

# Faculty Biographies

**Carl L. Bekofske** is an attorney and chapter 13 trustee in Flint, Mich., where he practices estate planning, probate administration, guardians/conservators and circuit court receiverships. As a trustee, he manages 15 staff members, administers more than 4,200 bankruptcy cases and disburses more than \$38M per year, and is the Genesee County public administrator, administering estates for decedents with unknown heirs. An adjunct professor at Cooley Law School and Mott Community College, Mr. Bekofske has served on the boards of many organizations including the Genesee County Bar Association, Genesee County Bar Foundation, American Inns of Court, Centennial Chapter of Flint, Michigan and the National Association Chapter 13 Trustees. He received his B.A. from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Mich., and his J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University in Detroit.

**Cynthia C. Bullington** is the assistant deputy administrator for the Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission in Detroit, as well a teacher of professional responsibility at the MSU College of Law. She currently serves as a regular member of the State Bar of Michigan's Standing Committee on Character and Fitness. Ms. Bullington is admitted to the Bar in Michigan, the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has authored articles for the *Michigan Bar Journal* and has been an ICLE presenter. Ms. Bullington is a Michigan State graduate and received her J.D. from George Washington University.

**Charles D. Bullock** is an attorney with Stevenson & Bullock, PLC in Southfield, Mich. He is admitted to the State Bars of Michigan and Tennessee and is admitted to practice in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Bullock is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, ABI and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. Prior to joining Stevenson & Bullock, he clerked for Hon. Bernice B. Donald of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He is an adjunct professor of bankruptcy at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Court on "Could Bankruptcy Reform Help Preserve Small Business Jobs?" which was published in the March 17, 2010, issue of *Super Lawyers* (Michigan). He is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy-related topics for ABI and other professional organizations. A former contributing editor for *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice Treatise*, he received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

**Krispen S. Carroll** has served as a standing chapter 13 trustee in Detroit since April 2000. She is a member the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, Federal Bar Association, Consumer Bar Association and ABI, and is on the Local Bankruptcy Rules Advisory Committee of the Eastern District of Michigan. Ms. Carroll has served as a presenter for ABI, Michigan Land Title Association, National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, Consumer Bankruptcy Association and the U.S. Trustee Training Program. She is also a contributing author to "*Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies*" (ICLE). Ms. Carroll is a graduate of Michigan State University and received her J.D. from the University of Detroit School of Law.

**Hon. Scott W. Dales** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids. Following law school, he clerked for Hon. Con. G. Cholakis, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, and subsequently practiced law for several years with Barrett

Gravante Carpinello & Stern in Albany. After clerking for Hon. James D. Gregg, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan, and prior to taking the bench, he practiced law with Dykema Gossett, PLLC in Grand Rapids and served as in-house counsel to National City Corp. and its bank and nonbank subsidiaries. As a member of National City's insolvency practice group, he worked primarily with distressed commercial transactions, including National City's aircraft lease portfolio and troubled automotive-supplier loans. Judge Dales received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1987 and his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

**Thomas D. DeCarlo** is a staff attorney at the office of David Wm. Ruskin, the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Southfield, Mich. He has practiced in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights and has represented debtors, creditors, committees and other parties-in-interest in chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings in cases throughout the southeastern United States. He is also an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Thomas Cooley School of Law in Ann Arbor, Mich., and previously served as the adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at Ave Maria University College of Law in Ann Arbor, Mich. He is a member of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and the Sixth and Seventh U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals. He is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and related topics for ABI, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education of the State Bar of Michigan, and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. Mr. DeCarlo received his B.G.S. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law, where he was the editor-in-chief of the *Stetson Law Review*.

**Daniel C. DiCicco** is an associate attorney at Acclaim Legal Services, P.L.L.C. in Southfield, Mich., where he specializes in representing debtors in consumer bankruptcy matters and brings extensive experience in all aspects of representing debtors in both chapter 7 and chapter 13 proceedings. Mr. DiCicco is admitted to practice in the state of Michigan and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and ABI. Mr. DiCicco received his B.A. from Purdue University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School, where he was a member of university's moot court program.

