

# Faculty Biographies

**J. Nick Badgerow** is partner-in-charge at the Overland Park, Kan., office of Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP, where he serves as the firm's professional responsibility counsel. His practice focuses on the litigation of business and employment matters, including construction, trade secrets/non-competes/intellectual property, professional responsibility, negligence and employment discrimination, and wrongful termination (for employers only). In addition, he is frequently retained to give opinions and testimony as an expert witness in attorney-liability suits. Mr. Badgerow speaks at many seminars and programs on the subjects of litigation, construction and engineering, civil rights and employment, and professional ethics. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 articles and books on these subjects and is actively involved with the American Bar Association, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, Kansas Bar Association and the Missouri Bar, as well as local bar associations and the Earl E. O'Connor American Inn of Court, for which he is a former president. He is a member of the Kansas Judicial Council and Chairman of the Civil Code Advisory Committee. He also serves as a member of the Kansas State Board of Discipline for Attorneys, chairman of the Kansas Ethics Advisory Opinion Committee and chairman of the Johnson County (Kansas) Ethics and Grievance Committee. Mr. Badgerow is a graduate of Principia College and received his J.D. from University of Missouri-Kansas City. He has also completed AAA Advanced Arbitrator Training.

**Mona L. Burton** is a partner with the firm of Holland & Hart LLP in Salt Lake City and has more than 30 years of experience representing creditors, debtor, trustees and committees in a wide range of cases in the fields of bankruptcy, receivership and restructuring. She is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Ms. Burton received her B.S. with honors from the University of Texas and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Houston.

**Daniel F. Dooley** is a principal and CEO at MorrisAnderson in Chicago, where he is an operational, financial and transactional specialist. He has successfully managed projects and assumed such interim management positions as CRO, CEO, COO and CFO for publicly and privately owned companies in the manufacturing, distribution and service sectors. During his career, Mr. Dooley has negotiated numerous transactions involving sales, refinancing and recapitalization of companies. He has experience in the development and implementation of cost-reduction and restructuring plans, as well as lender and key-supplier restructuring negotiations. Prior to joining MorrisAnderson in 1997, he served as an executive with several Fortune 500 manufacturers in both general-management and financial-management capacities, including Illinois Tool Works, an industrial manufacturer, and Allied Signal, an automotive electronics and aerospace manufacturer. In 2011, Mr. Dooley was honored with the Turnaround Management Association's "Turnaround of the Year - Small Company" award for Analytics, Inc., an independent research laboratory in St. Louis, Mo. He has served on the board of directors and been a key advisor to corporations and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Dooley is a Certified Turnaround Professional (CTP) and a former board member and vice president of the International Turnaround Management Association. He earned his B.B.A. and M.B.A. in finance at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Hon. Dennis R. Dow** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Dow was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters 7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11,

12 and 13 cases. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow has authored or co-authored several articles, including “ERISA-Related Claims in Bankruptcy,” *Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Nov/Dec 1993); “‘Rent to Own’ Agreements in Bankruptcy: Sales or Leases?,” *ABI Law Review*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1994); and “Gramm-Leach-Bliley and the Bankruptcy/Collection Attorney,” *Norton Bankruptcy Law Advisor* (Feb. 2002). He is a member of the Missouri Bar and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Associations, as well as ABI’s Board of Directors. Judge Dow has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law since 1995. He received his B.A. with honors from the University of Wyoming and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law, where he was notes editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

**Hon. Audrey R. Evans** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas in Little Rock appointed Feb. 19, 2002, and serving as chief judge from 2003-09. Prior to her appointment, she represented both debtors and creditors in private practice. Judge Evans is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, as well as a member of numerous national and state bar organizations and foundations. She chaired the Arkansas Board of Law Examiners from 1995 until 2001 and served on the Board of the Volunteers’ Organization for Central Arkansas Legal Services (VOCALS) for eight years, serving as its chair from 1993-95. She also served on the board of the NCBJ Endowment for Education from 2005-10 and the Planning Committee for the 2009 NCBJ Annual Conference. Judge Evans clerked for Hon. G. Thomas Eisele, then chief judge of the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Arkansas. She graduated *cum laude* from the University of Texas at Austin and received her J.D. with high honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, where she was associate editor of the *UALR Law Journal*.

