

Faculty Biographies

Chicago Consumer Bankruptcy Conference

Amy A. Aronson is a partner and founder of Aronson & Walsh, P.C. in Vernon Hills, Ill., where she practices in the area of creditors' rights in consumer bankruptcy cases. She is also an associate with Pierce & Associates in Chicago. Ms. Aronson received her Bachelor's degree from Lawrence University and her J.D. from Drake University Law School in May 1991.

Prof. Daniel A. Austin is an associate professor at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, where he teaches bankruptcy and commercial law. He is the author of "Bankruptcy and the Myth of 'Uniform Laws,'" 42 *Seton Hall Law Review* 1081 (2012) and co-author of *Reaffirmation Agreements in Consumer Bankruptcy Cases* (ABI, 1st ed. 2009 and 2d ed. 2010), and he has written numerous other articles. Prof. Austin is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar and practiced bankruptcy and commercial law for 16 years prior to joining the faculty at Northeastern. He received his J.D. from Columbia Law School and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Hon. Janet S. Baer is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed on March 5, 2012. Previously, she was a restructuring lawyer for more than 25 years and was involved in some of the most significant chapter 11 bankruptcy cases in the country. The majority of her practice focused on the representation of large, publicly held debtors in both restructuring and chapter 11 matters. She also represented companies in commercial litigation matters, including lender liability, fraud, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. Prior to forming her own firm in 2009, Judge Baer was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Winston & Strawn and Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss. She is currently a board member of the Chicago chapter of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and a member of the Women's Planning Committee of the Turnaround Management Association. Judge Baer earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and her J.D. from DePaul College of Law.

Hon. Timothy A. Barnes is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed May 16, 2012. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner in the Restructuring and Insolvency group of the international law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP at its New York and London offices, where he practiced corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and insolvency law in large and complex matters. Judge Barnes began his career as a law clerk to Hon. William A. Clark, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio (ret.), and was an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Chicago. He is licensed to practice in Illinois, New York and Ohio, and is a licensed solicitor in England and Wales. Judge Barnes is a Fellow of INSOL International, graduating (with honors) from the Global Insolvency Practice Course in 2011. He is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and international insolvency issues, and teaches on the subject of corporate restructuring as an adjunct professor of law. Judge Barnes is a graduate of Miami University and received his master's degree from Ohio State University Graduate School and his J.D. from Ohio State University School of Law.

Hon. Donald R. Cassling is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, sworn in on Jan. 18, 2012. Prior to his appointment, he was a partner at Jenner & Block and at Quarles & Brady in Chicago, where he had a national practice in commercial and patent-infringement law, as well as bankruptcy litigation. Upon graduation from law school, he clerked for Chief Judge John R. Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit before returning to Chicago

American Bankruptcy Institute

to practice law. Judge Cassling has written and lectured extensively on the UCC, banking law and commercial litigation and has testified as an expert witness on the Illinois UCC. He is a co-author of *Illinois Practice: Uniform Commercial Code with Illinois Code Comments* (Thomson/West 2007) and *Illinois Practice: Uniform Commercial Code Forms Annotated* (Thomson/West 2006), and is the author of the “Joinder, Consolidation, and Severance” chapter of *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, 3rd edition* (ABA Section of Litigation/West 2011). From 2003-11, Judge Cassling wrote “Banking Briefs,” a banking litigation column for *The Banking Law Journal*, and served as a member of its board of editors. He has participated as a faculty member for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and was selected as an *Illinois Super Lawyer* from 2009-12. Judge Cassling earned his A.B. from Duke University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*.

Joseph E. Cohen is a partner in the Chicago and Lake County, Ill., firm of Cohen & Krol, concentrating in bankruptcy and reorganization. Mr. Cohen has represented debtors in chapter 11, 7 and 13 cases for the past 30 years. He also represents secured and unsecured creditors and serves as counsel to creditors’ committees in chapter 11 proceedings. Mr. Cohen lectured for the Continuing Legal Education Program of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), the Federal Reserve Bank, various CPA organizations and the Lake County Bar Association. He has also lectured for and served as the chairperson of the U.S. Trustee Advisory Counsel for Trustees and has been a speaker at ABI’s Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. Mr. Cohen authored an article for the Chicago Bar Association’s *Young Lawyers Journal* on collective bargaining agreements in bankruptcy proceedings and a chapter for the *IICLE Bankruptcy Practice Handbook*. He has previously served as chairman, vice-chairman and secretary of the Chicago Bar Association Bankruptcies & Reorganization Committee. Mr. Cohen presently serves as one of the chapter 7 and chapter 11 trustees for Lake County, Ill. He holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Champaign and is a graduate of Chicago Kent College of Law.

