

**Directions for completing this form:** Place the title of your workshop in the space indicated, followed by the name and contact information for the presenters. Provide a brief description by placing the cursor on the line below "Brief Description" and commence typing. To complete the "Topical Outline", place cursor next to each Roman numeral and begin typing. Then place the cursor next to the "a." to begin listing sub-topics. To list more than one sub-topic, push "Enter" and "b." should appear on the next line, and so on. Place the cursor on the line under "Notes" to begin providing your notes. To list bibliographic information, place the cursor next to "1." and start typing. Push "Enter" to move on to "2." and etc.

## ABA/ NLADA 2007 Equal Justice Conference

### **Cutting-Edge Models for Bankruptcy Pro Bono**

Presenter: William Z. Kransdorf

Title: Coordinator / Lawyer

Organization: Legal Services of New York Bankruptcy Assistance Project / Legal Services for New York City

E-mail: wKransdorf@lsny.org

City: New York

State: NY

ZIP Code: 10013

Telephone: 646-442-3646

Biography: William (Bill) Kransdorf cut short a promising career as a mechanic to go to college at the University of Chicago and law school at Harvard. Upon graduation in 1992, he went to work as a legal aid lawyer in the San Francisco Bay Area at Legal Aid of Marin, and later, the former Legal Aid of Alameda County. He also worked for labor law firm of Van Bourg, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld, where he first tasted bankruptcy law chasing after building contractors who were trying to avoid their union contracts through bankruptcy. He eventually went into private practice as a bankruptcy attorney, but returned legal services and the mean streets of Marin County, California, where he eventually became Director of Legal Services at Legal Aid of Marin. In 2005, Legal Services for New York City and the Federal Bar Council of New York, asked Bill to head up their new Bankruptcy Assistance Project. That Project employs pro bono attorneys from New York's most prestigious law firms to assist debtors in the preparation of bankruptcy petitions as well as with contested matters in the bankruptcy courts. Bill's partner of 17 years and wife of one year, Meg Enelhard, is a teacher in Newark, NJ. They have two sons: Jasper, age 5, and Cory, age 3, neither of whom want to be lawyers.

Presenter: Prof. Jeanne Charn

Title: Professor

Organization: Harvard Law School

E-mail: charn@law.harvard.edu

City: Boston

State: MA

ZIP Code: 02138

Telephone: 617-495-5448

Biography: Professor Jeanne Charn is Director of the Bellow Sacks Access to Civil Legal Services Project and a Senior Lecturer in Law at Harvard Law School, teaching clinical courses on civil advocacy, delivery of legal services, professional responsibility and housing law and policy. Until recently, she was also Director of the Hale and Dorr

Legal Services Center, Harvard Law School's oldest and largest clinical teaching facility. Professor Charn co-founded the clinic with her late husband, Professor Gary Bellow.

During law school, Professor Charn was a student practitioner at Community Legal Assistance Office (CLAO), one of the first O.E.O funded legal service projects. Upon graduation from law school in 1970, Professor Charn was a staff attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, representing statewide and local public housing tenant groups and providing training and support for legal services in the state.

In 1973, Professor Charn was appointed Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs at Harvard Law School. She arranged for and monitored the educational quality of all course-related student placements and worked with Professor Gary Bellow to develop Harvard's clinical program. In 1978, Professors Charn and Bellow conceived of a Harvard Law School supported "teaching law office" similar to the teaching hospital in medicine. The predecessor of the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center opened in 1979.

Jeanne received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1967, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1970.

