

# Faculty Biographies

**Hon. Bruce T. Beesley** was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Reno on Jan. 3, 2011. Prior to his appointment, he was a practicing attorney for approximately 30 years, specializing in bankruptcy and civil litigation matters. He began his bankruptcy career in 1980 and has represented creditors' committees, trustees, debtors and creditors in bankruptcy. Judge Beesley's practice has also included civil and business litigation, as well as expert advice or testimony regarding bankruptcy and secured transactions. He has taught and been a presenter at several seminars regarding various bankruptcy-related topics, and has co-authored several articles in business publications. Judge Beesley was certified in Creditors' Rights by the American Board of Certification in 2003. He is a member of ABI and a board member of the Southwest Bankruptcy Conference, and he served as a lawyer representative for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. He was also a member of the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Nevada from 2000-10 and president from 2008-09. Judge Beesley is a Master Emeritus member and past president of the Bruce R. Thompson American Inns of Court. He received his B.S. in 1975 from the University of Nevada, Reno and his J.D. in 1978 from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

**Geoffrey L. Berman** is a senior vice president of Development Specialists, Inc. in its Los Angeles office and is ABI's Chairman and a former ABI president. He has more than 35 years of experience in the extension of secured and unsecured credit and in the liquidation of numerous businesses, as well as expertise in all types of insolvency case administrations, especially with liquidating and creditor trusts under chapter 11 and in general assignments for the benefit of creditors in a variety of industries, including wholesale seafood, retail auto parts, various manufacturing concerns, wholesale nursery operations and high-tech companies. A certified mediator, Mr. Berman is on the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the Central District of California, as well as on the Register of Mediators for the District of Delaware. He received his B.A. from the University of the Pacific and his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law.

**Steven M. Berman** is a partner in the Tampa, Fla., office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, specializing in the firm's Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice group. Mr. Berman has more than 22 years of bankruptcy experience and has focused his practice as a business bankruptcy litigator representing creditors, trustees, committees and business entities, litigating disputes in bankruptcy court. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in both Creditors' Rights and Business Bankruptcy Law, and is a member of both the Florida and California Bars. Mr. Berman is an active member of ABI, serving on the advisory boards for the Southwest Bankruptcy Conference, Bankruptcy Battleground West and the Judge Alexander L. Paskay Seminar on Bankruptcy Law and Practice. He has also served as the Special Projects/Task Force Leader for ABI's Public Companies and Claims Trading Committee, and he is also a member of the California Bankruptcy Forum, the Florida Bar Business Law Section's Bankruptcy/UCC Committee, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association and the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum, for which he serves on its board of directors. He is a frequent lecturer for ABI, the California Bankruptcy Forum and the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum, and he also guest lectures for the Advanced Bankruptcy Seminars at the University of Florida Levin College of Law as well as Stetson University College of Law. Mr. Berman received his B.S. in multi-national business operations from Florida State University and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**John R. Bollinger** is a shareholder with Boleman Law Firm, PC in Hampton, Va., where he practices in consumer bankruptcy law. A frequent speaker, Mr. Bollinger currently serves on the board for the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association and is an editor for ABI's VOLO site (volo.abi.org). Additionally, he was recognized in *Super Lawyers* as a "Rising Star" in consumer bankruptcy law (2010-11). Mr. Bollinger received his J.D. from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.

**Jo Ann J. Brighton** is a partner in the Charlotte, N.C. and New York offices of Winston & Strawn LLP in its Restructuring and Insolvency Group, where she focuses her practice on financial restructuring. She serves on ABI's Board of Directors and previously served as co-chair of ABI's Business Reorganization Committee. She currently serves on the advisory committee for the National Bankruptcy Reform Commission and frequently writes for the *ABI Journal*, *ABI Law Review* and *Commercial Law Review*. Ms. Brighton is also a frequent speaker at ABI conferences, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the American Bankruptcy Association. In 2008, Ms. Brighton became a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. She has been named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in 2009" and received the Women in Business Achievement Award from the *Charlotte Business Journal* in 2008. She received her J.D. from New York Law School.

**Louis M. Bubala, III** is a partner with Armstrong Teasdale LLP in Reno, Nev., and Las Vegas, where he focuses on creditor representations both in and out of bankruptcy. He co-chaired ABI's inaugural ABI Western Consumer Bankruptcy Conference in January 2013 and is a past president of the Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association. He regularly speaks about developments in case law and writes a monthly summary of new decisions for the State Bar of Nevada, District of Nevada Annual Conference, Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys and Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association. He also writes the Nevada section in West's *Bankruptcy Exemption Manual*. Mr. Bubala received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University and worked as a reporter in Indiana for eight years before earning his J.D. at the University of Oregon. He also externed for the U.S. Magistrate Judge John P. Cooney (D. Ore.) and clerked for the U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke (D. Nev.)

**Eric Carlson** is with Imperial Capital, LLC in San Francisco.

**Candace C. Carlyon** is a shareholder with Shea & Carlyon Ltd. in Las Vegas and has more than 25 years of experience representing numerous financial institutions, hotels, casinos, creditors' committees, bondholders' committees, title companies, real estate developers and investment entities. She previously served as a law clerk to Nevada Supreme Court Justice Cliff Young. Ms. Carlyon is a frequent author and lecturer, a short-trial judge *pro tem*, president-elect of the American Board of Certification, a Master *Emeritus* of the America Nevada Inns of Court and an ABI member, she serves as co-chair of the Southwest Bankruptcy Conference. She is also a former chair of the Subcommittee on Gaming Insolvencies and Reorganizations. Ms. Carlyon received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Loyola Marymount University in 1982 and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Pepperdine University School of Law in 1985.

**Rudy J. Cerone** is a member of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC in New Orleans and a former chair and president of the American Board of Certification. A frequent lecturer on bankruptcy issues for more than 20 years, he also serves as ABI's Secretary and was co-chair of ABI's Bankruptcy Litigation Committee from 2005-06 and chair of its Hospitality, Entertainment Venues and Gaming Subcommittee from 2001-05. He was also a member of ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference Advisory Board from 2003-11. Mr. Cerone chaired the State Bar of California's Board of Legal Specialization from 2002-04 and is a member of the Federal Fifth Circuit and American Bar Associations (Business Law Section, Business Bankruptcy Committee and Secured Creditors' Subcommittee). He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification (1993) and by the Louisiana State Bar Association (1997). Mr. Cerone is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from the University of California at San Diego and his J.D. *cum laude* from Boston College Law School, where he was a recipient of the Order of the Coif and received a "Best Law Review Editor" award as executive editor of the *Boston College International & Comparative Law Review*.