Nathan E. Curtis is a supervising attorney at Geraci Law, LLC in Chicago, where his duties include performing detailed reviews of complicated chapter 7 and 13 matters. He has filed or reviewed more than 10,000 consumer bankruptcy cases, including litigation and appeals. Mr. Curtis is a member of ABI and the Illinois State Bar Association and is an associate member of the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees. He is a former member of the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee and is currently a member of the executive committee for the Chicago Bar Association’s Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee. Mr. Curtis is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the John Marshall Law School.

Mehul D. Desai is a partner with Swanson & Desai, LLC in Chicago, where he focuses his practice on consumer bankruptcy law. He was previously an associate with Robert J. Semrad & Associates, where he helped advance consumer bankruptcy law. Mr. Desai is licensed in the state of Illinois, the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Illinois and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He received his J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

James J. Haller is an attorney with The Bankruptcy Center in Belleville, Ill. He sits on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and serves on the

Chicago Consumer Bankruptcy Conference

standing Rules Committee for the Bankruptcy Court of Southern District of Illinois. Mr. Haller co-founded the Bankruptcy Association of Southern Illinois (BASIL) in 2004 and has also served as a panelist for several organizations, including ABI, NACBA, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT), BASIL, Illinois State Bar Association, Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Illinois Housing in Action, Illinois Attorney General's office and the Land of Lincoln Legal Services. Mr. Haller's published works include "What *Till v. SCS Credit Corp.* Means for Your Chapter 13 Clients," 92 Ill. B. J. 9, 478-482 (2004); "The New Bankruptcy Law: A Consumer Lawyer's Guide," 93 Ill. B. J. 9, 454-460 (2005); "Chapter One: Getting a Consumer Bankruptcy Started in Consumer Bankruptcy Practice," 1-1 to 1-36 (IICLE, 2011); and "Creativity Alive in Chapter 13 Plans after *Espinosa*," *ABI Journal* 40, 94 (April 2011). He received his B.A. from Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and his J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

Prof. Susan E. Hauser is the Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar at ABI for the fall of 2012 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. Professor Hauser's scholarly interests include 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.

Ariane R. Holtschlag is an associate attorney with Innovalaw, P.C. in Orland Park, Ill., where her practice is geared primarily toward consumer bankruptcy and representing debtors and creditors, chapter 7 trustees and small businesses in chapter 7 and chapter 11. She is a former member of ABI's Bankruptcy Liaison Committee and is a current member of the Consumer Bankruptcy Committee and the Advisory Board for the Chicago Consumer Bankruptcy Conference. Ms. Holtschlag has spoken at several bankruptcy education programs and is also a member of the C.A.R.E. program, speaking regularly to high school students about credit and bankruptcy. She received her undergraduate degree from Illinois Wesleyan University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa.

Keisha M. Hooks is a staff attorney for the Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee, Marilyn O. Marshall, in Chicago, where she represents the trustee in bankruptcy and appellate matters and provides legal support to employees of the Office. She has also written articles on the nationwide impact and application of BAPCPA, including a submission to the 2011 edition of the *Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Handbook* (Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education), and has spoken at several educational programs geared toward bankruptcy practitioners. In addition to practicing law, she volunteers with the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (C.A.R.E.) program and co-founded a non-profit organization that provides mentors and tutors to Chicago Public School students. Ms. Hooks is a member of ABI, where she sits on the Regional Membership Committee. She is also a past member of Illinois State University's Attorney Advisory Board and a past member of the Bankruptcy Liaison Committee for the Northern District of Illinois. Ms. Hooks is licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois, and she is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Ms. Hooks earned her B.S. at Illinois State University and her J.D. at the Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she was a two-time CALI Award winner.

American Bankruptcy Institute

Berton J. “B.J.” Maley is vice president and managing attorney at Codilis & Associates, P.C. in Burr Ridge, Ill., where he focuses his practice on secured creditors’ rights in bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure and related matters. Mr. Maley currently serves as vice chair of the DuPage County Bar Association Bankruptcy Committee and Secretary of the Chicago Bar Association Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee. He is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association, ABI, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (associate member) and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. Mr. Maley co-authored “Trial of the Foreclosure Case” in *Illinois Foreclosure Practice*, (Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2003), and authored “Oh, Won’t You Stay Just a Little Bit Longer: Duration and Extension of the Automatic Stay in Bankruptcy” and “Avoiding the Auctioneer’s Gavel: Saving Homes from Foreclosure,” appearing in the *DCBA Brief: The Journal of the DuPage County Bar Association*; “Chapters & Verse: Real Estate Professionals and the Bankruptcy Process” and “No Vacancies,” appearing in *REO Magazine*; and “Saving Your House Through Bankruptcy,” appearing in the *Loyola Consumer Law Journal*. Mr. Maley is also a regular lecturer on bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure and related topics. He received his undergraduate degree from Loyola University of Chicago College of Arts and Sciences and his J.D. from Loyola University School of Law.

