

To Members of the NJSBA Bankruptcy Section:

Are you concerned about the fact that young people know little or nothing about the use of credit cards, bank accounts, and other basics of personal finance? Would you like to join a volunteer effort to educate young people about these matters? Here is your chance.

The New Jersey Bankruptcy Bar Foundation Projects Committee has launched a program, chaired by Steve Neuner and John Hargrave, to visit young people in local high schools and colleges to discuss money management issues. Chief Judge Judith H. Wizmur, C.U.S.B.J., is involved as well. The project is similar to a program known as C.A.R.E., the “Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program.” C.A.R.E. was started in 2002 in Rochester, New York by John C. Ninfo, II, Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the Western District of New York in partnership with the Bankruptcy Committee of the local bar association. See <http://www.careprogram.us/index.php>. Like the C.A.R.E. program, the New Jersey effort emphasizes the wise use of credit, as well as other money management principles that are relevant to young people. The New Jersey program has also connected with the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (“HESAA”), which conducts excellent sessions with young people using materials designated “Real Money 101,” to educate borrowers about credit. See http://www.hesaa.org/students/money_101/index.asp.

A training program is currently scheduled for January 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in Princeton, New Jersey, and should last for about two hours.

All interested prospective volunteers should contact Steve Neuner at sneuner@nv-njlaw.com, or John Hargrave at jhargrave@hargavelaw.com.

This program offers an important public and pro bono service opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of young people, too many of whom are financially illiterate. By sharing their perspectives, members of the bankruptcy community can be a part of the solution, rather than simply dealing with the problems of overspending and credit abuse after it is too late. Please consider joining this effort.