**Robert M. Charles, Jr.**, is a partner with Lewis and Roca LLP in Tucson, Ariz., and practice group leader in the firm's Finance and Bankruptcy Group. He represents secured and unsecured creditors and debtors in business bankruptcy cases, commercial lawsuits and business transactions, working extensively with lenders and borrowers out of bankruptcy in all aspects of debtor/creditor relationships, including workouts and litigation. His clients range from agricultural lenders to national banks to sellers with carryback interests. Mr. Charles advises clients in UCC matters and in negotiable instruments, banking law and secured transactions. He also represents plaintiffs and defendants in civil and commercial litigation in state and federal courts. Mr. Charles received both his B.S. in 1979 and his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Arizona.

**Richard A. Chesley** is co-chair of DLA Piper's Restructuring practice in Chicago, where he practices in the area of corporate restructuring with an emphasis on bankruptcy transactions, both in the U.S. and internationally. He has served as restructuring counsel in a number of chapter 11 proceedings, including the recently completed chapter 11 cases of PJ Finance, Inc., and as debtors' counsel in a number of other chapter 11 proceedings, including Kaiser Aluminium Corp., National Century Financial Enterprises and Federated Department Stores. Mr. Chesley also led a number of out-of-court restructurings, including Norwood Promotional Products, Examination Management Services Inc. and Educational Media Publishing Group. In addition, he has served as counsel to creditors' committees and has also represented a number of other constituencies in bankruptcy proceedings throughout the U.S. Mr. Chesley received his B.A. in 1982 from Northwestern University and his J.D. in 1985 from the University of Cincinnati.

**Patrick A. Clisham** is a shareholder in Engelman Berger, PC in Phoenix and chairs the firm's bankruptcy section. Previously, Mr. Clisham served as an extern to the U.S. Trustee Program and practiced law at a nationally recognized bankruptcy boutique firm for more than five years. His practice focuses on in- and out-of-court representations of debtors, debtors in possession, creditors and third-party purchasers in bankruptcies, receiverships and workouts. Mr. Clisham has been an ABI member since 2005 and currently serves as the newsletter editor for its Real Estate Committee. In 2007, he received the Award For Excellence in Public Interests and Legal Education from the

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois for his role in developing and advancing the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program in Chicago, now administered by ABI. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Clisham was a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (1996-2001) and served as assistant vice president of Law & Government Affairs for AT&T Communications (2002-04). A frequent author, he recently co-authored “A Primer on the Valuation of Affordable Housing in Chapter 11,” published in the May 2013 *ABI Journal*. Mr. Clisham received his J.D. *cum laude* in 2002 from DePaul University College of Law.

**Kathryn A. Coleman** is a partner in Hughes, Hubbard & Reed LLP’s New York office and a member of its Corporate Reorganization group. She has more than 25 years of experience representing companies in restructuring matters, both in and out of court. In addition, she represents equity sponsors and financial and strategic buyers in the restructuring arena. Ms. Coleman has substantial expertise in advising boards of directors on corporate governance and fiduciary duty matters. She chairs ABI’s annual Complex Financial Restructuring Program and frequently speaks on bankruptcy law and distressed investing. Named one of the “100 Most Influential Women in Business” by the *San Francisco Business Times*, she is ranked by *Chambers USA* as a leading restructuring lawyer. Ms. Coleman graduated *magna cum laude* from Pomona College and earned her J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law (U.C. Berkeley), and subsequently clerked for Hon. C. Martin Pence, U.S. District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

**Hon. Daniel P. Collins** is a Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona in Phoenix, appointed Jan. 18, 2013. Previously, he was a shareholder with the law firm of Collins, May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, P.C., in downtown Phoenix, practicing primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial litigation and commercial transactions, Judge Collins served on the State Bar of Arizona’s Subcommittee on the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act. He was also he 1995-96 chairman of the Bankruptcy Section of the State of Arizona and was a lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Collins is a frequent speaker on such topics as professionalism and civility, fraudulent transfers, discharge litigation, trial practice, reaffirmation agreements, the intersection of bankruptcy and marital dissolution, receiverships, bankruptcy sales, bankruptcy claims classification, trustee representation, pensions in bankruptcy, bankruptcy appeals and debtor/creditor law. He is a member of ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the State Bar of Arizona and the Maricopa County Bar Association and currently serves on the board of the Federal Bar Association’s Phoenix Chapter. He is also member of the University of Arizona Law School Board of Visitors and was one of the founders of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inns of Court. Judge Collins received both his B.S. in finance and accounting in 1980 and his J.D. in 1983 from the University of Arizona.

**Hon. Laurel E. Davis** is a Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, sworn in on July 12, 2013. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Davis practiced law for 26 years in Nevada and Arizona, representing individuals, trustees, committees and creditors in bankruptcy proceedings and litigation, commercial litigation, mediation, arbitration, workouts and restructuring. She also served as a chapter 11 trustee. Judge Davis specialized in high-net-worth chapter 11 debtors as well as sensitive matters involving ethics issues, disgorgement and show-cause orders issued to companies, law firms and attorneys. She is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American

Board of Certification and holds an AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbel. Judge Davis has been recognized in *the Best Lawyers of America*, since 2005 in Bankruptcy Creditors-Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and she chaired the Nevada State Bar Bankruptcy Section in 2010 and 2011. In 2012 and 2013, she was recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as among the “Top 250 Women in Litigation in the Nation”, and as a “2012 Rising Star”. While in practice, Judge Davis provided pro bono service to indigent clients through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, for which she serves on the executive committee of its Mid-Case Bankruptcy Panel. She has also served as a Nevada Transitioning Into Practice mentor, as well as on numerous bench/bar committees for bankruptcy and U.S. district courts. A 1999 graduate of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce’s, Leadership Las Vegas Program, Judge Davis received her B.S. in hotel administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1983 and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1987.

**Diane L. Drain** is founder of the Law Office of Diane L. Drain, PA in Phoenix, where she focuses on bankruptcy and real property, practicing primarily in the areas of creditor and debtor bankruptcy and commercial real estate development, workouts, foreclosures and trustee sales. In 1993, she established a consulting service to assist other lawyers in law office organization, administration, computerization, client development and staff education. Ms. Drain holds a Preeminent – AV peer-review rating by Martindale-Hubbell, as well as an AV rating by the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, and she was selected as a “Top Attorney in 2012” by *North Valley Magazine*. In fall 2012, she was listed on the Arizona Bankruptcy Court’s Honor Roll of Pro Bono Volunteers. She has also served as a faculty member in numerous county, state, national and professional seminars dealing in office-management skills, bankruptcy and trustee sale/foreclosure actions, and has been an instructor at the Arizona School of Real Estate since 1988. Ms. Drain received her B.S. in 1983 from Arizona State University and her J.D. in 1985 from the University of Arizona School of Law.