Faiq M. Mihlar is with the law firm of Heavner, Scott, Beyers & Mihlar, LLC in Decatur, Ill., where he practices in the areas of foreclosures, bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, commercial litigation, collections, replevins, evictions and ordinance violations exclusively representing creditors. Mr. Mihlar served a two-year term as a member of the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee. After graduating from law school, he worked at Schuchat, Cook and Werner in St. Louis, Mo., in the areas of ERISA, workers’ compensation, labor and unemployment. A frequent writer and speaker, Mr. Mihlar has contributed articles to the *ABI Journal* and the *Illinois Bar Journal* and has presented on bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure and related topics for IICLE, BASIL, ISBA and Lorman Education Services. He is a member of ABI, Bankruptcy Association of Southern Illinois, Illinois State Bar Association, Decatur Bar Association and the Chapter 13 Local Rules Subcommittee for the Southern District of Illinois. Mr. Mihlar received his B.S. in economics *summa cum laude* from Southeast Missouri State and his J.D. from Southern Illinois University School of Law.

Gerald Mylander is the senior attorney for the Office of Glenn B. Stearns, Chapter 13 Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, in Lisle, Ill. He has been working exclusively in the bankruptcy field for more than 20 years. Mr. Mylander has served as a panelist on numerous local bankruptcy law seminars and has been a featured speaker at several local bar association meetings. Mr. Mylander has served as a panelist for the Staff Attorney Workshop at the 2001 National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees annual convention, was a contributing author for the 1998-2002 editions of the *Wiley Bankruptcy Law Update* and is an ABI member. He received his B.A. from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School.

Mark E. Shure is a partner with Latimer LeVay Fyock LLC in Chicago, where his practice focuses in the areas of commercial litigation, creditors’ rights and bankruptcy. He has also represented both student loan lenders and guaranty agencies in several class action suits filed across the country by student loan debtors. Mr. Shure is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh and District of Columbia Circuits, as well as all state and federal courts located in Illinois. He was formerly a partner in the Chicago

Chicago Consumer Bankruptcy Conference

office of McDermott, Will & Emery and a principal in the law firm of Keating & Shure, Ltd. Mr. Shure received his J.D. *cum laude* from Loyola University School of Law, where he served as managing editor of the *Chicago Law Journal*.

M. Gretchen Silver is a trial attorney for the Chicago Office of the U.S. Trustee. Prior to joining the U.S. Trustee in August 2002, she was an enforcement attorney with the Midwest regional office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Before joining the SEC, Ms. Silver practiced bankruptcy law at Rudnick & Wolfe, where she represented debtors, creditors' committees, secured lenders and chapter 7 trustees. She also clerked for Hon. Sarah Sharer Curley in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona in Phoenix from 1987-90. Ms. Silver received both her B.S. and her J.D. from the University of Illinois - Champaign Urbana.

Thomas E. Springer is a lawyer for Springer, Brown, Covey, Gaertner & Davis, LLC in Wheaton, Ill., and is a chapter 7 trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, appointed in 2000. He has concentrated exclusively in the area of bankruptcy on behalf of debtors, creditors and trustees in chapters 7, 11 and 13 since 1991. Mr. Springer is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee, Trustee Advisory Committee of the Northern District of Illinois, ABI, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and American Bar Association, and he is past chair of the DuPage County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Committee. He has also been a contributing author, speaker and moderator for several organizations including the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Region 11 U.S. Trustee Conferences, Illinois Credit Union League, USFN Legal Issues Seminar and REOMAC Annual Bankruptcy and Practice seminar. He received his B.A. from Purdue University in 1984 and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law in 1991, where he was a member of the *DePaul Business Law Journal*.

Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff has served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago since 1987 and as Chief Judge from 2002-07. After graduating from law school, Judge Wedoff became a partner and member of the executive committee at the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block. As co-chair of ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Committee, he prepared analyses of bankruptcy reform legislation and testified before the House Subcommittee on Commercial & Administrative Law. For his work in this area, Judge Wedoff received a special award from ABI. He is chair of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and was a member of the working group that drafted the means test forms adopted by the Judicial Conference for the implementation of BAPCPA. He also drafted the model chapter 13 plan currently used in the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Wedoff is the author of the chapter on professional employment in Queenan, Hendel and Hillinger, *Chapter 11 Theory and Practice* (LRP Publications, 1994), and has been an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. He has served on ABI's Executive Committee and as a governor and secretary of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Wedoff is a frequent lecturer, having presented papers on a variety of consumer and business issues, and is a member of the Federal Judicial Center's Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Education. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, and presided over the United Air Lines chapter 11 reorganization. Judge Wedoff received the Excellence in Education Award from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in 1995. He graduated from the college and law school of the University of Chicago.