**Hon. Arthur B. Federman** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Dec. 18, 1989, and reappointed in 2003. He currently serves as a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Eighth Circuit in Kansas City and as a member of the Committee on Codes of Conduct of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Upon graduation from law school, he worked as a trial attorney in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. From 1979-89, Judge Federman was in private practice in Kansas City and served as a panel trustee for the Western District of Missouri. While in private practice, he represented debtors, creditors and creditors’ committees in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases. Judge Federman became a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy in 2003. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1973 and from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law in 1976 with distinction, where he was elected to the Order of the Bench and Robe and was an associate editor of the *Law Review*.

**Dave W. Frantze** is a partner at Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP in Kansas City, Mo., where he chairs its Real Estate Practice Division and represents developers, property owners, tenants and municipalities in real estate development projects, particularly projects that include the use of development incentives such as tax-increment financing and tax abatement. Mr. Frantze has served as counsel to both developers and municipalities in the formation of public/private partnerships and other real estate-based economic development efforts. He also represents the Kansas City Royals Baseball Club in connection with its stadium leases and real estate activities and is involved in the representation of non-profit entities in real estate development activities. Mr. Fran-

tze has been recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in America* and *Super Lawyers*. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Avila University and his J.D. with distinction from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**Robert C. Furr** is a founding partner with Furr & Cohen, P.A. in Boca Raton, Fla., and serves as a panel trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Southern District of Florida, where he oversees approximately 2,000 cases per year. He is regularly appointed as a chapter 11 trustee and has been designated as the chapter 12 trustee in the Southern District. Mr. Furr has represented creditors, debtors and trustees in bankruptcy proceedings for more than 30 years, and has represented numerous businesses in chapter 7 liquidation and chapter 11 reorganizations, as well as individuals in complex chapter 7 and 11 proceedings. From 2000-05, he was the editor of *NABTalk*, the journal of National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT), and he has served on NABT's board since 2000 and was president from 2008-09. Mr. Furr has been president of the Bankruptcy Trustees Association for the Southern District of Florida for 15 years and serves on the board of directors of the American Board of Certification. He regularly lectures to national professional organizations on issues involving bankruptcy, creditors' rights and remedies, and is admitted and licensed to practice law in Georgia, Florida and all federal courts in Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1983, Mr. Furr became a board-certified civil trial lawyer by the Florida Bar, and in 1994, he was certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. He has tried numerous contested matters in bankruptcy proceedings, including all types of adversary proceedings. AV-rated by Martindale Hubbell, Mr. Furr is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and is a *Florida Super Lawyer*. He received his J.D. from Emory University in 1975.

**Hon. Janice M. Karlin** was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka in 2002 and to a five-year term on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in 2008. Before taking the bench, Judge Karlin served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for 22 years, concentrating on civil litigation in the federal court. She also served as an adjunct professor of trial practice at the University of Kansas. Judge Karlin is the immediate past chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section for the Federal Bar Association, is the court's liaison to the Bankruptcy Bench Bar Committee, is on the Board of Editors of the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association* and lectures frequently, including making CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) presentations to high school students. She is also a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, the Federal, American and Kansas Bar Associations, and the Women Attorney Association of Topeka. Judge Karlin received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas and served as note and comment editor for the *Kansas University Law Review*.

**Robert J. Keach** is a shareholder at Bernstein Shur in Portland, Maine, where he focuses on the representation of various parties in workouts and bankruptcy cases, including debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, lessors and third parties acquiring troubled companies and/or their assets. He has appeared as a panelist on national bankruptcy, lender-liability and creditors' rights programs, and is the author of several articles on bankruptcy and creditors' rights that have appeared in the *ABI Law Review*, *Commercial Law Journal* and *ABI Journal*. Mr. Keach is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a former ABI president. He currently serves as co-chair of the ABI

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Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11, and he is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Certification and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law. He has been recognized as a “Star Individual” in Corporate M&A/Bankruptcy in *Chambers USA*, as well as a *New England Super Lawyer*, and he is included in *Best Lawyers in America* (Ten-Year Certificate) and *Chambers USA*. Most recently, Mr. Keach has *inter alia* represented ad hoc committees in the *Homebanc Mortgage*, *New Century TRS Holdings* and *Nortel Networks* cases, as well as a public utilities commission in the *FairPoint Communications* case.