**Hon. Randall L. Dunn** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Oregon in Portland and was appointed for a seven-year term in 2006 to Oregon’s Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Prior to his appointment in 1998, Judge Dunn was the managing partner of the Portland office of Copeland, Landye, Bennett and Wolf, LLP, where his practice focused on corporate/business and bankruptcy law. He has represented a number of creditors’ committees in chapter 11 cases, as well as creditors and debtors in matters ranging from preference defense to chapter 7 debtors. Judge Dunn has also handled loan documentation work, business-entity formation and mergers and acquisitions. He was also a former president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Dunn obtained his undergraduate degree with honors from Northwestern University and his J.D. from Stanford University Law School, where he was an articles editor of its law review.

**Larry Feldman Jr.** is a member in the Commercial Litigation Section of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC in New Orleans, and his practice areas include banking, class action, mass tort and product-liability defense. Mr. Feldman was president of the Louisiana State Bar Association from 2002 to 2003 and is a fellow in the International Society of Barristers. He has served as a member of the Judicial Council, and on Jan. 1, 2013, the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed him as a member of its Committee on Bar Admissions Panel on Character and Fitness. Mr. Feldman is a 1974 graduate

of Louisiana State University's Paul M. Herbert Law Center and served in the Army JAGC from 1974 to 1977.

**Michael J. Gearin** is a partner with K&L Gates LLP in Seattle and concentrates his practice in insolvency, workouts and commercial reorganizations. His practice is broad-based, encompassing transactional, litigation and other advice in the insolvency and creditors' rights arenas. He represents debtors, creditors' committees, secured creditors, purchases and trustees in chapter 11 cases and has substantial experience in the resolution of Ponzi schemes through the chapter 11 plan confirmation process. Mr. Gearin is a past chair of the Seattle-King County Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, is a panel mediator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington's mediation program, and has been a frequent speaker at professional seminars on bankruptcy reform, chapter 11 plan confirmation and other bankruptcy issues. He also serves on the ABI's Real Estate and Legislative Committees. Mr. Gearin received his J.D. from the University of Washington Law School in 1991.

**Gerald M. Gordon** is a shareholder with Gordon Silver in Las Vegas and chairman of its Business Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has lectured extensively on both gaming and non-gaming-related bankruptcy issues. Mr. Gordon has acted as lead debtor's counsel for several major resort properties, including the Herbst Gaming Group, Black Gaming Group, Stratosphere Hotel & Casino, Maxim Hotel & Casino, Aladdin Hotel & Casino, Riviera Hotel & Casino, Fitzgerald's Gaming Corporation and American Wagering (Leroy's Sports Book). His practice also includes representing debtors, committees or operating trustees in other significant non-gaming bankruptcy cases such as Ahern Rentals, Las Vegas Monorail, Sunworld International Airways, Pegasus Gold Corp., Carson Wayne Newton, Mega-C Power Corp. and USA Commercial Mortgage. He has been admitted to practice law in Nevada since 1973. Mr. Gordon received his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles and his B.S. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Matthew C. Heyn** is a partner with Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP in Los Angeles and specializes in bankruptcy litigation, business litigation and creditors' remedies. He has represented debtors, secured and unsecured creditors and trustees in connection with bankruptcy cases, adversary proceedings, appeals and related business litigation. He currently serves as lead trial counsel for the trustees of Girls Gone Wild and Indy Mac Bancorp, Inc. and is assistant trial counsel for the Washington Mutual liquidating trust. He also represents a group of approximately 60 former partner of Howrey LLP in connection with that law firm's bankruptcy and formerly represented the former partners of Heller Erhman LLP and Thellen LLP. Mr. Heyn received his B.A. in philosophy and economics with honors from the University of California, Los Angeles and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and received the American Jurisprudence award in Corporations and Commercial Transactions.

**Hon. Eileen W. Hollowell** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona in Tucson, appointed on Sept. 19, 2000. She was also appointed to the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on Aug. 17, 2008, and served until Dec. 31, 2012. She was admitted to practice in Arizona in 1982.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Hollowell focused on representing debtors, creditors and trustees in formal bankruptcy proceedings and in out-of-court workouts. She was certified as a bankruptcy specialist by the State Bar of Arizona and is listed in *the Best Lawyers in America*. Judge Hollowell is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Arizona, the Pima County Bar Association, ABI, the Arizona Women's Lawyers Association and the National Council of Bankruptcy Judges, and she currently serves on the Board of Visitors and the Law College Association Board at the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Judge Hollowell received her master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and her J.D. with high distinction from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

**Nicole Horton** is an executive director in Ernst & Young's U.S. Transaction Advisory Services practice in Los Angeles. She has more than 13 years of experience providing restructuring and investment banking services both in and out of bankruptcy to companies and all classes of creditor constituencies. Previously, Ms. Horton was a vice president in international banking at a regional bank in California, specializing in trade finance and asset-backed lending and working with different debt-structure and derivative instruments. She has worked with restructurings, refinancings, debt-structure analysis, capital-raising, developing and analyzing business plans and cash-flow models, valuations, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic-alternative evaluations, and she has represented companies in such industries as financial services, retail and consumer products, real estate, agriculture, hospitality and entertainment. She has also been advising extensively on "Living Will" engagements related to the Dodd-Frank Act, including the development of resolution plans, including strategic analyses, for orderly wind-downs, and her clients have ranged from complex financial institutions with a global presence to regional firms. Ms. Horton received her Masters of International Management with distinction and an emphasis in finance and German from the American Graduate School of International Management.

**Hon. Stephen L. Johnson** is a Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California in San Jose, appointed in 2010. He was licensed as a CPA in 1985 and worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney before his judicial appointment. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Hastings College of Law and is an editor of a forthcoming treatise on bankruptcy. Judge Johnson received his B.S. from the University of San Francisco and his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of its law review.

**Ori Katz** is a partner in the Finance and Bankruptcy Practice Group of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in San Francisco, where he specializes in business bankruptcies and creditors' rights. He has represented debtors, individual creditors, creditors' committees, parties purchasing assets out of bankruptcy and parties involved in bankruptcy litigation. Mr. Katz has also represented chapter 11 debtors in a wide range of industries, including real estate, retail, construction, biotech, telecommunications and Internet businesses. He has also represented lenders in connection with receiverships, loan workouts, restructurings and foreclosures, and acted as receivership counsel in connection with various appointments. He is admitted to practice in California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central District Courts of California. Mr. Katz received his B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1996 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Boston University in 2000.

