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Robert M. Lawless
Max L. Rowe Professor of Law
Co-director, Program on Law, Behavior & Social Science
University of Illinois College of Law
504 E Pennsylvania Ave
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Professor Lawless:

I am writing in my capacity as Special Projects Leader of the ABI's Mediation Committee to make the ABI Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy aware of efforts underway by the Mediation Committee to formulate a Position Statement for the Commission prior to the 2018 Annual Spring Meeting. Although the Committee is not positioned to submit a Statement to the Commission in time for the 2017 Winter Leadership Meeting, we thought it appropriate to alert the Commission to our efforts.

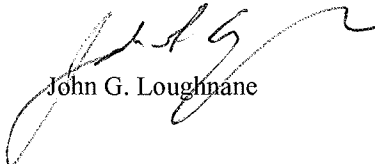
In that regard, in the Fall of 2017, the leadership of the Committee circulated a request to members of both the Mediation Committee and the Consumer Bankruptcy Committee for their experiences and recommendations on the topic of mediation in consumer proceedings. The leadership of the Mediation Committee will meet at the WLC to discuss feedback received. In addition, the Committee's first newsletter in early 2018 will be devoted to consumer mediation and will also solicit input to help inform the Committee's proposed Position Statement, which we have begun to outline.

As you know, the "List of Topics" published by the Commission does not explicitly include mediation. I, along with other members of the Committee's leadership team, believe that the Commission's consideration of mediation will help it fulfill its charge of "researching and recommending improvements to the consumer bankruptcy system that can be implemented within its existing structure."

We understand that the Commission is operating under a tight deadline and plan to submit our statement sufficiently in advance of the 2018 ASM to allow for meaningful consideration. I regret that I will not be able to attend the WLC in person this year but look forward to attending ASM. In addition, I know that many members of our Committee will be attending next week (including Committee chairs Jerry Markowitz and Rick Mikels) who are familiar with the Committee's special project of contributing to the Commission.

Thank you and all members of the Commission for your dedication to this important topic

Very truly yours,



John G. Loughnane

cc: Jerry M. Markowitz, Esq.
Richard E. Mikels, Esq.
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