



UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURTS
FOR THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN
DISTRICTS OF NEW YORK



March 20, 2006

The United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York invite you to join a jointly sponsored *Pro Bono* Panel.

The legal profession has long imposed on itself an ethical obligation to engage in *pro bono* representation. This program was designed in conjunction with the City Bar Justice Center and the Legal Services for New York City. The panel affords an appropriate manner in which to meet the bar's commitment to *pro bono* service and will greatly assist the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York in affording justice in cases where a debtor, creditor, or other party in interest is proceeding *in forma pauperis*. It is vital that the private bar assist in providing representation to indigents. If legal rights are to remain a reality to all citizens, it is essential that indigents be able to obtain legal representation.

Upon appointment, members of the *Pro Bono* Panel will serve in cases, proceedings and contested matters before the court in either district. Panel members will be given an opportunity to indicate a preference for which court and/or division they would be interested in practicing.

Both courts share the bar's concern that professional services be expended only on meritorious matters. The rules governing the operation of the Panel have been crafted with a sensitivity to that concern. A copy of the general orders implementing the *pro bono* program and the registration forms for individual attorneys, law firms and attorney instructors in a law school clinical program, are available on the web sites of each court.

We look forward to welcoming you as a member of the *Pro Bono* Panel.

Stuart M. Bernstein, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of New York

Melanie L. Cyganowski, Chief Judge
United States Bankruptcy Court
Eastern District of New York