**Aaron M. Kaufman** is an associate in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights group of Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated in Dallas, where he helps represent secured and unsecured creditors, debtors, prospective buyers and other interest-holders in a wide variety of insolvency and restructuring matters. He previously clerked for Bankruptcy Judge Leif M. Clark of the Western District of Texas in San Antonio. Mr. Kaufman has been involved in such matters as the representation of a well-known regional home builder with real estate holdings throughout Texas to the representation of a worldwide investment fund acting as the senior secured lender to a telecommunications solutions provider specializing in fiber optics and retrofit engineering. He also has experience representing landlords and equipment lessors in large bankruptcy cases, and frequently represents clients in single- and multiple-asset real estate cases, as well as small business bankruptcy cases. Mr. Kaufman is a regular contributor to the *ABI Journal's* Benchnotes column and ABI's VOLO Circuit Court Opinion site, and he has also written for the *Texas Bar Journal*. He received his B.S. in 2002 from the University of Texas and his J.D. in 2007 from the University of Houston.

**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 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 is included in *the 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. He received his J.D. from the University of Maine in 1980.

**Hon. Christopher M. Klein** is the Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, where he has been a judge since 1988 and he was a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit from 1998 until August 2008, serving as Chief Judge from 2007-08. He is admitted to the Bars of California, the District of Columbia, Illinois and Massachusetts. After service in the U.S. Marine Corps as an artillery officer in Vietnam and later as a judge advocate, he was a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, was in private practice with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton and was Deputy General Counsel-Litigation of the National Railroad Passenger Corp. From 2000-07, Judge Klein was a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. and the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence. His bankruptcy-related publications include *Principles of Preclusion and Estoppel in Bankruptcy Cases*, 79 Am. Bankr. L.J. 839 (2005) (co-author), and *Bankruptcy Rules Made Easy (2001): A Guide to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that Apply in Bankruptcy*, 75 Am. Bankr. L.J. 35 (2001), and he is a member of ABI, INSOL, International Insolvency Institute and National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Brown and his J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, where he was executive editor of its law review.

**Thomas R. Kreller** is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP and a member of the firm's Financial Restructuring Group. He joined the firm in 1997 and has been a partner since 2001. Mr. Kreller focuses on bankruptcy and corporate reorganization law and has represented debtors, lenders, equity-holders, committees and acquirers in bankruptcy cases, loan restructurings and out-of-court workouts. He has been listed as one of the leading lawyers in the nation by various publications, including *Chambers USA* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. He has also been recognized as a "Rising Star" 2004 and a "Southern California Super Lawyer" since 2006 by *Los Angeles Magazine*. Mr. Kreller received both his M.B.A. and J.D. from UCLA.

**Shelley D. Krohn** is founder of Shelley D. Krohn, Ltd. in Las Vegas, where she concentrates her practice on bankruptcy (consumer, business, tax and trustee), creditors' rights, guardianship, probate and estate planning. She was also appointed as a chapter 7 trustee in February 2011. Ms. Krohn has received the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Lied Award (2008-09), U.S. Senator Harry Reid's Certificate of Commendation (2008), U.S. Senator John Ensign's Senatorial Recognition (2008) and Clark County *Pro Bono* Project's Attorney of the Year (2007) in addition, *Vegas Inc.* named her one of the "Top Lawyers" of 2012. She is a member of Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, the Clark County and American Bar Associations, the State Bar of Nevada and ABI, and she sits on the advisory board for ABI's Western Consumer Bankruptcy Conference. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the College of Southern Nevada (2010-12). Ms. Krohn is licensed to practice in all federal and state courts in Nevada, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Tax Court. She received her B.S. from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and her J.D. from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

**Hon. Frank L. Kurtz** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Washington in Yakima and chairman of the Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to his appointment to the bankruptcy bench, Judge Kurtz sat as a judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals for nine years. Before that, he practiced bankruptcy law with the law firm of Kurtz, Hurley, Lara and Adams in Yakima. As a lawyer, Judge Kurtz served as chairman of the executive committee of the Creditor/Debtor Section of the Washington State Bar Association. He was also a founding director of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Eastern District of Washington and served as its first co-chair. During his tenure as a Washington state court judge, Judge Kurtz served as a member of the Court of Appeals Executive Committee and the Board for Judicial Administration. He also chaired the Washington State Judges Ethics Advisory Committee. Judge Kurtz received his B.A. in history in 1968 from Creighton University and his J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1974.

**Matthew E. Kvarda** is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal in Los Angeles, where he specializes in assisting companies, either as an advisor or principal, in navigating complex restructurings and reorganizations. Mr. Kvarda has managed and led all aspects of the restructuring process and has helped companies prepare business segment profitability and analyses, as well as provided expert witness testimony on plan feasibility, liquidation analysis and going-concern values. With more than 20 years of restructuring experience, Mr. Kvarda has acted as both a principal, advisor and expert witness in myriad turnaround, restructuring and reorganization situations in a variety of industries, including private-equity funds, sub-prime lending operations, automobile parts manu-

facturing, agriculture, energy, banking, retail, gaming and hospitality. Previously, Mr. Kvarda was a senior director with the restructuring practice of a Big Four accounting and consulting firm and served as an assistant vice president with the Special Assets Group of Bank of America. He is a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor (CIRA), with distinction, and a member of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors (AIRA). Mr. Kvarda received his Bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California, San Diego and his M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from UCLA.

**Kathleen A. Leavitt** is a chapter 13 bankruptcy trustee for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, appointed in 1981. She also served as a chapter 7 panel trustee from 1981-92 and has administered numerous state district court receiverships and probate estates. She has written articles for bankruptcy publications, including the *ABI Journal*, and has been a presenter on numerous panels at ABI conferences and NACTT seminars. Ms. Leavitt served on the executive board of Consumer Credit Counseling of Southern Nevada from 1995-2005 and is a past-president of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT), for which she served as an officer and member of its advisory board. She previously chaired the NACTT Liaison Committee to the IRS and the NACTT Bankruptcy Rules Committee and is a member of NACVA. She has also been the editor of the *NACTT Quarterly* since 1998 and currently sits on the board of directors of the NACTT Academy.

**William N. Lobel** is the managing partner of The Lobel Firm, LLP in Newport Beach, Calif. He is a founder of the Orange County and California Bankruptcy Forums, and he is the first recipient of the Peter M. Elliot award, as well as a past lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Lobel lectures frequently on bankruptcy-related topics. He received his J.D. in 1969 from the University of Miami.