**Philip J. Landau** is a founding partner of the law firm of Shraiberg, Ferrara & Landau, P.A. in Boca Raton, Fla., where he practices in the areas of bankruptcy, creditors’ rights and commercial litigation. A large portion of his clients are development companies and/or their principals. Mr. Landau has represented a wide range of clients in chapter 11 and chapter 7 cases, including debtors-in-possession, creditors’ committees, secured and unsecured creditors, DIP lenders, purchasers of assets, landlords, trustees, parties to pre-petition contracts and leases, assignees and assignors in assignment for the benefit of creditors proceedings, and defendants in adversary proceedings. Prior to forming SFL, Mr. Landau was a shareholder with Akerman Senterfitt in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He also served as a law clerk for Hon. Paul G. Hyman, Jr. Mr. Landau received his undergraduate degree in biology from the University at Albany, SUNY and his J.D. from the University of Richmond, where he served as an associate editor on the *University of Richmond Law Review*.

**Hon. Charles L. Nail, Jr.** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Dakota in Pierre. He was previously a partner with the Minneapolis law firm of Arnold & McDowell, during which time he also served as a chapter 7 trustee for the District of Minnesota. Judge Nail returned to South Dakota in 1988 to become the Assistant U.S. Trustee for the District of South Dakota and was appointed Clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Dakota in 1995, a position he held until being sworn in as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in August 2006. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of South Dakota School of Law. Judge Nail received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of South Dakota and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

**Hon. Robert E. Nugent** has served as a judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas in Wichita since June 14, 2000, and was appointed Chief Bankruptcy Judge on Oct. 28, 2002. Judge Nugent is also a member of the U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Tenth Circuit and has served on that court since 2002. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner in the Wichita firm of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chtd., where he practiced in the areas of commercial litigation, real estate and bankruptcy law. Judge Nugent was admitted to the Kansas and Federal Bars in 1980. He currently serves as Secretary of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and is a former member of the NCBJ’s Board of Governors (2006-09). He has served as a member of the Committee on Federal and State Jurisdiction of the U.S. Judicial Conference and is a former president of the Wichita Bar Association (1998-99). A frequent speaker to bankruptcy organizations and continuing legal education groups, he is a co-editor and chapter author of the *Kansas Bankruptcy Handbook, Third Edition* (Kansas Bar Association 2009) and a member of the Board of Editors of the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*. Judge Nugent received his B.A. in English and political science with honors from the University of Kansas and his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

**Kevyn D. Orr** is a partner in the law firm of Jones Day in Washington, D.C., where he has practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, business restructuring, banking and financial institution regulation and commercial litigation since 1983. Throughout his career, he has handled all aspects of complex and precedent-setting matters and has successfully tried numerous jury trials. He has also served as both the chief government legal officer of a failed financial institution and as a special master to oversee the operations of a real estate development company. Mr. Orr has expertise concerning restructuring and financial institution regulation and has also assisted clients with government RFPs, inspector general audits and criminal investigations. Immediately prior to joining Jones Day in 2001, he was the director of the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for U.S. Trustees. Prior to that, he was associate general counsel of Complex Litigation and Bankruptcy at the Resolution Trust Corporation, senior counsel at the FDIC and litigation partner in the Miami law firm of Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson. He is a member of the bars of Florida, the District of Columbia and numerous federal courts, and is also a member of the ABA and ABI, serving on the advisory board of the *ABI Law Review*. Mr. Orr is a frequent lecturer at professional conferences and law schools, has testified before Congress regarding bankruptcy and financial institution regulation, and has appeared numerous times on television and radio regarding bankruptcy and the regulation of financial institutions. He received both his B.A. in political science and his J.D. from the University of Michigan.

**Kathy Bazoian Phelps** is a partner at Danning, Gill, Diamond & Kollitz, LLP in Los Angeles, where her practice focuses on the representation of trustees and receivers, debtors, creditors and litigants in bankruptcy and receivership cases. She is well versed in all issues arising in Ponzi cases and has been lead counsel in large-scale litigation involving recovery of assets in those types of fraud cases. Ms. Phelps is the co-author of *The Ponzi Book: A Legal Resource for Unraveling Ponzi Schemes* (2012). Other recent publications include "Emergence of *Mareva* by Letter: Banks' Liability to Non-Customer Victims of Fraud," *Business Law International*, Vol. 12, No. 2, May 2011; "In *Pari Delicto* and The Blame Game: Should Receivers Get Caught in the Fray?," *Receivership News*, January 2011; and "Opportunities for Trustees in Ponzi Scheme Cases," *NABTalk*, Summer 2010. Ms. Phelps is the editor of the *Receivership News* and is a member of the boards of directors of the California Receivers Forum and the Century City Chamber of Commerce, as well as a member of the advisory board of the International Association for Asset Recovery. She has lectured widely and written on bankruptcy and receivership matters for ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Accountants, the International Association for Asset Recovery, the National Association of Attorneys General and the California Bankruptcy Forum. She received her B.A. from Pomona College and her J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles.

