

The Marvasti File

Former CoB Economist Now Confronting Legal Issues in South Florida

One needs only to type “Akbar Marvasti” into the new USMNEWS.net Google search engine to find a plethora of reports and editorials about the highly controversial former USM economics professor, Akbar Marvasti. Now, Marvasti is facing a new set of financial-related issues in South Florida, his new home. This report is Part 5 in a new series on these issues.

As the insert below shows, Marvasti’s problems, including a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy filing and a federal court action taken by Chase Bank, were exacerbated, if not created, by his departure from USM at the end of the 2009-10 academic year.

1. Income from employment or operation of business	
None <input type="checkbox"/>	State the gross amount of income the debtor has received from employment, trade, or profession, or from operation of the debtor's business, including part-time activities either as an employee or in independent trade or business, from the beginning of this calendar year to the date this case was commenced. State also the gross amounts received during the two years immediately preceding this calendar year. (A debtor that maintains, or has maintained, financial records on the basis of a fiscal rather than a calendar year may report fiscal year income. Identify the beginning and ending dates of the debtor's fiscal year.) If a joint petition is filed, state income for each spouse separately. (Married debtors filing under chapter 12 or chapter 13 must state income of both spouses whether or not a joint petition is filed, unless the spouses are separated and a joint petition is not filed.)
AMOUNT	SOURCE
\$50,300.00	2010 Income
\$96,277.00	2009 Income
\$91,720.00	2008 Income

At the time he left USM, Marvasti was a tenured full professor. He was also among the four economics faculty who were saved by the (forced) retirements of Mark Klinedinst, George Carter, Trellis Green, William Gunther, and Edward Nissan. Why did he leave? This question is particularly important given the appearance that his departure seems to have plunged him into the legal hole he now finds himself. His tenure in the CoB is not without controversy, which includes the scandalous situation involving Charles Sawyer’s “external review” of Marvasti’s academic qualifications, the secret hiring by former CoB administrators Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand of Ray Canterbury to assist Marvasti, and the internal USM investigation involving improprieties allegedly committed by Marvasti – an investigation that delayed Marvasti’s tenure decision. Still, Marvasti had gotten past these troubles, bringing us back to the original question: Why did he leave?