Presenter: Brent R. Cohen

Title: Partner

Organization: Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP

E-mail: bcohen@rothgerber.com

City: Denver

State: CO

ZIP Code: 80202

Telephone: 303-628-9521

Biography: Brent Cohen currently coordinates the Faculty of Federal Advocates Bankruptcy Pro Bono Program. He is a partner with the law firm of Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP and is the senior member and chair of that firm's Bankruptcy Department. He is familiar with a wide variety of bankruptcy and insolvency matters throughout the United States. His practice includes representation of debtors, creditors, and trustees in bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings, as well as workouts and restructurings outside of court. He regularly provides bankruptcy advice in conjunction with a variety of complex commercial transactions and has participated in some of the more significant bankruptcy litigation in the Rocky Mountain area. He has also had extensive involvement in oil and gas, debtor/creditor and commercial litigation. Mr. Cohen is admitted to practice in state and federal courts in Colorado and Wyoming. He is active in the Colorado, Wyoming and American Bar Associations. He co-chairs the American Bankruptcy Institute's UCC Committee. In 2004, Brent was recognized by the Faculty of Federal Advocates with the Donald C. Cordova Distinguished Service Award. In 2006, *Bankruptcy* magazine named him a Colorado Super Lawyers. Brent received his Juris Doctor from the University of Colorado School of Law where he was Managing Editor of the University of Colorado Law Review. He received a Bachelor of Science in accounting from the University of Colorado, College of Business and Administration, *magna cum laude*.

Presenter: Hon. Michael E. Romero

Title: Judge

Organization: United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado

E-mail: Michael\_Romero@cob.uscourts.gov

City: Denver

State: CO

ZIP Code: 80202

Telephone: (720) 904-7300

**Biography:** Hon. Michael E. Romero was appointed to the bench for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado in 2003. Judge Romero grew up in the northern suburbs of Denver and received an undergraduate degree in economics and political science from Denver University in 1977. He thereafter ventured into the freezing Midwest to secure his juris doctor degree from the University of Michigan in 1980. He joined the bench after leaving the firm of Pendleton, Friedberg, Wilson & Hennessey, P.C., where he considered himself as a trial attorney, specializing in bankruptcy related matters. While practicing, he served as a co-chair of the Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the Colorado Bar Association, was an active member of the Faculty of Federal Advocates discharge program, as well as serving on numerous committees for the Colorado and Denver Bar Associations. He further lectured and authored articles on bankruptcy and related topics for bar and trade associations.

Outside of the legal profession, Judge Romero is an avid fan of the Broncos, Avalanche, Nuggets and his beloved Michigan Wolverines. In all his spare time, Judge Romero has oftentimes been seen participating in musical theater productions throughout Colorado. He admits that while he can “carry a tune,” his dancing skills leave much to be desired. Besides theater, Judge Romero enjoys classical music, virtually all food/wine, travel and a good laugh. Judge Romero and his wife of 27 years, Suzanne, live in Westminster with their 4-legged, fuzzy, floppy-eared “child,” Adara. While he is grateful to not be facing college tuition expenses, Judge Romero admits paying for all the dog training classes is killing him.

### **Brief Description:**

Workshop attendees will learn about the New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project (NYC BAP) knocks down barriers to pro bono bankruptcy advocacy with innovative solutions to law firm conflicts issues and by using internet-based Remote Access to streamline case management and supervision. Attendees will also hear from a local lawyer and a Colorado bankruptcy judge about Denver’s own Faculty of Federal Advocates Pro Bono Program, where bankruptcy lawyers represent debtors in adversarial bankruptcy proceedings.

### **Topical Outline:**

- I. Legal Services for New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project
  - a. About NYC BAP
    - i. Expenses
    - ii. Automated filing
    - iii. Case administration
  - b. Client Intake
    - i. Qualifications

- ii. Questionnaire
    - iii. Triage
      - 1. Judgment-proof
      - 2. Advice / referral
      - 3. Bankruptcy petition
  - c. Volunteers
    - i. Recruiting
    - ii. Role
      - 1. Petition Preparation
      - 2. Representing client
      - 3. Adversarial proceedings
      - 4. Client workshops
    - iii. Training
    - iv. Remote use
- II. Faculty of Federal Advocates Bankruptcy Pro Bono Program
  - a. About
  - b. History
  - c. Judicial Role
  - d. Program Administration
  - e. Process
  - f. Client Qualifications
  - g. Brief Bank
  - h. Volunteers
    - i. About
    - ii. Expectations

**Notes:**

**Bibliography & Website Links:**

Legal Services for New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project

<http://www.lsnyc.org/RTF1.cfm?pagename=NYC%20Bankruptcy%20Assistance%20Project>

Faculty of Federal Advocates Bankruptcy Pro-Bono Legal Service

<http://facultyfederaladvocates.org/programs.html#bankruptcy1>