

UNITED STATES CODE ANNOTATED  
TITLE 18. CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

§ 156. Knowing disregard of bankruptcy law or rule

(a) Definitions.--In this section--

(1) **the term**<sup>1</sup> "bankruptcy petition preparer" means a person, other than the debtor's attorney or an employee of such an attorney, who prepares for compensation a document for filing; **and**<sup>2</sup>

(2) **the term**<sup>3</sup> "document for filing" means a petition or any other document prepared for filing by a debtor in a United States bankruptcy court or a United States district court in connection with a case under ~~this title~~ **title 11**<sup>4</sup>.

(b) Offense.--If a bankruptcy case or related proceeding is dismissed because of a knowing attempt by a bankruptcy petition preparer in any manner to disregard the requirements of title 11, United States Code, or the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the bankruptcy petition preparer shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

**§ 158. Designation of United States attorneys and agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to address abusive reaffirmations of debt and materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**--The Attorney General of the United States shall designate the individuals described in subsection (b) to have primary responsibility in carrying out enforcement activities in addressing violations of section 152 or 157 relating to abusive reaffirmations of debt. In addition to addressing the violations referred to in the preceding sentence, the individuals described under subsection (b) shall address violations of section 152 or 157 relating to materially fraudulent statements in bankruptcy schedules that are intentionally false or intentionally misleading.

(b) **UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.**--The individuals referred to in subsection (a) are--

(1) a United States attorney for each judicial district of the United States; and

(2) an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (within the meaning of section 3107) for each field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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<sup>1</sup>Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001, sec. 1221(1)(A).

<sup>2</sup>Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001, sec. 1221(1)(B).

<sup>3</sup>Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001, sec. 1221(2)(A).

<sup>4</sup>Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001, sec. 1221(2)(B).

**(c) BANKRUPTCY INVESTIGATIONS.-Each United States attorney designated under this section shall, in addition to any other responsibilities, have primary responsibility for carrying out the duties of a United States attorney under section 3057.**

**(d) BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURES.-The bankruptcy courts shall establish procedures for referring any case which may contain a materially fraudulent statement in a bankruptcy schedule to the individuals designated under this section.<sup>5</sup>**

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<sup>5</sup>Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2001, sec. 203(b)(1).