



## United States Organizations for Bankruptcy Alternatives, Inc.

**U**SOBA is committed to working with and informing legislators, regulators, consumers, creditors, and governmental bodies about the debt negotiation industry. The need for alternatives to bankruptcy and credit counseling is growing, and yet there are many legislative challenges the industry is facing. USOBA is dedicated to providing our member companies with important industry related information, including compliance requirements, as well as advocating on behalf of our membership for fair and appropriate industry regulations.

- ★ We have brought together more than 180 companies and organize semi-annual conferences to work collectively towards reaching our goals, which include state and federal law compliance and embracing the highest standards of practice in the debt negotiation industry.
- ★ In February 2006, USOBA launched its Accreditation Program, which was drafted and implemented with member approved standards. Offered through membership with the largest trade association in the industry, USOBA's Accreditation Program is the only audit supported, free referral system. The program is administered by BSI Management Systems, acting as the impartial auditing agency.
- ★ We launched the first full service compliance audit, USOBA Compliance Audit Program (UCAP), for the debt settlement industry. We created the program to help promote compliance and uniformity in the industry. UCAP is intended to facilitate the protection of consumers by ensuring that initial contact calls between the debt settlement professional and the consumer contain full disclosures and are conducted in a legally compliant manner.
- ★ In December of 2007 USOBA announced an alliance with Auriemma Consulting Group (ACG). ACG has solidified its position as the market leader for best practices and benchmarking services. They complete more than 150 studies each year on topics that span the financial services business, from operational performance to portfolio metrics to accounting/finance practices and more. Many regulatory agencies have indicated a need for debt settlement industry statistics; USOBA could not agree more and has stepped up to the plate to deliver.
- ★ We have drafted proposed legislation and have presented it to legislators as suggested guidelines in an effort to assist in the fair regulation of the industry.
- ★ USOBA staff and distinguished members have testified before and/or participated in:
  - ★ Federal Trade Commission Workshop on Debt Settlement
  - ★ DBA International Annual Conference-Panel on Debt Settlement
  - ★ The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) regarding the drafting and redrafting of the Uniform Debt Management Services Act (UDMSA)
  - ★ The Financial Literacy and Education Commission of the United States Department of the Treasury
  - ★ State and federal level education and advocacy regarding debt settlement and legislation drafting
  - ★ Consumer education regarding debt settlement, consumer advocacy and consumer cases
  - ★ Colorado, Texas, Utah, Rhode Island, Delaware, Kansas, North Carolina, West Virginia, Florida, California, Nevada, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland, Oregon, Montana, Connecticut, Washington, New York and other state legislatures



## United States Organizations for Bankruptcy Alternatives, Inc.

**U**SOBA's incredibly informative conferences afford our members the opportunity to connect with representatives from various industry-related agencies. Their valuable knowledge and contributions help to further our endeavors as a trade organization to improve our industry for consumers.

### USOBA Conference Guest Speakers

- ★ Dave Aronberg, FL State Senator
- ★ Michael Greenfield, NCCUSL
- ★ Don Mielke, NCCUSL
- ★ Jeffrey Tenenbaum, Venable, LLP
- ★ Jonathan Pompan, Venable, LLP
- ★ Mike Jackson, Maryland DLLR
- ★ Frank Carella, KS Banking Commission
- ★ Sue Ann Slates, Executive Office For U.S. Trustees
- ★ Mike Wallace, U.S. Congresswoman Julia Carson's office
- ★ Rod Griffin, Experian
- ★ Theodore P. Watson, Theodore P. Watson and Associates
- ★ Raymond Bell, Creditors Interchange
- ★ Howard Knauer, Debt Resolve
- ★ John Ansbach, EFA Processing
- ★ Randy Hendrix, Global Client Solutions
- ★ Linda Klinger, Klinger Law Firm
- ★ Phil Fewster, Apex Law Group
- ★ Suzanne Eisenstark, Optimum Tax
- ★ Kevin Churn, Total Bankruptcy/Clear Bankruptcy
- ★ Alan Fernandes: Nielson, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller, & Naylor LLP
- ★ Jeff Meek, Washington Mutual Commission
- ★ Leslie Pettijohn, Texas OCCC
- ★ Cort Jensen, Assistant Attorney General of Montana
- ★ Nicholas Kyrus, VA Bureau of Financial Institutions
- ★ Paul Singer, Texas Attorney General's Office
- ★ Theresa Brady, DB & CF, Mississippi
- ★ Carri Grube, Department of Consumer Affairs, SC
- ★ Anthony Polidori, Idaho Department of Finance
- ★ Tom Rowan, Federal Trade Commission
- ★ Gary Kennedy, Federal Trade Commission
- ★ Anthony Manganiello, DebtFree.com
- ★ Fred Washington, NV Consumer Affairs Division
- ★ Douglas A. Crowder, Crowder Law Center
- ★ Jennifer Eckstein, BSI Americas
- ★ Jim Christie & Jennifer Eckstein, BSI Americas
- ★ Jason Jenkins & Emily Eley, Alpha Surety
- ★ Micheal Mallow, Loeb and Loeb, LLP
- ★ Robert Knight, Capstone Portfolio Management
- ★ Mary Salas, California Assembly Member
- ★ Eddie Reeves, Public Strategies
- ★ Michelle Staley, Resurgent Capital
- ★ Mandy Eden, M.Eden Consulting
- ★ Jane Brannan & Lisa Tolar, Alabama Securities

“I was glad to participate in the USOBA Conference. It allowed me the opportunity to provide members of the debt settlement industry with timely information regarding Idaho law and it gave me a chance to better understand the topics that are most important to the industry.” - A. Polidori, ID

“I enjoyed participating in the USOBA Conference, it is refreshing to see companies seek out legislative guidelines instead of waiting for the law to find them.” - D. Aronberg, FL

“I found the USOBA Conference to be very informative and was happy to be able to expand on Nevada law for the debt settlement attendees. Being proactive is definitely the best bet in any industry.” - F. Washington, NV