

**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 29, 2005**

**Contact: Jeffrey Freedman**

**Increase In Bankruptcy Filings in Western District for Second Quarter  
Is Double National Numbers**

Buffalo, NY – The increase in bankruptcy filings in the United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York was double that of the national statistics for the quarter beginning April 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2005. Nationwide there was an 11 percent increase in filings during the second quarter as compared to 2004, and in the Western District of New York (which includes the 17 counties surrounding Buffalo and Rochester) filings were up 22 percent.

“There has been and continues to be a significant increase in filings because people are aware of the changes that will occur under the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005, which takes effect October 17,” said Jeffrey Freedman, senior partner, Jeffrey Freedman Attorneys at Law. “Many people who have been considering filing are doing it now because after October 17 it’s going to be more difficult.”

The 467,333 filings in the second quarter of 2005 made it the highest number of filings nationally during any quarter on record. The previous high of 440,257 was in the second quarter of 2003. Locally there were 5,090 cases filed during the second quarter.

“Our region has been harder hit economically,” Freedman said. “We have an aging population, we’ve had more layoffs and we have many residents who either don’t have medical insurance or who are underinsured.

“When you combine all of those factors you have more people getting into financial difficulties.”

The new regulations will require some consumers to pass a means test before filing Chapter 7, and all consumers will be required to undergo credit counseling before their debts can be discharged under Chapter 7 or

Chapter 13. Freedman said his office has been filing many more cases than in prior years, sometimes as many as 30 in one day.

According to the Wall Street Journal the rush to file before the new law takes effect is an indication the changes in the law will reduce bankruptcy filings long-term.

“The new law will impose unfair hardship on people who have already fallen on hard times,” Freedman said. “It’s going to make it more costly, more complicated and less efficient to file.”

*Jeffrey Freedman Attorneys at Law has 15 offices throughout Western New York, handling bankruptcy, social security disability, and personal injury cases. The firm, founded in 1980, employs 60 legal professionals.##*

**County Stats – Increase (+) or decrease (-) for April 1 – June 30 of 2005 compared to April 1 -- June 30 of 2004:**

**Total for eight counties included in the Buffalo Area: +23.57%**

Allegany	Cattaraugus	Chautauqua	Erie	Genesee	Niagara	Orleans	Wyoming
+65.45%	+63.04%	+35.51%	+20.86%	-20.87%	+32.10%	+10.81%	-5.77%

**Total for nine counties included in the Rochester area: +19.99%**

Chemung	Livingston	Monroe	Ontario	Schuyler	Seneca	Steuben	Wayne	Yates
+85%	+9.46%	+15.33%	+16.10%	+45.83%	+16.67%	+33.33%	+9.82%	+13.64%

**These counties surrounding Buffalo and Rochester make up the United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York, which had an increase of 22 percent for this time period.**