Famous People Who Filed for Bankruptcy

By Brett Weiss, Maryland Bankruptcy Attorney

If you’re feeling alone or depressed because of financial problems, cheer up! You’re in good company. Below is a list of some of the famous people who have filed for bankruptcy or had severe financial problems before the modern bankruptcy code was adopted. Please note that most of these folks had their great success and fame after their bankruptcies.

Donald Trump, financier

Michael Jackson, singer

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer

Elton John, singer/composer

Kim Bassinger, actress

Mike Tyson, boxer

Mark Twain, humorist

Burt Reynolds, actor

Thomas Jefferson, patriot and president

Gary Coleman, child actor

MC Hammer, rap singer

Willie Nelson, country singer

Lorraine Bracco, “The Soprano’s” actress

Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanized rubber

PT Barnum, circus promoter

L. Frank Baum, author of “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”

Mathew Brady, Civil War photographer

Oscar Wilde, playwright

Jerry Lee Lewis, rock singer

Rembrandt, painter

Henry Heinz, ketchup magnate

Milton Hershey, chocolate magnate

Henry Ford, auto magnate

Johnny Unitas, football player

Wayne Newton, entertainer

Mickey Rooney, actor

Debbie Reynolds, actress

John Connally, former Texas governor

Walt Disney, creator of Mickey Mouse

Mick Fleetwood, rock singer

Merle Haggard, country singer

Ulysses S. Grant, president and Civil War general

Dorothy Hamill, figure skater

Larry King, talk show host

Bowie Kuhn, former baseball commissioner

Stan Lee, comic book creator of “Spider Man”