

Lawyers That C.A.R.E¹

Everyday, young adults lose jobs, student loans, apartments and admission to graduate school because of credit abuse. Ten percent of college students will drop out of school because of credit card related issues. They could avoid these negative consequences if only they were given some **C**redit **A**buse **R**esistance **E**ducation.

Judge John C. Ninfo, II, a bankruptcy judge in Rochester, New York, started the CARE Program, a financial literacy curriculum, in 2002, after watching bankruptcies of young people ages 18-24 skyrocket by 96% in the 1990's. Through the CARE Program, bankruptcy attorneys and other volunteers teach high school students how to maintain their credit and avoid the pitfalls that can cripple them financially. Judge Ninfo hoped that the program would reduce the number of young people forced into bankruptcy by bad choices made due to lack of information.

When DelCotto Law Group Member Laura Day DelCotto learned about the CARE Program, she made it her personal mission to bring its message to the students of Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. First, she made sure that Kentucky was listed on the CARE website (www.careprogram.us) as a state that participated in the program. The Kentucky CARE Program got a boost when a partnership between the Fayette County Bar Foundation and the Kentucky Bar Foundation was formed to provide funding for the program. Through the efforts of many, educational materials have been developed to handout to each student and use in the presentations. DelCotto Law Group has worked diligently with the Fayette County Public Schools to help its students benefit from attending CARE presentations, and the Kentucky Board of Education recently gave its endorsement to the CARE Program. Because of all these efforts,

¹ This article is a service for friends and clients of DelCotto Law Group, PLLC. The opinions expressed in this article are intended for general guidance only and not as recommendations for specific situations. As always, readers should consult a qualified attorney for specific legal guidance.

the CARE Program is now helping to teach all Fayette County high school students how to avoid credit abuse. DelCotto Law Group attorneys have given more CARE presentations than any other firm in Lexington.

Since coming to Kentucky, CARE has spread rapidly. The program was so well received in Fayette County that soon attorneys in other areas of the Commonwealth began organizing to institute CARE in their counties' schools. The attorneys at DelCotto Law Group have worked with these attorneys, giving pointers on coordinating with the school systems and designing presentation materials. DelCotto Law Group remains committed to CARE's success in Kentucky, and supports all efforts to provide fundamental financial literacy to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

If you would like more information about CARE in Kentucky, please contact Allison Fridy Arbuckle (aarbuckle@dlgfirm.com), Jamie Harris (jharris@dlgfirm.com) or Laura Day DelCotto (ldelcotto@dlgfirm.com) at DelCotto Law Group PLLC.