



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
301 North Miami Avenue, Room 817  
Miami, Florida 33128**

**LAUREL MYERSON ISICOFF**  
Chief Judge  
(305) 714-1752

February 28, 2017

Dear Fellow Members of the Florida Bar,

As Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida, I am thrilled to join U.S. District Court Judge Patricia Seitz and Third District Court of Appeal Judge Vance Salter in urging you to participate in pro bono through the use of an amazing new resource - online access capabilities to sign up for pro bono opportunities through [www.floridaprobonomatters.org](http://www.floridaprobonomatters.org). Those of you who know me know how passionate I am about pro bono. We have an access to justice crisis in Florida and the bankruptcy court of the Southern District of Florida ranks as having one of the highest percentages of pro se filers in the country. We need your help.

But we are all aware that it has sometimes been difficult to find an opportunity that either fits your time constraints, your professional capabilities, or your passions. This new interactive website will make it possible for you to find that perfect opportunity whenever you go looking for it. Need help? As this website develops it will also include resources and mentors (as well as provide you with the opportunity to mentor someone else).

Those of you who are active in pro bono matters in the bankruptcy courts know that we have set up referral systems in our courts. Many of you also probably know the bankruptcy court allows up to three credits of our local admission requirements to be satisfied by taking a pro bono case or mentoring someone else who wishes to take a pro bono bankruptcy case. This new opportunity will only enhance the system we now have, and, with your help and participation, as we develop and improve this resource, we will ultimately have a seamless system in place for all pro bono information.

I continue to be grateful for all that you do to support pro bono efforts in Miami-Dade County and the Southern District of Florida. I am honored to join Judge Seitz and Judge Salter in introducing you to this tremendous opportunity. Together we will make something good happen! Thank you again.

Very truly yours,

Laurel Myerson Isicoff  
Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court

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