**Stuart A. Gold** is a shareholder in the law firm of Gold, Lange & Majoros, P.C. in Southfield, Mich. He is board certified by the American Board of Certification in both Consumer and Business Bankruptcy Law, is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and has been appointed a Life Delegate by the Federal Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is currently serving on the advisory board for ABI's Central States Bankruptcy Workshop and has been recognized for his *pro bono* services by the Federal, Oakland County and Macomb County Bar Associations. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Florida Bar, ABI and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, and he has served as an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau, on the Constitutional Law Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, and on the Chapter 13 Local Rules Committee of the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division. In addition, he has served on the board of directors for the Detroit chapter of the Federal Bar Association and is currently a trustee and mediator. Mr. Gold is the past president of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association, co-chair of the Advisory Committee of the Eastern District of Michigan Bankruptcy Court and past chairman of the OCBA Bankruptcy Committee. He frequently lectures for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, ABI, Oakland

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University and other professional organizations, is the co-editor of the ICLE publication *Handling Consumer and Small Bankruptcies in Michigan* (2009) and is co-author of a chapter in the ICLE publication *Michigan Family Law, Seventh Edition*. He has also been honored and recognized by his peers in various publications, including *Michigan Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Gold received his B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan and his J.D. with distinction from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

**John P. Gustafson** is a chapter 13 trustee for the Northern District of Ohio in Toledo.

**Kelly M. Hagan** is a chapter 7 panel trustee in the Western District of Michigan and founder of Hagan Law Offices PLC in Acme, Mich. Prior to her appointment to the panel, Ms. Hagan represented chapter 7 trustees almost exclusively. She is currently president-elect of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and previously served as vice president (2011-12) and as editor of its quarterly publication, *NABTalk*, from 2008-11. Ms. Hagan is also a member of ABI, FBA-W.D. Michigan, and the Michigan and Oregon Bars, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan and the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law.

**Prof. Susan E. Hauser** is the fall 2012 Robert M. Zinman ABI Resident Scholar and an associate professor of law at North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, N.C., where she teaches bankruptcy, civil procedure and corporations and was elected Professor of the Year in 2008 and 2011. She began her career as an attorney for Legal Aid and spent 16 years as a career attorney with the federal court system before entering academia. Prof. Hauser's specializes in bankruptcy jurisdiction and predatory lending in consumer credit and mortgages. She received her B.A. in philosophy from Wake Forest University and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Michael P. Hogan** is a principal attorney with Kilpatrick & Associates, P.C., in Auburn Hills, Mich., where he practices bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. An ABI member, he has been a speaker for the Consumer Bankruptcy Association's Veteran's Day Seminar, ABI's Central States Bankruptcy Workshop, ICLE's Bankruptcy Reform Act: One Year Later and the National Bar Association's Annual Conference. Mr. Hogan is a contributing author to ICLE's *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies*, and he received his J.D. from Michigan State University College of Law.

**Hon. Jeffrey R. Hughes** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids, appointed in January 2000. He practiced with the law firm of Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt & Howlett LLP for 20 years prior to his appointment, specializing in bankruptcy law and litigation with a particular emphasis on bankruptcy-related litigation and complex commercial litigation. While in practice, Judge Hughes had been annually recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is a regular speaker at seminars, including those sponsored by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and ABI. In addition, he appears as a guest instructor each semester at Cooley Law School's Grand Rapids campus and has participated in Michigan State University Law School's

externship program by offering to selected students an advanced seminar in bankruptcy and the art of judging. Judge Hughes received his B.A. with high distinction in economics from the University of Michigan in 1977 and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Michigan in 1980, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

**Christopher W. Jones** is a managing attorney with Acclaim Legal Services, P.L.L.C. in Southfield, Mich., where he has specialized in representing debtors in both chapter 7 and chapter 13 consumer bankruptcy matters since 2005. He also works on behalf of borrowers in nonbankruptcy contexts such as loan workouts and settlement negotiations. Mr. Jones was admitted to practice in the state of Michigan and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2005. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Consumer Bankruptcy Association and ABI. Mr. Jones received his B.A. from Michigan State University in 2000 and his J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law in 2004, where he was the executive articles editor for the *Ave Maria Law Review*.

**John P. Kapitan** is a senior attorney at the firm of Trott & Trott, PC in Farmington Hills, Mich., where he specializes in bankruptcy law. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and is admitted to practice law in Michigan, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Kapitan has also lectured on bankruptcy issues in mortgage servicing and has authored or coauthored several articles. He received his J.D. from Michigan State University, Detroit College of Law.

**Gene R. Kohut** is a chapter 7 panel trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Eastern District of Michigan and founding member of Kohut Law Group PLLC in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., where he has represented creditors, debtors and trustees in bankruptcy proceedings for 18 years. Mr. Kohut has also been regularly appointed as a chapter 11 trustee and court-appointed receiver. He is a member of the Michigan Bar, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is also a member of the Federal Bar Association (Bankruptcy Section), ABI, Consumer Bankruptcy Association (Eastern District of Michigan) and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. Mr. Kohut is an adjunct professor of law at the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law and a speaker for numerous local and national groups on bankruptcy and insolvency issues, and has been a court-appointed receiver in various state court proceedings. Mr. Kohut received his J.D. from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1991.

