

## Collection News Bulletin

WINTER 2011-2012

### Arizona State Courts Transition - Change - Turmoil

The Arizona State Court System has produced monumental changes in 2011. This year has been marked by enormous increases in state court filings in both tiers of Arizona's State Court System; Superior and Justice Court. This change alone, the start of which began earlier in the Recession (2008), has caused these Courts to make several changes which seriously affect our clients' ability to recover their bad debt.

The most apparent changes have been increased court filing fees across the board in every court. Many courts have also increased other court related costs (see Collection News Bulletin, Summer 2011). In effect only in Maricopa County Superior Court (Phoenix Metro Area) is the new electronic filing system (with additional court costs) imposed upon all attorneys by the Arizona Supreme Court. We expect that most Superior Courts in the remaining 14 AZ Counties will be mandating electronic filing to some extent over the next year or so. Each county is financially responsible for its Courts so the more rural counties may lag behind this schedule. Since the Justice Courts continue to bear the majority of collection litigation (principle amounts under 10K), they, too, are expected to eventually go electronic.

In the meantime, the crush of recession debt and mounting purchased debt which continues to recycle, has created enormous backlogs in the courts. Court time lines to obtain judgments have more than doubled. Judges are also taking other measures to reduce case loads (see Collection News Bulletin, Fall 2010). Recently, the Justice Courts have created modified rules of civil procedure expected to hold Parties (particularly creditor plaintiffs) to stricter standards of court conduct, all designed to weed out marginal litigants.



In all, our courts are reacting to conditions marked by high levels of litigation. We can expect to see a long period of transition as these courts feel their way through these times. As Counsel for clients who critically need the courts to compel debt repayment, we need to urge our clients to be more selective about and better prepared for litigation.

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### SEIDBERG LAW BLOG IS A REALITY!!!

As promised in our Collection Bulletin last Fall, Seidberg Law now has an active and exciting new Blog up and running. Check out <http://azdebtcollectionlaw.com> or go to our newest website at [www.SeidbergLaw.com](http://www.SeidbergLaw.com) (our official website) and click onto our Logo link .



You will find our logo which links to our Blog at the bottom of every page of the Website.

We have just begun to reach out using LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. Our website also uses YouTube for short (hopefully informative) video excerpts. And, again, check out AVVO.com which also links from our website. AVVO is an interesting attorney rating media.



Take a look at it for your own use. AND while you are there, any kind words on my account would be appreciated.

Ken Seidberg

# What's New In Our House?

Carol Seidberg, Director of Client Services



## SEIDBERG LAW OFFICES, P.C.

It's hard to believe that another year has come to an end! 2011 has truly flown by quickly. Fortunately, Seidberg Law Offices has remained extremely busy and the morale of the entire staff is high. As for staff turnover, we lost only one legal collection assistant to the U.S. Army. Two from our accounting department will be leaving to attend graduate school full time; one in accounting and the other law school. In this time of economic downturn, our goal is to keep what we have going intact, stay strong and healthy and produce the best results we possibly can. We are primed and ready for a better economy.

As in past years, our Firm has been involved in adopting a "holiday family" for Jewish Family & Children's Services. Everyone gets into the "Holiday" spirit and enjoys participating and giving a needy family an opportunity to experience a festive holiday season.

We held our annual holiday party at Turf Paradise Racetrack again this year. We spent an entire afternoon together enjoying the beautiful views, stuffing ourselves on excellent food and drink, and winning (some) a few dollars as an added bonus. No one wanted the afternoon to end.



Sadly, our year ended with the death of Ken's Mother, Esther Ahitow Seidberg. Her death, while inevitable, hit all of us hard. Her grand presence will be missed beyond measure by her entire family and her friends. And we now understand the notion that a parent's death leaves a huge hole in our lives that even time cannot refill.

## THE RISK "CORNER"

Nothing reduces risk associated in our business more than treating "debtors" nicely, respectfully and with dignity. The "golden rule" in this case is genuinely the only and best way to conduct business.

It might be helpful to consider treating every debtor as if he were a valued "customer". While we get paid for serving our Clients and collecting their bad debt, our money does in fact come from these debtor/customers. And remember, our debtors were our clients' "valued customers" not that long before they became our clients' debtors.

### Dates to Remember



December 20 Chanukah Begins



December 22 Winter Officially Begins

December 25 (26) Christmas  
(Monday Office Closed)



January 1 (2) New Year's Day  
(Monday Office Closed)



January 16 (Monday) Martin Luther King (Civil Rights) Day

January 23 Arizona AIPAC Gala

February 20 (Monday) Presidents' Day

