

## Charles L. Wells' Office Cuts Time Spent on No Asset Cases by 50%

### CHALLENGE

For Charles L. Wells, a chapter 7 trustee in the Eastern District of Michigan, a typical day of 341 hearings includes between 80 and 100 cases and they occur at least 4 times a month.

"The time it takes to review cases is a big deal", said Johnnie Thayer, Wells' paralegal. She went on to say, "You want to spend as little time as possible on cases that will not make you money, but you still have to do your due diligence on every case." A large number of the no asset cases were being filed by pro-se claimants and they often requested that the filing fee be waived. If the debtor did not pay the fee Mr. Wells' office ended up doing the work for free, essentially at a loss.

Prior to the 341 hearing, Ms. Thayer was spending up to 30 minutes on each case regardless of its financial value. With the majority of them yielding \$60 or less, it was crucial that she have a system that gave her a quick and easy way to separate no asset cases from asset cases. She needed a software program that allowed her to upload and manipulate documents and to scan through schedules A through J for profitable cases.

### SOLUTION

The TrusteSolutions software includes several features that simplified Ms. Thayer's job. The customized reports provided by TrusteSolutions software pull in the information she needs to sift through cases and focus on the ones that will be most lucrative. She found that Document Manager and the Schedule Review report are especially helpful when she prepares for 341 hearings.

Document Manager gives her the option to either view cases at a high level or in detail. In the high-level view she can see the number of 341 hearing documents she has created, banking related documents, ECF filed documents, and any other documents associated with a case. In the detailed view she can drill down to see document titles, related dates, and a description of each document. If she needs more detail she can open the file directly from the folder. "In my previous software, the remote version tied up the whole system. Document Manager is so easy to work in. TES makes it easier to pull documents and move them around because it is on my own system," Ms. Thayer said.

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The Schedule Review report, which is unique to TrusteSolutions, provides the exact data Ms. Thayer needs to assess whether a case is an asset or no asset. Ms. Thayer commented, “Not only does it show me schedule A through J figures, it performs the same calculations and comparisons that I used to do by hand.”

TrusteSolutions was the first software vendor in the industry to create a standard Schedule Review report that pulls data from various sources to provide the user with a schedule summary.

The standard Schedule Review report includes:

- an itemized list of assets,
- a full description of each asset,
- the asset value,
- any liens against it,
- exemptions,
- the asset’s net value, and
- the total value of the estate.

TrusteSolutions continues to be the only software partner that can customize imported scheduled data to perform calculations unique to each trustee office. The custom report displays scheduled data in a format that best helps individual trustees and their assistants uncover the information they need to make quick decisions.

## RESULT

By switching to the TrusteSolutions software program Ms. Thayer has shaved the amount of time she spends preparing for each 341 hearing **by 50%**. Ms. Thayer can finally focus on cases that make money with the extra time created by using Document Manager, Schedule Review report, and other customized features of the TrusteSolutions software program.

## ABOUT CHARLES L. WELLS, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Charles L. Wells III is bankruptcy trustee handling bankruptcy cases in the Eastern District of Michigan, Auburn Hills, MI.

## ABOUT TRUSTESOLUTIONS

TrusteSolutions is a division of Financial Software Solutions, LLC, a Houston-based software company that provides bankruptcy case management software to trustees across the United States. The TrusteSolutions software program is Web-based and highly customizable. With its sophisticated and intuitive tools trustees can create custom reports, import claims and assets, archive files and cases, among a host of other features.

To learn more about what this company can do for you visit the web at [www.trustesolutions.com](http://www.trustesolutions.com) or send an email to [info@trustesolutions.com](mailto:info@trustesolutions.com).