**John W. Lucas** is an associate in Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP's San Francisco office, where he represents debtors and creditors in chapter 11 cases and companies in out-of-court restructurings with an emphasis on transportation, financial products, automotive and technology. His recent debtor representations include American Suzuki Motor Corp., Mesa Airlines, Champion Homes, Lehman Brothers Holdings, Lexington Precision and Silicon Graphics, and some of his creditor representations include Lehman Commercial Paper Inc. in the *Palmdale Hills* chapter 11 cases and the creditors' committee in *Trident Microsystems*. Mr. Lucas is a co-author of *Debtor-in-Possession Financing: Funding a Chapter 11 Case* (ABI, 2012), *First Day Motions: A Guide to the Critical First Days of a Bankruptcy Case, Third Edition* (ABI, 2012) and "The Role and Retention of the Chief Restructuring Officer" in *The Americas Restructuring and Insolvency Guide* (Globe White Page, 2008-09). He is a UCLA graduate and received his J.D. from the University of Oregon School of Law, where he was a member of the *Oregon Law Review*.

**Hon. Margaret M. Mann** is a Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California in San Diego, appointed on April 2, 2010, and is a member of the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee. She also chairs the Bankruptcy Clerk Liaison Committee for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Since her appointment, she has served as a faculty member for Federal Judicial Center Education programs. Previously, she was a partner with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP in its Restructuring & Insolvency Practice, national hir-

ing chair with Heller Ehrman LLP, and partner and chair of the Commercial Finance & Insolvency Practice Group of Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps. She is chair of the Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee for the Ninth Circuit and, participating in its New Bankruptcy Judges Orientation Program, is a founding member of the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum. Judge Mann is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and was a member of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Conference Executive Committee (2009-10) and the Debtor/Creditor Committee of the State Bar of California (1995). Judge Mann is currently the chair of the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program in San Diego, which provides financial literacy programs to high school students in the community and is administered by ABI. Judge Mann received her B.A. in finance *cum laude* from the University of Illinois in 1978 with distinction, attended the Tilburg School of Economics in The Netherlands in 1978, and received her J.D. in 1981 from the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

**James T. Markus** is the co-founder and manager of Markus Williams Young & Zimmermann, LLC in Denver, where he specializes in the representation of debtors, secured creditors, lessors, asset-purchasers, official committees and trustees in workouts, restructurings and chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Markus is ABI's immediate past president and a former director, president and chairman of the American Board of Certification. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in Business Bankruptcy Law. Mr. Markus is the former president of the Colorado Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association. He is also a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is admitted to the Colorado and Illinois State Bars. Mr. Markus is a co-founder and chair of ABI's Rocky Mountain Bankruptcy Conference and has lectured before the American Bar Association, ABI, Colorado Bar Association, Chicago Bar Association, Equipment Leasing Association, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Savings and Community Lender's Association and the Turnaround Management Association on creditors' rights and bankruptcy law. He received his B.S.E. in chemical engineering with high honors from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his J.D. from the University of Michigan School of Law.

**Frank A. Merola** is a partner in Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP's Financial Restructuring Group in Los Angeles, where he focuses his practice on the representation of ad hoc and official creditor committees and equity-holders. He advises debtors, creditors, acquirers and equity-holders in both chapter 11 and out-of-court restructurings across a range of industries, and he is also known for his work in the real estate, gaming and leisure industries, having major roles in the restructuring of several casinos. Prior to joining Stroock, Mr. Merola was a managing director with Jefferies & Co. Inc. in its Recapitalization and Reorganization Group and was an attorney with Stutman, Treister & Glatt P.C. in Los Angeles. He is regularly listed in *Super Lawyers* in the area of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights, as well as in *The Best Lawyers in America*. In 2007, he was co-recipient of the Large Company Transaction of the Year Award from the Turnaround Management Association due to his work with the USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund. Mr. Merola received his undergraduate degree in business administration from Georgetown University and his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law.

**Hon. C. Ray Mullins** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed as judge by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on Feb. 29, 2000, and named

chief judge in January 2012. Previously, Judge Mullins served as an instructor in the Management Department of Bowling Green State University's School of Business Administration from 1977-82, then joined the Toledo, Ohio, firm of Cooper, Straub, Walinski & Cramer (now Cooper Walinski), focusing primarily on civil litigation. From 1984-86, Judge Mullins taught trial practice as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Toledo College of Law. In 1987, he joined Kilpatrick & Cody (now Kilpatrick Stockton LLP) in Atlanta and became a partner in 1993, practicing in the firm's Financial Restructuring Group and specializing in chapter 11 matters. He also served as a member of the Trustee Panel for the Northern District of Georgia from 1995-2000. Judge Mullins is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of ABI's Board of Directors and president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (2012-13). He is a frequent speaker, and in 2009, Chief Justice Roberts appointed him to a three-year term as chair of the Federal Judicial Center Bankruptcy Judge Education Committee. Judge Mullins received his B.S. in business administration in 1974, his M.B.A. in 1977 from Bowling Green State University, and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1982 from the University of Toledo College of Law, where he was a member of its law review and the Order of the Coif.

**Cynthia Nelson** is a senior managing director of FTI Consulting Inc.'s Corporate Finance/Restructuring practice in Los Angeles, where she assists stakeholders in evaluating, developing and implementing turnaround plans and restructurings in both judicial and non-judicial circumstances. With more than 25 years of experience in the real estate industry, Ms. Nelson specializes in advising stakeholders with interests in real estate. She has been involved in some of the largest and most notable real estate restructurings and other bankruptcies of the last several years, including advising the unsecured creditors' committee for *General Growth Properties*, serving as the chapter 11 trustee in the *South Edge* case, advising American Suzuki Motor Corp. in connection with its successful restructuring and exit from the U.S. auto market, and advising the pension obligation bondholders in the chapter 9 proceeding of the City of San Bernardino, Calif. Prior to its acquisition by FTI Consulting, Ms. Nelson was a partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers' Business Recovery Services group. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor (CIRA). She is also a member of ABI, the Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors, the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Turnaround Management Association. Ms. Nelson holds an M.B.A. and an M.P.L. from the University of Southern California, and a B.S. in urban planning from California State Polytechnic University.

**Allan D. NewDelman** is a sole practitioner with Allan D. NewDelman, P.C. in Phoenix, where his practice focuses on representing clients in workouts, business bankruptcy cases and debtors in adversary proceedings on discharge and dischargeability issues, as well as third parties in avoidance actions. Mr. NewDelman has lectured extensively on BAPCPA changes as they relate to individual chapter 11 cases, and he lectures at numerous seminars for the State Bar of Arizona, Arizona State University College of Law Alumni Association and ABI, among other organizations. He is a member of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Arizona, The Maricopa County Bar Association and the Illinois Bar Association, and he is admitted to the Illinois and Arizona Bars, the U.S. Bankruptcy and District Courts for the District of Arizona, the Arizona Supreme Court and the Seventh and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois in 1969 and his J.D. degree from DePaul University in 1974.

