

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 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 been co-author on 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.

Jennifer L. Braun has served as the Assistant U.S. Trustee for Region 16 in the Woodland Hills, Calif., office of the U.S. Trustee Program since 2002. She supervises all aspects of the practice of the Woodland Hills office, which oversees the administration of bankruptcy cases and litigates to enforce bankruptcy law in cases filed in the San Fernando Valley and Northern Divisions of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. Previously, Ms. Braun worked for eight years as a supervising attorney at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, where she represented low-income clients in consumer protection, bankruptcy and other matters. She was also in private practice for six years with Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard in New York, where she litigated employment-rights cases. Ms. Braun received her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, her Master's degree in English from the University of Chicago and her Bachelor's degree in English and government from Pomona College.

Louis M. Bubala, III is a partner with Armstrong Teasdale LLP in Reno, Nev., where he helps banks, businesses, landlords and individuals recover money and property owed to them. A past president of the Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association, Mr. Bubala regularly speaks on developments in case law and writes a monthly summary of new decisions for the State Bar of Nevada, Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys and Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association. He also authored the Nevada section of West's *Bankruptcy Exemption Manual*. Previously, Mr. Bubala worked as a reporter in Indiana for eight years, then externed for U.S. Magistrate Judge John P. Cooney (D. Or.) and clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie P. Cooke (D. Nev.). He earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University and his law degree from the University of Oregon.

Natalie Bush-Lents is a staff attorney for the California Monitor Program and the affiliated Consumer Protection Clinic at the University of California Irvine School of Law in Irvine. In her current position with the California Monitor Program, Ms. Bush-Lents works with UC Irvine Law's Prof. Katherine Porter, who was appointed by Attorney General Kamala Harris to monitor implementation of the National Mortgage Settlement. The California Monitor Program communicates with the banks about their progress on implementing the settlement provisions. The program receives and reviews complaints and questions about the settlement from hundreds of homeowners each month

and provides outreach and education about the settlement to groups of homeowners, housing counselors and attorneys. Ms. Bush-Lents previously completed a three-year judicial clerkship with Hon. Leslie Tchaikovsky (ret.) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court (N.D. Cal.) and was an associate at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis in San Francisco, where her practice focused on civil litigation and bankruptcy law. She earned her J.D. from the University of California-Berkeley School of Law.

Rudy J. Cerone is a member of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC in its New Orleans office and is 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 Secretary on ABI's Board of Directors 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*.

Venicia Considine an attorney in the Consumer Rights Project of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, where she represents clients going through foreclosure, mediation and judicial review and also assists victims of consumer fraud. Ms. Considine has testified in front of the Nevada State Legislature on issues pertinent to the low-income population and regularly assists on policy affecting consumers. Prior to joining the Legal Aid Center, Ms. Considine was an academic advisor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She also worked for political campaigns, fundraising firms and the Women's Research Institute at UNLV. Ms. Considine received her J.D. from UNLV Boyd School of Law after obtaining her Master's degree and Bachelor's degree, both in American history, from UNLV.

Hon. Stephen L. Johnson is a U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge for the Northern District of California in San Jose, appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Oct. 13, 2010. Immediately prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Johnson was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, where he represented the federal government's interest in bankruptcy cases, bankruptcy-related forfeiture cases and enforced debts for criminal fines, restitution and civil judgments. He conducted both bench and jury trials; he also served as a trial attorney in the U.S. Trustee's Office from 1995-2002 and worked in the creditors' rights and bankruptcy departments of two major law firms before entering government service. He was a Certified Public Accountant prior to starting his legal career. An adjunct faculty member at the University of California Hastings College of Law, Judge Johnson is co-editor of a forthcoming treatise on bankruptcy. He was also a member of the editorial board of the *California Bankruptcy Journal*, the Insolvency Law Committee of the State Bar of California and the Bench-Bar Liaison Committee for the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Johnson received a B.S. with honors from the University of San Francisco and his J.D. from University of California-Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of its law review.

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. Ms. Krohn was appointed as a chapter 7 trustee in February 2011. Her numerous accomplishments and awards include the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada's Lied Award (2008-09), U.S. Senators Harry Reid's Certificate of Commendation (2008), U.S. Senator John Ensign's Senatorial Recognition (2008), Clark County *Pro Bono* Project's Attorney of the Year (2007) and Vegas Inc.'s "Top Lawyers" (2012). Ms. Krohn is active in a number of professional organizations, including the 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 also served as an adjunct professor at the College of Southern Nevada (2010-12). Ms. Krohn is licensed to practice law 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.