**Kimberly A. Kramer** is the owner of Kimberly Kramer, P.L.C. in Bay City, Mich., which specializes in bankruptcy representation for consumers and small business. She was previously a founding member of Jacobs & Kramer, P.L.L.C., where she practiced for four years before the firm dissolved. Prior to that, she specialized in bankruptcy as an associate attorney. She participated in an externship with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana and has served as an adjunct faculty member at Davenport University teaching Business Law I and II. Ms. Kramer is a member of ABI, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Consumer Bankruptcy Association and National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Bay County Bar Association, and is admitted to practice in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. Ms. Kramer is an active attorney on the *pro bono* roster for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, where she has committed to representing at least 12 debtors per year

on a *pro bono* basis, and she has assisted in training staff attorneys to practice bankruptcy law. She has represented thousands of consumers and small businesses in bankruptcy cases since 1998 and has spoken and published articles for ABI. Ms. Kramer received her B.S. in social sciences from the Michigan State University and her J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law, where she graduated in the top fifth of her class.

**Maureen Donohue Kraus** is vice president of economic development and business attraction for the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce in Detroit. She is a graduate of Albion College.

**Caralyce M. Lassner** is a principal in the firm Caralyce M. Lassner, JD, PC in Utica, Mich., where she practices exclusively in the area of consumer bankruptcy. She has been in practice for more than 10 years. She also has experience in the areas of family law, civil and contract litigation, administrative law and estate planning. Ms. Lassner is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. She is an active member of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association and ABI. Ms. Lassner was appointed to the board of directors of the CBA in 2009 and was elected to serve another term in fall 2011. She sits on the planning committees for the annual CBA-ABI Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Conference, the annual ICLE-CBA Consumer Bankruptcy Institute and the 2011 FBA/CBA Trial Advocacy Workshop, and assisted in the planning and development of the ICLE Bankruptcy Bootcamp, held in spring 2011. Ms. Lassner was named the Consumer Bankruptcy Association's 2010 Member of the Year and formerly served as ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Committee listserv moderator. She developed and moderates the CBA series, "Bankruptcy Basics Series," and has spoken at numerous seminars on the topic of pleadings, case preparation and best practices. Ms. Lassner has also authored and coauthored materials presented at several local and national bankruptcy seminars.

**David A. Lerner** is a shareholder with the law firm of Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., where he has concentrated his bankruptcy practice in representing secured and unsecured creditors, debtors and purchasers of assets in bankruptcy sales in chapters 7, 11 and 13. Mr. Lerner is a member of the Michigan State Bar, ABI, Debtor Creditor Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Association, Federal Bar Association (co-chair of its Bankruptcy Section), New York Bar Association and Texas Bar Association. He is admitted to practice in all courts in the State of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, courts in New York and Texas, and in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Lerner received his B.A. and B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law.

**Hannah M. McCollum** is an associate in the law firm of Gold, Lange & Majoros, P.C. in Southfield, Mich., where she concentrates her practice in bankruptcy litigation and business bankruptcy matters, with a specialization in chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. Prior to practicing at Gold, Lange & Majoros, Ms. McCollum was an associate at Pepper Hamilton LLP in Detroit for five years, where she also specialized in business bankruptcy matters. She is licensed to practice in Illinois and Michigan, and is admitted to the bars of the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern District of Illinois, the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Recognized in *Michigan Super Lawyers* as a "Rising Star" (2008-12), Ms.

McCollum is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association, ABI, the Federal Bar Association and the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). She serves on the Advisory Board for ABI's Central States Bankruptcy Workshop and is a past president of the Michigan Chapter of IWIRC. She received her B.A. with high honors from Indiana University in 1999 and her J.D. from the University of Michigan in 2002.

**Tom W. McDonald** is a C.P.A. and chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Bay City. He received his B.B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from Cooley Law School.

**Hon. Marci B. McIvor** was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit on March 14, 2003. Judge McIvor was in private practice until 1986, when she joined the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Michigan. As an assistant attorney general, she represented the Michigan Department of Treasury and other state agencies in bankruptcy matters. Judge McIvor served as an Assistant Attorney General until her current judicial appointment. She has frequently spoken on consumer bankruptcy issues for ABI, ICLE and the Consumer Bar Association. She received her B.A. from Harvard in 1978 and her J.D. from Wayne State University Law School.