**Kasey C. Nye** is a partner with Mesch, Clark & Rothschild, P.C. in Tucson, Ariz., in the firm's Bankruptcy section, where he handles chapter 11 reorganizations and creditors' rights. He previously clerked for Hon. Eileen Hollowell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona. Mr. Nye has been recognized for the past two years as a *Southwest Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" and has received several honors for his pro bono work in Arizona. He has also handled many student loan dischargeability cases for debtors. Mr. Nye received his B.A. in philosophy and Spanish from the University of Buffalo in 1996 and his J.D. Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in 2000.

**Christine M. Pajak** is a shareholder with Stutman, Treister & Glatt PC in the firm's Los Angeles office, where she focuses primarily on the representation of official creditors' committees, equity committees, corporate debtors and strategic purchasers of assets in complex chapter 11 cases. In addition, Ms. Pajak has also represented significant creditors and business entities in out-of-court restructuring. Ms. Pajak was selected as a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" in Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights and by *Super Lawyers Magazine* from 2007-2011 and 2013, and she is a member of ABI and the Los Angeles County, California and American Bar Associations. She is also an active member of Women International. Ms. Pajak is admitted to practice before all bankruptcy and district courts in California. She received her J.D. with honors from the Stanford University School of Law in 2001 and her B.A. with high honors from Douglass College at Rutgers University in 1995.

**Frederick J. Petersen** is a partner and managing shareholder with Mesch, Clark & Rothschild PC in Tucson, Ariz., where his practice focuses on bankruptcy, business reorganization, commercial litigation and real estate law. Mr. Petersen represents debtors, creditors, creditors' committees and chapter 11 trustees in complex bankruptcy cases, and provides financial and legal business advice. He also represents individuals and companies in commercial litigation and real estate matters. Mr. Petersen was selected in 2012 as an "Up and Comer" and in 2006 as one of the "40 under 40" Tucson business leaders. He received his B.A. from Gonzaga University and his J.D. from the University of Arizona.

**Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport** is the interim dean and Gordon Silver professor at the University of Nevada's William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas, where she specializes in bankruptcy ethics, ethics in governance and depiction of lawyers in popular culture. Previously, she clerked for Hon. Joseph T. Sneed on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, then practiced primarily bankruptcy law with Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco from 1986-91. Prof. Rapoport began her academic career at Ohio State University College of Law in 1991. She served as dean of the University of Nebraska College of Law from 1998-2000, then served as dean and professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center from July 2000 to May 2006 and as professor of law from June 2006 to June 2007, when she left to join the faculty at Boyd. Prof. Rapoport has taught contracts, sales (Article 2), bankruptcy, chapter 11 reorganization, legal writing, contract drafting and professional responsibility. She co-authored *Enron: Corporate Fiascos and Their Implications* (Foundation Press, 2004), *Enron and Other Corporate Fiascos: The Corporate Scandal Reader* (Foundation Press 2d ed., 2008) and *Law School Survival Manual: From LSAT to Bar Exam* (Aspen Publishers, 2010). Prof. Rapoport is admitted to the Bars of California, Ohio, Nebraska, Texas and Nevada and to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2001, she was elected to membership in the American

Law Institute, and in 2002, she received a Distinguished Alumna Award from Rice University. Prof. Rapoport is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Bankruptcy, and she co-chairs the Association of Media and Entertainment's Law School Committee. She received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Rice University in 1982 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1985.

**Justin E. Rawlins** is head of Winston & Starwn LLP's Restructuring & Insolvency Group in Los Angeles and a corporate partner. He represents funds, lending institutions, troubled companies and committees in providing a broad spectrum of services, including counseling on corporate governance matters, acquisitions, divestitures, refinancing and recapitalizations, primarily in distressed and special situations. He also has significant experience in litigating breach-of-fiduciary-duty cases involving directors, officers, trustees and other agents and in managing related corporate investigations. Mr. Rawlins has served as counsel in transactions involving a variety of industries, including manufacturing, telecommunications, wireless, Internet, technology, energy, financial services and banking, health care, aerospace and defense, media, advertising, oil and gas, entertainment, food processing, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, real estate and retail.

**Patricia A. Redmond** is a shareholder in the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Department of the Miami office of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. and is ABI's President. She has practiced in the insolvency field in Miami for more than 30 years and has appeared in many reorganizations and out-of-court workouts in all industries. Ms. Redmond has represented developers, financial institutions, public and private owners and distressed-asset purchasers. She is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* under Bankruptcy Debtor/Creditor Rights since 1995. She was also recognized as a Band I attorney by *Chambers USA* in 2010. Ms. Redmond has also been listed as a top lawyer in the *South Florida Legal Guide* and in *Florida Trend Legal Elite*. She is admitted to practice before the Bars of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the state of Florida and she is an adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law, receiving the Outstanding Professor Award in 2011. Ms. Redmond received her J.D. in 1979 from the University of Miami.

**Hon. Linda B. Riegler** is U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, appointed in January 1988 and reappointed in January 2002. She also served as its chief judge from July 1993 until October 1999. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Riegler practiced commercial and bankruptcy law at Lionel Sawyer & Collins in Las Vegas and became its first female partner in 1983. She has served on many professional organizations, including ABI (on its board of directors and as judicial chair of its Southwest Bankruptcy Conference), the Ninth Circuit Fairness Committee, the District of Nevada Rules Committee and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Riegler authored "Discharge Litigation" and "What Makes Judges Happy in the Courtroom: Exploding a Few Myths," and co-authored "Advising Debtors with Criminal Concerns," all published by Matthew Bender in its four-volume series *Representing Debtors in Bankruptcy*. She has also served as a consulting editor of *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice*. Judge Riegler received her B.S. in political science from Shepherd College, her Master's degree from the Graduate School of Public Affairs of the State University of New York at Albany, and her J.D. from Albany Law School, where she was a member of its law review.

**Kenneth N. Russak** is a shareholder with Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C. in Los Angeles, where he focuses on financial restructuring, insolvency, commercial finance law and finance-related litigation. He represents lenders and other creditors in their dealings and disputes with insolvent or potentially insolvent entities in bankruptcy court proceedings, in state and federal court non-bankruptcy litigations and in out-of-court workouts. He also advises lenders and other commercial interests in connection with new loans and other transactions. Mr. Russak is a frequent speaker on real estate insolvency and real estate capital market matters and has testified as an expert witness on real estate finance disputes. *Super Lawyers* named him a Southern California Super Lawyer from 2007-10, and he has been featured in *Law and Politics* magazine and *Los Angeles Magazine*. Mr. Russak received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Amherst College in 1979 and his J.D. from the University of Southern California in 1982.