August B. Landis is the Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 17 in Las Vegas, appointed in 2010. He previously served as the U.S. Trustee Program's first Acting Associate General Counsel for Chapter 11 Practice, and he also served as an Assistant U.S. Trustee for the District of Nevada. Mr. Landis is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association and is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Eighth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa. From 1987-90, he practiced law as an associate with the Des Moines, Iowa, firm of Neiman, Neiman, Stone & Spellman and previously served as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa. From 1990 until taking the Assistant U.S. Trustee position in Las Vegas, Mr. Landis practiced with Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. in Des Moines, where the bulk of his work involved creditors' rights in commercial litigation, secured transactions and bankruptcy cases. Mr. Landis received his J.D. from Drake Law School in Des Moines.

Zachariah Larson is an attorney with Marquis Aurbach Coffing in Las Vegas, where he focuses on consumer and business bankruptcy law, representing both debtors and creditors across an array of legal challenges, as well as real estate litigation and corporate formation. Mr. Larson is AV-rated by *Martindale-Hubbell* and has been recognized by the *Nevada Business Magazine* as one of the "Top 100 Attorneys in Southern Nevada in 2011." He has also been recognized in *Mountain States Super Lawyer* in 2011 and was listed as a "Mountain States Rising Star" (2009-10) and "Nevada Rising Star" (2008). A past member of and former instructor for the State Bar of Nevada's Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee, Mr. Larson is currently a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates and the State Bar of Nevada, as well as a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In addition, he served as president of the Clark County Bar Association in 2011 and has been a member of numerous CCBA and Clark County Law Foundation committees, including Trial By Peers, New Attorneys and Community Service. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Colorado State University and his J.D. from Pepperdine University School of Law.

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. 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 hiring 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 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). As a lawyer, Judge Mann was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and as a Southern California “Super Lawyer,” and won the State Bar of California Wiley M. Manual Award for *Pro Bono* Legal Services and the Mediator of the Year award from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Mann received her B.A. in finance 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 Law Center.

Hon. Bruce A. Markell was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in July 2004 for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, and he has served on the Ninth Circuit’s Bankruptcy Appellate Panel since 2007. Before taking the bench, he practiced bankruptcy and business law for 10 years in Los Angeles and was a law professor for 14 years. In addition, Judge Markell is the author of numerous articles on bankruptcy and commercial law, and is a co-author of four law school casebooks, one of which will soon be translated into Japanese. He contributes to *Collier on Bankruptcy* and is a member of its editorial advisory board. Judge Markell is a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the International Insolvency Institute and a member of the American Law Institute. A member of the NITA-trained faculty of the Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Institute, Judge Markell has been an adviser to the United Nations on secured transactions and to the Republic of Indonesia on bankruptcy reform. He was also the International Bar Association’s representative to the meetings that led up to UNCITRAL’s promulgation of a convention on the assignment of receivables. Judge Markell has advised the International Monetary Fund on Irish consumer bankruptcy law and has taught international comparative bankruptcy law at the Queensland University of Technology. He received his J.D. from the University of California, Davis.

Brian J. Mullen is an attorney and chapter 7 trustee in the District of Arizona in Phoenix. Prior to his appointment in 2004, Mr. Mullen served as law clerk to Hon. Redfield T. Baum in Phoenix, Hon. Linda B. Riegle in Las Vegas and Hon. James B. Hovis in Spokane, Wash. He received his B.A. from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., and his J.D. from Gonzaga University.

Susan L. Myers is an attorney in the Consumer Rights Project of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, where she primarily serves as bankruptcy facilitator. As facilitator, she provides information to parties appearing without counsel in front of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Las Vegas and gives assistance to persons referred to the Legal Aid Center by the Court, bankruptcy trustees and the U.S. Trustee’s office, including screening for *pro bono* placement. She is

also involved in debtor education and supervises a community legal education bankruptcy class at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Boyd School of Law. Upon graduating from law school, Ms. Myers became an associate with Lionel Sawyer & Collins in Las Vegas, then served as senior counsel for the New Jersey Casino Control Commission in the Casino Licensing Unit of the Office of the General Counsel (2000-06). She then returned to Lionel Sawyer & Collins, where her practice became focused on bankruptcy, primarily creditors' rights in chapter 11 cases. She joined the Legal Aid Center in July 2011. Ms. Myers received her B.A. in history from the University of Virginia and her J.D. with honors from Rutgers School of Law, where she earned a tax honors with distinction certificate and the Annual Taxation Award.

