

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **RE: NOTICE OF FRAUDULENT SCHEME**

On August 4, 2008, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts was notified by the bankruptcy clerk in Utah of a fraudulent scheme that might be affecting victims throughout the country.

A bankruptcy court in another district has had three different individuals appear at the clerk's office because they had been contacted by phone claiming that they owe money (\$150-\$450) to pay the debt of another person. The three individuals speak Spanish as their primary language.

In each instance, when the individuals refused to provide a credit card number to the caller, they were told that they must report to court for a hearing and that if they did not pay they would be arrested. In each case, the caller provided the bankruptcy court address (including a room number) and a date/time for a fictitious hearing. In at least one case, the caller identified himself as a police officer.

In all cases, the caller provided the same toll-free number for the individuals to call if they decided to pay instead of reporting for the hearing. Based on the information gathered to date, it is likely that this is occurring in other parts of the country, and the three individuals represent a very small sample of the total number of individuals contacted. Although the individuals that came forward speak Spanish as their primary language, there is no indication that Spanish speaking individuals are the only group being targeted.

If you have questions, please contact the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada at (702) 388-6258 (Las Vegas office) or (775) 784-5023 (Reno office).