

Faculty Biographies

David A. Bergeron is the vice president for postsecondary education at the Center for American Progress. He previously served as the acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education at the U.S. Department of Education, where he acted as the education secretary's chief advisor on higher-education issues and administered more than 60 grant and loan programs that provide nearly \$3 billion annually to institutions of higher education and community-based organizations. Mr. Bergeron also served as the deputy assistant secretary for policy, planning and innovation for the Office of Postsecondary Education, where he was responsible for the program budget for the federal postsecondary education programs administered by the Office of Postsecondary Education and Federal Student Aid, which has generated more than \$160 billion in financial aid to more than 25 million students enrolled at public and private postsecondary institutions. In addition, he has led key policy groups working on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, researched market-based approaches to loan subsidies under the guaranteed loan programs, and developed program regulations and other policy guidelines. Mr. Bergeron received his B.A. in political science and sociology from the University of Rhode Island.

Rand L. Gelber is a litigation attorney in Rockville, Md., and is experienced in diverse areas of the law, including bankruptcy and litigation and general civil litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. His practice includes domestic relations, personal injury and general business and corporate matters, as well as traffic and criminal matters. Prior to starting his own practice, Mr. Gelber was an attorney at a number of law firms in the Rockville area, including VanGrack, Axelson, Williamowsky & Jacobs and Hyatt Legal Services. He received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles.

Prof. Susan E. Hauser is a law professor at North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, N.C., where she has taught civil procedure, bankruptcy and business associations since August 2005. She received the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2013, and was named Professor of the Year by her students in 2011 and 2008. In the fall of 2012, Prof. Hauser served as ABI's Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar, and that October received the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* Editors' Prize. She was also elected to the *ABLJ*'s Editorial Advisory Board in 2013 and was an *ABLJ* Fellow in the fall of 2005. Prof. Hauser publishes and presents on the treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy, predatory lending, bankruptcy procedure, and the intersection between constitutional law and bankruptcy law. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina. She clerked for U.S. Bankruptcy Judge J. Rich Leonard and U.S. District Judge W. Earl Britt, both of the Eastern District of North Carolina, and began her legal career as an attorney for Legal Aid in Robeson County, N.C. Prof. Hauser is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff has been a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in Miami since Feb. 13, 2006. Previously, she specialized in commercial bankruptcy, foreclosure, bankruptcy and SEC receiverships involving Ponzi schemes and workout matters, both as a transactional attorney and as a litigator for 14 years with the law firm of Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton after practicing for eight years with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey. She holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized several times in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*'s "America's Leading Lawyers for Business" and the "2005 Client's Guide" by *Chambers & Partners* (in which she was recognized as a leading individual in the field of bankruptcy), and as a "Top Lawyer" in South Florida by *The Florida Trend*. She was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy in March 2006 and was recently appointed to serve as a director of the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. Judge Isicoff is a past president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association (BBA) of the Southern District of Florida and chaired the BBA's Pro Bono Task Force prior to her judicial appointment. She taught the inaugural year of the Bankruptcy Assistance Clinic at St. Thomas Law School, a program that she helped design and for which she served as a student mentor, and she also served as a student mentor to the University of Miami School of Law bankruptcy clinic. Judge Isicoff speaks extensively on bankruptcy and pro bono service topics

around the country, as well as to high school and college students in the Miami area on financial literacy. She clerked for Hon. Daniel S. Pearson at the Florida Third District Court of Appeals before entering private practice with Squire Sanders & Dempsey. Judge Isicoff received her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 1982.

Jon T. Pearson is an associate in the Philadelphia office of Ballard Spahr LLP, where he concentrates on representing and advising debtors, secured creditors, DIP lenders, creditors' committees, trustees and purchasers in complex chapter 11 reorganization and liquidation proceedings, including prepackaged and pre-negotiated restructurings. Mr. Pearson also has significant experience litigating complex commercial issues, including contract interference, officer and director liability, and contract interpretation and enforcement; fraudulent conveyance and lender-liability cases; oppressed and dissenting shareholders actions; creditor remedies; and all aspects of bankruptcy litigation. He is an ABI member and was named among "Southern Nevada's Top 100 Attorneys" by *Nevada Business* in 2011 and among the *Mountain States Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" 2012 in the area of bankruptcy. Mr. Pearson received his B.M. from Temple University and his J.D. *cum laude* from California Western School of Law.

Julie Swedback is a senior attorney for the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), a nonprofit federal guaranty agency headquartered in Oakdale, Minn. She was previously in private practice and with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office. Over the past 14 years, Ms. Swedback has been part of a legal team that has largely shaped student loan law from the trial court level to the appellate level across the U.S. She received her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minn., where she served as editor-in-chief of its law review. Upon graduation, she clerked for Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Anne Simonett and Judge Bruce Willis.

Brett Weiss is a senior partner at Chung & Press, LLC in Greenbelt, Md., and has been representing people and businesses in all phases of bankruptcy for more than 25 years. He is experienced in complex individual chapter 7, chapter 11 and chapter 13 bankruptcy cases, and in chapter 11 small business restructuring and reorganization. Mr. Weiss is a co-author of *Chapter 11 for Individual Debtors*, published by Lexis-Nexis, and authored "Not Dead Yet: Bankruptcy after BAPCPA" for the *Maryland Bar Journal*, as well as hundreds of blogs for the Bankruptcy Law Network. He also lectures nationally on bankruptcy issues and has spoken before the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Maryland Bankruptcy Bar Association and Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. Weiss has testified before the Bankruptcy Rules Committee and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and has twice testified before Congress on bankruptcy and credit issues. In 2011, he received the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Weiss earned his J.D. with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law.