**Hon. Barry Russell** is a Bankruptcy Judge with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, appointed in 1974. He served as Chief Judge from January 2003 to December 2006, served on a Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and was also the Chief Judge from September 1999 to December 2001. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and has been a faculty member of the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C., since 1977, lecturing to other bankruptcy judges throughout the U.S. Judge Russell received the American Bar Association's Franklin N. Flaschener Judicial Award as the outstanding judge in the U.S. in a trial court of special jurisdiction in 1987. He was the first American invited by the Supreme People's Court in the People's Republic of China to lecture on the subject of bankruptcy law in September 1988. In 2000, Judge Russell received the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Services' Emil Gumpert Judicial ADR award, and in 2004 he received the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Outstanding Jurist Award. He was also awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors (AIRA) in the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Field on Oct. 13, 2008, and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association awarded Judge Russell the Stanley Mosk Legacy of Justice Award on Feb. 19, 2009. Judge Russell received his B.S. in engineering and his J.D. from UCLA.

**Mitchell Ryan** is vice president of sales and marketing at Rust Omni in Orange, Calif. He was previously director of sales and marketing with Epic Systems and was managing director of CPT Group, Inc., a West Coast-based claims and noticing agent that worked in the areas of chapter 11 restructuring, class action and trustee services. Before that, he marketed large-scale printing projects, including many chapter 11 plan and disclosure-statement projects. An author and a speaker, he is a long-standing member of the Turnaround Management Association, the California Bankruptcy Forum and ABI, and received his B.A. in foreign language from California State University at Fullerton.

**Samuel A. Schwartz** is founder of The Schwartz Law Firm Inc. in Las Vegas, where he represents both consumers and businesses in all forms of restructurings, bankruptcies and workouts. He is also involved with corporate matters, specifically acquisitions, mergers and general corporate representation. Mr. Schwartz began his professional career with a general corporate practice in 1997 and transitioned to general corporate and bankruptcy practice in 1998. Prior to starting his own firm, Mr. Schwartz practiced commercial bankruptcy law, representing debtors and creditors on a broad

range of business reorganization and restructuring matters in a variety of industries, including real estate, airlines, electronics and health care. Mr. Schwartz received his J.D. from Loyola School of Law.

**Jack Seward** is the principal of Jack Seward & Associates, LLC in Flanders, N.Y., and is a digital forensic accounting technologist, providing avant-garde litigation support, e-discovery services and computer forensics. Mr. Seward previously co-chaired ABI's Commercial Fraud Task Force and has written for the *ABI Journal's* "Straight and Narrow" and "Beyond the Quill" columns.

**Brian D. Shapiro** is a chapter 7 and 11 trustee for the District of Nevada and managing member of the Law Office of Brian D. Shapiro in Las Vegas. He represents creditors in state court and bankruptcy matters involving both commercial and consumer lenders and debt-purchasers. Mr. Shapiro is admitted to the State Bars of California and Nevada and is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, ABI and the Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys. He is involved in bankruptcy committee work and is actively involved in *pro bono* programs, and he was previously on the board for the Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, the Nevada Bankruptcy Local Rule committee and its Merit Screening Committee. Mr. Shapiro is the MAP chair for the State of Nevada for the American Collectors Association and is a frequent speaker. Mr. Shapiro graduated from Arizona State University in 1991 and received his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law in 1994.

**Brian L. Shaw** is a member of Shaw Fishman Glantz & Towbin LLC in Chicago and has 20 years of experience representing debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditor and equity committees, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, and plaintiffs and defendants in bankruptcy-related litigation. He is ABI's President-Elect and previously served two terms as ABI's Vice President—Membership. Mr. Shaw is a past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee and has authored and co-authored numerous articles for the *ABI Journal*, *Norton Bankruptcy Law Letter*, *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, *Business Credit* and *Credit Today*, as well as for the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He also chaired ABI's inaugural Professional Development Program and regularly serves on the faculty of ABI's Litigation Skills Symposium. Mr. Shaw is admitted to practice in Illinois, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Illinois, Central District of Illinois, Eastern District of Wisconsin and Northern District of Indiana, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Seventh and Eighth Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law.

**James Patrick Shea** is a shareholder with Shea & Carlyon Ltd. in Las Vegas and has represented numerous hotel casino properties and financial institutions. A frequent lecturer, Mr. Shea is ABI's Vice President-Information and Technology. He co-chairs ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference and is chair of ABI's Ethics Task Force. He is also a past chair and current vice chair of the State Bar of Nevada's Bankruptcy Law Section, and has served as chair of the Advisory Committee of the Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys. Mr. Shea is A-V rated by Martindale-Hubbell and is consistently listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and as a *Super Lawyer*. He received both his undergraduate degree and his J.D. from the University of Arizona, where he received the chairmanship to the Moot Court Board and the Mitchell C. Nelson Award for legal scholarship.

**Hon. Erithe A. Smith** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California in Santa Ana, appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1994 and reappointed in 2007. In 2004, Judge Smith was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP) and served on the BAP until 2007. From 1982-85, she clerked for Hon. Marcus M. Kaufman of the California Court of Appeals and Hon. Peter M. Elliott, a bankruptcy judge. Prior to taking the bench, she was a partner in a boutique law firm in Irvine, Calif., specializing in corporate insolvency and bankruptcy law. Judge Smith is an associate editor of the *ABI Journal*, a member of the Judicial Advisory Council of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (Orange County Chapter), a board member of Families Forward, Inc. and a past president of the Orange County Bankruptcy Forum. She is a frequent speaker and lecturer at various professional conferences, seminars and workshops. Judge Smith graduated from Loyola Marymount University *cum laude* in 1979 and from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1982.

**Alexander W. Stevenson** is a managing director with Lincoln International, LLC in Los Angeles and a senior member of the firm's Restructuring and Special Situations Group, where he is responsible for establishing and building the firm's relationships in the restructuring market both nationally and on the West Coast, and leads restructurings and special-situation assignments. He has 17 years of experience advising companies, creditors and other stakeholders in a variety of distressed and special situations involving the resolution of approximately \$16 billion of financial obligations, and he has advised clients on distressed M&A, amendments, waivers, debt-for-equity conversions, plans of reorganization and other financial restructuring transactions. His clients have included public and private companies, hedge funds, lender groups, ad hoc committees, official committees and buyers of distressed assets. Mr. Stevenson is a frequent speaker on restructuring and chapter 11 topics and has testified on bankruptcy issues. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Michigan State University.

