to attend a meeting at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan on January 27, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., 211 West Fort Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Detroit, Michigan. The purpose of the meeting is to develop a more effective program for assisting individuals who file bankruptcy cases without the assistance of an attorney.

In the past year there has been a dramatic increase in the number of pro se cases filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Individuals who file without an attorney are at a substantial disadvantage in the bankruptcy process because they are unfamiliar with the complex requirements both for filing a case, and for obtaining a bankruptcy discharge. Our Court is interested in increasing the services available to pro se debtors. We are looking for suggestions from the community of lawyers, law schools and legal aid societies as to how to most effectively assist pro se debtors.

To facilitate the exchange of ideas, the Court is inviting representatives from the Consumer Bar Association, the Bankruptcy Court Advisory Committee, the United States Trustee's Office, the Panel of Chapter 7 Trustees, Legal Aid Societies and Law Schools to meet on January 27, 2010. A list of invitees is enclosed with this letter.

Please take the time to attend this meeting. Pro se debtors need help and our Court is determined to address that need. The more input we have on what services could be provided and how to provide those services, the more likely it is that the program will actually be effective.

Please contact my judicial assistant, Susan Maruszewski, at 313-234-0010 or [susan\\_maruszewski@mieb.uscourts.gov](mailto:susan_maruszewski@mieb.uscourts.gov) to confirm your attendance. I look forward to meeting with you on January 27, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Sincerely,



Marci B. McIvor  
United States Bankruptcy Judge

spm

Enclosure as stated.

**List of Invitees to Meeting  
Wednesday, January 27, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Re: Development of Program to Assist Pro Se Debtors**

Hon. Phillip J. Shefferly  
Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 1950  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 1800  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hon. Marci B. McIvor  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 1850  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hon. Thomas J. Tucker  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 1900  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hon. Walter Shapero  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse  
Room 1029  
231 W. Lafayette Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hon. Daniel S. Opperman  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
111 First Street  
Bay City, MI 48707

Katherine B. Gullo, Clerk of Court  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
211 West Fort Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Detroit, MI 48226

M. Joseph Mack  
Assistant U.S. Trustee  
211 West Fort Street, Suite 700  
Detroit, MI 48226

David Wm Ruskin  
26555 Evergreen Road, Suite 1100  
Southfield, MI 48075

Krispen S. Carroll  
719 Griswold Suite 1100  
Detroit, MI 48826

Tammy L. Terry  
535 Griswold, Suite 2100  
Detroit, MI 48226

David Lerner  
38505 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2000  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034

Brian R. Trumbauer  
1901 St. Antoine Street, Fl. 6  
Ford Field  
Detroit, MI 48226

Lisa Sommers Gretchko  
39400 Woodward Avenue, Suite 101  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Stuart A. Gold  
24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 444  
Southfield, MI 48075

Basil T. Simon  
422 W. Congress, Suite 350  
Detroit, MI 48226

Michael A. Mason  
516 W. Court Street  
Flint, MI 48503

Judy B. Calton  
660 Woodward Avenue, Suite 2290  
Detroit, MI 48226

Rozanne M. Giunta  
916 Washington Avenue, #309  
P.O. 835  
Bay City, MI 48707

Wallace M. Handler  
25800 Northwestern Highway  
Suite 1000  
P. O. Box 222  
Southfield, MI 48037-0222

Michael E. Baum  
40950 Woodward Avenue, Suite 100  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Craig S. Schoenherr, Sr.  
12900 Hall Road, Suite 350  
Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Brian J. Small  
30150 Telegraph Road, Suite 444  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025

Dennis A. Brodsky  
25540 Dundee Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Gene R. Kohut  
21 Kercheval Avenue, Suite 285  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Larry Rochkind  
27777 Franklin Road, Suite 2500  
Southfield, MI 48034

Mark Gordon, Dean  
University of Detroit-Mercy Law School  
651 E. Jefferson  
Detroit, MI 48226

Nicholas Mercuro  
Michigan State University Law School  
Law Building  
East Lansing, MI 48824

David Moss  
Director of Clinical Education  
Wayne State University Law School  
471 West Palmer Street  
Detroit, MI 48202

Ann Miller-Wood  
Associate Dean of Planning, Programs  
and Assessment  
300 S. Capitol Street  
P.O. Box 12038  
Lansing, MI 48901

Amy Sankaran  
University of Michigan Law School  
625 South State Street  
200 Hutchins Hall  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1215

William R. Knight  
Executive Director  
Lakeshore Legal Aid  
21885 Dunham Road, Rm. 4  
Clinton Township, MI 48036

Ann Routt  
Legal Aid of Southeastern Michigan Inc.  
420 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Linda Krupp  
Legal Aid & Defender Association  
of Detroit  
613 Abbott  
Detroit, MI 48226

Director  
Wayne County Neighborhood  
Legal Services  
455 W. Fort Street, Suite 214  
Detroit, MI 48226

[www.uscourts.gov/bankruptcycourts](http://www.uscourts.gov/bankruptcycourts)

[www.mieb.uscourts.gov](http://www.mieb.uscourts.gov) (includes bankruptcy basics, forms, rules, and links to useful materials, including the U.S. Trustee's website)

[www.abanet.org/legalservices/](http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/) (includes information on starting a pro bono bankruptcy program, and links to other helpful resources, including the Penn State Pro Bono catalog, which lists pro bono services available by state)

[www.amercol.org](http://www.amercol.org) (The American College of Bankruptcy and its Foundation make grants to public service and bar association related entities working to assure representation of those unable to afford counsel)