**Lisa K. Mullen** is a staff attorney for chapter 13 standing trustee David W. Ruskin in Southfield, Mich. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern District of Michigan. From 1996 to 2002, she represented both consumer debtors and creditors. Ms. Mullen is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and ABI, and has previously served on the board of directors for the Consumer Bankruptcy Association (Eastern District of Michigan). She received her B.A. in social science from Michigan State University and her J.D. from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law.

**Hon. Daniel S. Opperman** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Flint and Bay City, sworn in on July 13, 2006. Prior to taking the bench, he practiced with Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner concentrating in litigation, bankruptcy and real estate. He earned his B.S. *magna cum laude* from Eastern Michigan University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School. While at Wayne State University, Judge Opperman was a member of the *Wayne Law Review* and served as note and comment editor.

**Kim M. Rattet** is a supervising bankruptcy attorney at the law firm of Trott & Trott, PC in Farmington Hills, Mich. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Federal Bar for both the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, ABI and the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. Ms. Rattet received her B.S. in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1993, her M.S. in forensic science from the University of New Haven in 1998 and her J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2001, where she graduated *magna cum laude*.

**Adam Jonathan Reatherford** is an associate attorney with Trott & Trott, P.C., in Farmington Hills, Mich., where he specializes in the representation of mortgage creditors in chapter 7 and chapter 13 bankruptcies. He joined the firm in 2008 and practices before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for

the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. He received his undergraduate degree from Oakland University and his J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

**Hon. Steven W. Rhodes** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit. From 1997-2004 and 2008-11, he also served on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Sixth Circuit, the last three years as chief judge. He was also appointed to a four-year term on the BAP beginning Jan. 1, 2008. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School teaching bankruptcy law and is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He is also co-author of a new book, *The Ponzi Book: A Legal Resource for Unraveling Ponzi Schemes*. Judge Rhodes has spoken at numerous conferences and seminars on bankruptcy law and practice, and his publications include “The Ethical Obligations of a Chapter 7 Trustee,” 80 *Am. Bankr. L.J.* 147 (2006); “An Empirical Study of Consumer Bankruptcy Papers,” 73 *Am. Bankr. L.J.* 653 (Summer 1999); and “Eight Statutory Causes of Delay and Expense in Chapter 11 Cases,” 67 *Am. Bankr. L.J.* 287 (Summer 1993). From 1994-96, he was an associate editor for the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*, and from 2005-09, he was ABI’s Vice President-Research. On April 3, 2009, ABI awarded him its 2009 Distinguished Service Award. Judge Rhodes was recently elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and will serve a concurrent term on the Judicial Council of the Sixth Circuit. He received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Michigan Law Review*.

**Louis P. Rochkind** is a partner in the Southfield, Mich., office of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, where he is a member of the firm’s Insolvency & Reorganization Practice Group and specializes in business and commercial workouts, reorganizations and bankruptcy. A former member of Jaffe’s executive committee, Mr. Rochkind currently focuses his practice on the representation of debtors, creditors’ committees, trustees and others in both bankruptcy courts and out-of-court workouts. His practice has involved representations in residential and commercial real estate, automotive suppliers, manufacturing, food, retail, health care and steel, as well as other industries. Mr. Rochkind received his Bachelor’s degree *cum laude* from the University of Michigan and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served as associate editor of the *Michigan Law Review*.

**David W. Ruskin** is a chapter 13 standing trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Southfield. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Bankruptcy Law Committee of its Real Property Law Section and the Debtor/Creditor Rights Committee of its Business Law Section. He is also co-founder of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association and an ABI member. In addition, Mr. Ruskin is a member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, having held a number of offices in the organization including president, and is also a member of the Bench-Bar Advisory Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, serving on its Committee on Local Rules. Mr. Ruskin has lectured extensively on bankruptcy and consumer and commercial transactions to both lay and professional audiences, and presently teaches bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights as an adjunct professor of law at Wayne State University Law School. He received his Ph.B. from Monteith College, Wayne State University and his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School.

**Alicia S. Schehr** is a partner in the Southfield, Mich., office of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, PC, where she is a member of its Insolvency & Reorganization Group and specializes in bankruptcy, reorganization and financial services law. Ms. Schehr's professional memberships include the State Bar of Michigan, ABI, the Turnaround Management Association, for which she is a program committee member, and the National Association of Credit Managers-Great Lakes, for which she was a director and vice chair from 2002-05. In addition, Ms. Schehr has been recognized in *Super Lawyers* as a "Michigan Rising Star" from 2008-12. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School, where she also received certificates of merit awards in bankruptcy and advanced legal research.