**Prof. Katherine M. Porter** is an professor of law at the University of California Irvine School of Law in Irvine, Calif. She was previously a faculty member at the University of Iowa College of Law and has been a visiting professor at Harvard Law School and UC Berkeley Law. She conducts research on families in financial distress, including an ongoing study of chapter 13 cases that ended without a discharge. Prof. Porter was a principal investigator in the 2007 Consumer Bankruptcy Project and a Fellow of the Bankruptcy Data Project at Harvard. Her recent articles include "Life After Debt" in the *ABI Law Review*, "Saving up for Bankruptcy" in the *Georgetown Law Journal*, and "Misbehavior and Mistake in Bankruptcy Mortgage Claims" in the *Texas Law Review*. She has testified several times before Congress on consumer-credit issues and has made media appearances on

“ABC Nightline,” “The Today Show” and National Public Radio, as well as in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *Newsweek*. She is a regular contributor to Credit Slips, a blog about credit and bankruptcy. She received her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**John Rao** is an attorney with the National Consumer Law Center in Boston, where he focuses on consumer credit and bankruptcy issues, and he has served as a panelist and instructor at numerous bankruptcy and consumer law trainings and conferences. He is a contributing author and editor of NCLC’s *Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, co-author of NCLC’s *Foreclosures*, and author of *Bankruptcy Basics*, *Guide to Surviving Debt* and *NCLC Reports: Bankruptcy and Foreclosures Edition*. He is also a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy* and the *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*, and has authored articles for the *ABI Journal*. Mr. Rao serves as a member of the federal Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts in 2006, and has served as an expert witness and testified in Congress. He is a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, vice president of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and a former ABI Board member. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Boston College School of Law. Mr. Rao is a graduate of Boston University and received his J.D. from the University of California.

**Hon. Charles E. Rendlen, III** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, appointed to a 14-year term on May 23, 2006. He was also appointed as a *pro tem* member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in August 2010. Judge Rendlen was in private practice as a litigator for 28 years and served as the firm’s managing partner for 13 years. In June 2003, he was appointed by the Attorney General to serve as U.S. Trustee for Region 13, comprised of Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska. He graduated *magna cum laude* from William Jewell College in 1972 and received his J.D. from the University of Missouri Columbia in 1976.

**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*.

**Jean R. Robertson** is a partner at Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP in Cleveland, where she has extensive experience representing creditors, debtors, creditors' committees and trustees on a wide range of creditors' rights, business reorganization and bankruptcy matters. Her clients include steel, automotive, manufacturing, coal, plastics, construction, health care and retail industries. In 2003, she was named by *Turnarounds and Workouts* as one of 11 "Outstanding Young Bankruptcy Attorneys" in the country and has been named a leader in her field by *Chambers USA*. She is also AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named in *Best Lawyers in America* and in *Ohio Super Lawyers*. A frequent lecturer and author, Ms. Robertson is co-chair of ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee and a contributor to the *ABI Journal's* Intensive Care column. She is also co-chair of the Healthcare and Nonprofits in Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the Business Section of the American Bar Association and is an active member of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). She is the founder of the Northeast Ohio IWIRC Network and is also a founding member of In Counsel With Women, a professional business women's network in Cleveland. Ms. Robertson is the current chair of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. She received both her B.A. *cum laude* and her J.D. from The Ohio State University.