**Ovsanna Takvoryan** is founder of the Takvoryan Law Group, P.C. in Glendale, Calif., where she specializes in litigation and the transactional aspects of chapter 11 business reorganization. Previously, she was an associate for seven years at Levene, Neale, Bender, Rankin & Brill, LLP. Ms. Takvoryan has represented individuals and official committees and trustees in chapter 11 business and individual reorganization cases and in bankruptcy litigation proceedings. She has also represented creditors in their disputes against distressed and bankrupt companies, as well as in disputes between secured and unsecured creditors in chapter 11 reorganization cases. Ms. Takvoryan has regularly been named a "Super Lawyer Rising Star" by *Southern California Super Lawyers* and in *Los Angeles Magazine* and *Law & Politics Magazine* since 2007. She is a member of the State Bar of California and is admitted to the Supreme Court of California and the U.S. District Court of the Central District of California. Ms. Takvoryan received her B.A. in diplomacy and world affairs from Occidental College and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where she was chief special projects editor of the *Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs*.

**Jennifer Taylor** is counsel in O'Melveny & Myers LLP's San Francisco office and a member of its Corporate Finance and Restructuring Practice, where she represents clients in secured and unsecured leveraged buyouts, debt restructurings and other structured financings. She also regularly negotiates workout transactions and represents clients in chapter 11 reorganizations and distressed acquisitions. Ms. Taylor has been recognized as a "Rising Star" in the practice of Bankruptcy/Creditor

Rights in the California edition of *Super Lawyers*. She received her B.A. from Stanford University in 2002 and her J.D. from the University of California at Hastings School of Law in 2005.

**Deborah L. Thorne** is a partner in the Chicago office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where she concentrates her practice on corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and insolvency law. She has represented debtors, lenders, committees, trustees, asset-purchasers, lessors and other parties in interest in some of the country's largest and most complex restructuring matters, including United Airlines, Kmart, Delphi, Meridian and Plastech. She also serves as receiver for the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in cases brought by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Ms. Thorne is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy issues and other commercial issues. She is a member of ABI's Board of Directors and is a former co-chair of ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors' Committee. She serves on the Governmental Affairs committee for NACM and previously chaired the Bankruptcy Committees for the Seventh Circuit and Chicago Bar Associations. Ms. Thorne was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2011 and 2012 in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law, and was recognized as a 2011 "Leading Lawyer" in Illinois. She has also been recognized in *Illinois Super Lawyers* every year since 2005. Ms. Thorne received her M.A.T. from Duke University in 1976 and her J.D. from Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent School of Law.

**Madeleine C. Wanslee** is co-chair of the Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Practice Group at Gust Rosenfeld, PLC in Phoenix, where she focuses her practice on creditors' rights and related state and federal court litigation, including commercial and consumer bankruptcy, loan workouts, foreclosures, replevin, and deficiency and guarantor actions. She has handled numerous appeals and argued *United Student Aid Funds Inc. vs. Espinosa* before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Wanslee previously clerked for Hon. Robert Clive Jones of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada. She is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* in its Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law category and in *Southwest Super Lawyers* in its Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights category. Ms. Wanslee received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona and her J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law, where she was an executive editor of the *Gonzaga Law Review*.

**Lynnette R. Warman** is a partner with Hunton & Williams LLP in Dallas and has appeared as counsel in federal courts in nearly 20 states in matters related to bankruptcy and restructuring. She has represented a broad range of parties in interest, including debtors, committees, individual creditors, asset-purchasers and equity-holders in cases involving a diverse group of industries, including various oil and gas-related matters. Ms. Warman is ABI's Vice President-Publications and also serves on the Board of NACMSW. She is a frequent speaker for ABI, NACM and other organizations at national and regional events. Ms. Warman is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Second Circuits and the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Districts of Texas. Ms. Warman received her B.A. in 1983 from the University of Nebraska and her J.D. from Creighton University in 1968.

**Howard J. Weg** is a partner with Peitzman Weg LLP in Los Angeles and has had leading roles in representing debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, investors and purchasers of assets and claims in numerous workouts and chapter 11 cases. His many publications include articles in the *California Bankruptcy Court Reporter*, *Real Estate Law Journal* and *Business Law News*. He has spoken for the American Bar Association, ABI, the State Bar of California and the Financial Lawyers Conference. Mr. Weg has served on the Executive Committee and as chair of the Education Committee of the Business Law Section of the State Bar of California, and is actively involved in several American Bar Association committees. He was president of the Financial Lawyers Conference for 2004-05 and sits on its Board of Governors. Mr. Weg is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America* and as a "Los Angeles Superlawyer" by *Los Angeles Magazine*, and was recognized as the "Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year" in 2004 by the Century City Bar Association. He received his LL.M. from Yale Law School.

**David R. Zaro** is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, where his practice focuses on litigation with an emphasis on creditors' rights, bankruptcy litigation and state and federal receiverships. He is recognized for his handling of civil litigation through to trial and has resolved numerous matters through alternative dispute processes, including mediation and arbitration. Mr. Zaro represents a wide range of clients, including institutional lenders, developers, landlords, receivers, examiners, secured and unsecured creditors and other business enterprises. His insolvency, creditors' rights and bankruptcy litigation experience includes out-of-court workouts and restructurings, federal and state court receiverships and bankruptcy reorganization proceedings. Mr. Zaro represented the court-appointed receivers in a \$90 million stock fraud action by the Securities and Exchange Commission and a \$130 million Ponzi-like scheme involving a bankrupt operator of payphones. A frequent speaker on matters regarding creditors' rights, construction law and other real property remedies, Mr. Zaro previously served as chair of the Construction Law Subsection of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and as a member of its Steering Committee. He is also a member of the Financial Lawyer's Conference, ABI and the Business Section of the American Bar Association. Mr. Zaro received his B.A. in 1981 from Stanford University and his J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law in 1986.

**Hon. Gregg W. Zive** was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Reno on Jan. 23, 1995, and was reappointed in 2009. He is admitted to the Bars of California (1973) and Nevada (1976) and to the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Zive is a past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy (inducted in 2005) and Master Emeritus of the Bruce R. Thompson Chapter of the American Inns of Court. He is also a member of the Washoe County Bar Association (president, 1992-93), the Nevada State-Federal Judicial Council and the State Bar of Nevada Advisory Commission on Law Related Education. Judge Zive has been a member of the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach Committee and the Ninth Circuit Standing Committee on ADR. He is a member of ABI's Board of Directors and chaired the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges from October 2005 to September 2006. Judge Zive received his B.A. in journalism from the University of Nevada in 1967 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1973, where he was a member and editor of its law review.