**Margaret Conti Schmidt** is a staff attorney at the Office of Krispen S. Carroll, Chapter 13 Trustee, in Detroit. She has been a staff attorney with Ms. Carroll's office since December 2002, prior to which she was in private practice for 13 years representing banks in commercial litigation and collections. Ms. Schmidt is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Federal Bar of the Eastern District of Michigan and ABI. She received her B.B.A. in business management from Western Michigan University and her J.D. from Wayne State Law School.

**Craig S. Schoenherr, Sr.**, is an officer, director and managing shareholder of O'Reilly Rancilio PC in Sterling Heights, Mich., where he specializes in creditors' rights, bankruptcy law, collections and commercial litigation. He is also chairman the firm's Creditors' Rights Group. Mr. Schoenherr is authorized to practice law in all U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts in the State of Michigan, as well as all state courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. A frequent writer and active speaker, Mr. Schoenherr most recently wrote "Seizure and Sale of Property for Delinquent Personal Property Taxes" in *The Michigan Assessor* and has spoken at both local and national levels in the area of creditors' rights. He is also an active participant in *pro bono* work through the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and the Metropolitan Detroit Bar Association. Mr. Schoenherr is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Macomb County, Oakland County, Detroit Metropolitan and Federal Bar Associations. He is a member of ABI, the National Association of Retail Collection Attorneys and the Michigan Creditor Bar Association, as well as director and president of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. Mr. Schoenherr received his Bachelor's degree with high honors from Montieith College of Wayne State University and his J.D. from Wayne State University School of Law.

**Hon. Walter Shapero** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed July 1988. After clerking for a Michigan Supreme Court Justice, Judge Shapero entered private practice with Shapero, Shapero and Cohn, which merged to eventually become Butzel Long. He has served in a number of local community and national organizations, including the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association Foundation. He has also taught at the law schools of the University of Detroit and Wayne State University. Judge Shapero received his A.B. from the University of Michigan in 1951 and his LL.B. from the University of Virginia Law School, where he served as a member of the editorial board of the *Virginia Law Review*.

**Mark H. Shapiro** is an attorney with Steinberg, Shapiro and Clark in Southfield, Mich. He was admitted to the Michigan Bar in 1989 and is admitted to practice before the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Sixth Circuit. He

is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. He received his B.A. from Kalamazoo College and his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School.

**Hon. Philip J. Shefferly** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed on March 21, 2003. He was appointed Chief Judge on April 25, 2009. Prior to taking the bench, he practiced at Schlusser, Lifton, Simon, Rand, Galvin and Jackier from 1979-90 and at Shefferly, Silverman & Morris from 1990-2003. His practice concentrated on business reorganizations and chapter 11, primarily representing business debtors, secured creditors and creditors' committees, among others. He also has extensive litigation experience in bankruptcy, federal and state courts. Judge Shefferly is a frequent speaker and presenter for ABI, the Federal Bar Association, the Consumer Bankruptcy Association and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He earned his B.A. with high distinction from the University of Michigan and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School.

**Tammy L. Terry** is a chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit. From 1992 until her appointment in 2000, she represented consumer and commercial creditors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 proceedings. Ms. Terry is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the U.S. District Court for Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and sits on the National Data Center's board of directors. She received her B.A. in political science from Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas, and her J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

**Hon. Thomas J. Tucker** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed on March 21, 2003. Following law school, Judge Tucker clerked for Hon. Albert J. Engel of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He then entered private practice for 20 years with the law firm of Cooper & Walinski, L.P.A. of Toledo, Ohio, where he focused on commercial litigation involving bankruptcy, Uniform Commercial Code and contract-dispute matters. Following law school, Judge Tucker clerked for Hon. Albert J. Engel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Judge Tucker received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from the University of Toledo and his J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

**Hon. Mary Ann Whipple** serves as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in Toledo. She has also served a term on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Before her appointment as a bankruptcy judge, she practiced law for 20 years as a commercial, bankruptcy and employment litigator with Fuller & Henry Ltd. in Toledo, Ohio. Judge Whipple is admitted to practice in Ohio and Michigan and before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Ohio and the Eastern District of Michigan. She also teaches creditor/debtor law as a part-time faculty member at the University of Toledo College of Law. Judge Whipple received the 2008 Toledo Bar Association Community Service Award and is also a master in and the immediate past president of The Morrison R. Waite Chapter of the American Inns of Court Foundation. She received her A.B. in Russian studies from the University of Michigan in 1977 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1981.