**Mark A. Shaiken** is a partner with Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP in Kansas City, where his practice includes all facets of the debtor/creditor relationship, including secured creditor, creditors' committee, trustee and debtor's representation, as well as workouts, foreclosures, *replevin*, Reg B, lender-liability defense and secured transactions litigation. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in Business Bankruptcy Law and is licensed to practice in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Pennsylvania. He served as law clerk to Hon. James A. Pusateri, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas, from 1981-84. Mr. Shaiken has taught advanced bankruptcy law at the University of Kansas since 1996 and is co-author of *Litigation under the Automatic Stay in Bankruptcy*, a one-volume treatise published by Aspen Publishing. He is a member of ABI, the American Bar Association and the Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys, and was given the Missouri Bar Association's Michael Roser Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy in 2001. Mr. Shaiken was also named a 2012 Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers in America*. He received his B.A. in American studies from Haverford College in 1977 and his J.D. *cum laude* from Washburn University in 1981.

**Hon. Anita L. Shodeen** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Iowa in Des Moines, appointed in August 2009. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Shodeen was in private practice in Des Moines, where she focused on bankruptcy law and served as a chapter 7 panel trustee and chapter 12 standing trustee. Judge Shodeen is a member of ABI and the American College of Bankruptcy, and she is currently serving a three-year term as a member of the Board of Governors representing the Eighth Circuit with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

**Paul D. Sinclair** is a shareholder at Polsinelli Shughart PC in its Kansas City, Mo., office, where he has spent more than 30 years as a lead trial lawyer in jury, non-jury and arbitration cases. He represents secured and unsecured creditors, business debtors, committees of unsecured creditors and equity security-holders, and liquidating trusts in business restructuring, workout and bankruptcy matters. His background in complex business litigation and planning includes veil-piercing, successor liability, executive employment, director and officer liability litigation, and construction and real estate litigation of every type and description. Mr. Sinclair has represented buyers and sellers of

significant businesses in asset/business sales and acquisitions. His general business clients are active in the service industry, real estate, lending and finance, trucking, insurance, automotive and other general business enterprises. Mr. Sinclair has repeatedly been listed in the “Best of the Bar” in the *Kansas City Business Journal*, *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers in America*. He received his B.A. from Boston College *magna cum laude* and his J.D. from Georgetown University.

**Hon. Dale L. Somers** was appointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka in September 2003 and hears cases in Topeka, Wichita and Kansas City, Kan. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he practiced law in Topeka for 32 years in the areas of banking, commercial law, bankruptcy and family law. Judge Somers is a past president of the Kansas Bar Association, a Life Fellow of the American Bar Association and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and a member of ABI, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the Topeka Bar Association. He was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* from 1986-2004. Judge Somers received his B.A. from Kansas State University in 1968 and his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1971.

**Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States** was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis on March 17, 2003. From 1991-93, she was law clerk to Hon. James J. Barta in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and from 1993-98, she was an associate with Campbell & Coyne P.C. She later joined Ziercher & Hocker, P.C., eventually rising to partner, then Husch & Eppenberger, LLC as a result of a merger, where she practiced in its Insolvency Practice Group. In 1997, she was appointed as chapter 7 trustee for Family Company of America (d/b/a National Supermarkets). In 2000, the Missouri Supreme Court appointed her to its Regional Disciplinary Committee, and in 2001, she was appointed by then-Gov. Bob Holden as one of four commissioners for the St. Louis City Board of Election Commissioners. Judge Surratt-States was featured as one of five “Up and Coming Lawyers” by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* in 1999. She has been a member of the Missouri Bar and the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, for which she served as co-chair of its Bankruptcy Committee; the Mound City Bar Association, for which she served as Corresponding Secretary; the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges; the National Association of Women Judges; ABI; and the American Bar Association. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Oklahoma City University in 1988 and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1991.

**Tara Twomey** is Of Counsel to the National Consumer Law Center in Carmel, Calif., and the Amicus Project director for the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. She has also served as a lecturer in law at Stanford Law School, Harvard Law School and Boston College Law School. Ms. Twomey is a former clinical instructor at the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, where her practice focused in part on sustainable homeownership for low- and moderate-income homeowners, including foreclosure prevention and chapter 13 bankruptcy. Ms. Twomey is a contributing author of several books published by the National Consumer Law Center, including *Foreclosures: Defenses, Workouts and Mortgage Servicing*. She also contributes to the *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*. Ms. Twomey earned her J.D. from Boston College Law School *summa cum laude* and received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, San Diego. After law school, she served as a law clerk for Chief Justice Herbert P. Wilkins of the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Subsequently, she received a two-year Skadden Fellowship to work at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School.