Randy Nussbaum is a founding shareholder of Nussbaum Gillis & Dinner, P.C. in Scottsdale, Ariz., specializing in complex and unusual bankruptcies, commercial litigation, construction, corporate and transactional law, real estate and general business law. He concentrates his bankruptcy practice in real estate, construction and contracting law. Mr. Nussbaum is a frequent lecturer and author for the Arizona and Maricopa County Bar Associations, the Arizona State University Alumni Association and a number of professional and trade groups on bankruptcy, construction and real estate topics. He has spoken at regional presentations sponsored by ABI on a variety of bankruptcy-related subjects, and from 2001-09 he chaired a yearly seminar on chapter 13 bankruptcy sponsored by the ASU Law School Alumni Association. Mr. Nussbaum is a member of the State Bar of Arizona's Bankruptcy, Real Estate and Construction Sections, a former director of the Scottsdale Bar Association and a board member of the Maricopa County Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Maricopa Bar Association. He is admitted to practice before the Arizona Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Nussbaum is an AV Preeminent-rated attorney, has been selected as a *Super Lawyer* from 2007-12 and as one of *Arizona's Finest Lawyers* from 2009-12, received the Scottsdale Bar's award of excellence in 2011 in recognition of his service to the legal community, and has been named in *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Lawyers in America" (2009-13). He received his B.A. *cum laude* and his J.D. from Arizona State University, graduating in the top 25 percent of his class.

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 and 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, then moved from assistant professor to associate professor to associate dean for student affairs and to professor in 1998. 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 is co-author of *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*, co-authored with Jeffrey D. Van Niel (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 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.

Hon. Linda B. Riegler was appointed to a 14-year term of office as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in January 1988 in Las Vegas and reappointed to a second 14-year term in January 2002. She also served as the chief bankruptcy judge for the District of Nevada 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 (board of directors and 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 is the author of the articles "Discharge Litigation" and "What Makes Judges Happy in the Courtroom: Exploding a Few Myths," and co-author of "Advising Debtors with Criminal Concerns," all of which have been 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.

Samuel A. Schwartz is founder of the Schwartz Law Firm 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.

Lenard E. Schwartz is a senior partner with Schwartz & McPherson Law Firm in Las Vegas, where he practices in the areas of bankruptcy, receiverships, asset-protection, civil litigation and creditors' rights. He has extensive experience in representing bankruptcy trustees, debtors, debtors-in-possession, creditors and creditors' committees, as well as business debtors in debt negotiation, chapter 11 reorganizations and chapter 7 liquidations. Mr. Schwartz has also been a chapter 7 panel trustee for the District of Nevada since 2004 and over the past few years, has been counsel to debtors in numerous chapter 11 cases. Previously, he was a member of Mangels, Butler, Marmaro & O'Reilly LLC and a partner and chairman of the bankruptcy department of Hale, Lane, Peek, Denison, Howard & Anderson, a state-wide Nevada law firm (now Holland & Hart). Mr. Schwartz is certified in Business Bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification and is admitted to the Nevada and California bars, as well as the U.S. Tax Court and U.S. Supreme Court. He received his B.S. from New York University and his J.D. from Albany Law School of Union University, where he was a member of Order of the Coif and notes editor of the *Albany Law Review*.

Ovsanna Takvoryan is founder of the Takvoryan Law Group, P.C. in Glendale, Calif. Prior to founding the firm, she was an associate for seven years at Levene, Neale, Bender, Rankin & Brill, LLP. Ms. Takvoryan specializes in litigation and the transactional aspects of chapter 11 business reorganization. She has represented individuals and various entities, including official committees and trustees, in chapter 11 business, as well as individual reorganization cases and 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*.

Hon. Maureen A. Tighe is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California, currently sitting in Woodland Hills. Prior to her appointment to the bench in 2003, she was the U.S. Trustee for the Central District of California for five years. During that time, she also occasionally served as U.S. Trustee in the Districts of Northern, Eastern and Southern California, Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the District of Nevada. From 1988-98, Judge Tighe was an Assistant U.S Attorney in Los Angeles, specializing in the prosecution of financial crime, including bankruptcy and consumer frauds. Prior to that, she was in private practice in New York and clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Harold Ackerman in Newark, N.J. She has authored numerous reports and articles concerning bankruptcy crimes, bankruptcy petition preparers, parallel proceedings, trustee duties and identity theft. Judge Tighe received her B.A. with highest honors from Douglass College and her J.D. from Rutgers Law School-Newark with high honors, where she was editor-in-chief of the *Rutgers Law Review*.

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.