

Faculty Biographies

Edward Bartak is a managing director of tax services in McGladrey LLP's Kansas City, Mo., office, where he works to minimize and defer tax liabilities of his clients. He has more than 25 years of experience providing tax, business and accounting services to business and high-net-worth individuals. Previously, Mr. Bartak was a senior manager for McGladrey's Great Lakes practice. He has extensive experience in the areas of tax planning, business consulting, merger and acquisition planning, due diligence, estate planning, resolution of accounting-method issues and assistance with IRS and state tax examiners. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Mr. Bartak received his B.S. in accounting from Northern Illinois University and his M.B.A. from the University of St. Frances.

Prof. Patrick B. Bauer is a professor of law at the University of Iowa College of Law in Iowa City, Iowa, where he teaches courses on debtor creditor law, real estate transfers and finance, bankruptcy rehabilitations, civil procedures, and law and legal reasoning. He publishes articles on the historical development and operation of mortgage foreclosure and farm bankruptcy laws and has provided legislative testimony in those areas. Previously, Prof. Bauer was previously an associate with Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis. He received his B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1972 and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School in 1975.

Hon. Robert D. Berger was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Kansas City in October 2003. Prior to his appointment, Judge Berger practiced law as a bankruptcy and insolvency specialist representing debtors and creditors. He was among the first group of attorneys in Kansas and Missouri to be certified by the American Board of Certification in both consumer and business bankruptcy law. Judge Berger is a member of ABI and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He has written numerous articles on bankruptcy issues, including chapter 13 tax matters, and is a contributing author for the Kansas Bar Association's *Bankruptcy Handbook*. He has also served as a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy, insolvency and related tax issues. Judge Berger received his B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1983 and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law in 1986.

Susan A. Berson is a partner with Berson Law Group LLP in Leawood, Kan., where she advises taxpayers on strategies for dealing with the IRS, negotiates offers-in-compromise, responds to grand jury subpoenas and litigates disputes. She has more than 20 years of experience in IRS civil, criminal and regulatory matters. Ms. Berson is a FINRA Dispute Resolution program arbitrator and a certified mediator in the Early Assessment Program in the Western District of Missouri. She has authored books and articles, including the biannually updated treatise *Federal Tax Litigation* (Law Journal Press, 2001) and *The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: From Legislation to Implementation to Litigation* (ABA, 2011). She is also a contributing columnist in the *ABA Journal* magazine and is involved in various professional and community organizations. Ms. Berson received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1990 and her LL.M. from Georgetown University in 1994.

Francis X. Buckley, Jr. is a managing partner of Thompson Coburn LLP's Chicago office, where his practice focuses on bankruptcy, insolvency and creditors' rights matters throughout the Midwest and other parts of the country. Prior to joining Thompson Coburn, he served as a judicial law clerk to Hon. J.D. Trabue, a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Illinois. Mr. Buckley is licensed in Illinois and Missouri and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. He received

his B.S., B.A. and J.D. *cum laude* from Saint Louis University, where he was a managing editor of the *Saint Louis University Law Journal*.

John J. Cruciani is a partner with Husch Blackwell LLP in its Kansas City, Mo., office where he practices in the areas of bankruptcy, insolvency, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. Mr. Cruciani is licensed in Kansas and Missouri and is a member of the Missouri, Kansas and Johnson County Bar Associations, the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and ABI. He is also a licensed CPA by the State of Missouri. Mr. Cruciani is Board Certified in Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification (ABC) and previously served on ABC's Board of Directors. He was a contributing author for the bankruptcy treatise *Small Business Bankruptcy Reorganization* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1994) and has published articles on bankruptcy matters for various publications. Mr. Cruciani has been a speaker for programs for the KBA, the KCMBA, KCBBA and other organizations in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency, and is a past chair of the KCMBA's Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Committee. He has been listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2009 and was named the 2014 "Lawyer of the Year" in Kansas City for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law. He has also been listed in Kansas City's *Business Journal Best of the Bar* and *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights. Mr. Cruciani received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1994.

Lisa Epps Dade is a partner with Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP's Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditor's Rights Group and Financial Services Group in Kansas City, Mo. Her practice focuses on representing debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bond trustees, bondholders, investors, bankruptcy trustees, and creditors' and equity-holders' committees in complex corporate restructuring, workout and bankruptcy planning, negotiation and litigation both regionally and nationally. Previously she was a legal extern for Hon. James A. Pusateri, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas, and from 1996-97, she was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy* and was a National Moot Court team member. Ms. Dade has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law and in the *Kansas City Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar," as well as in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers*. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from The American University in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Kansas in 1997.

Hon. Dennis R. Dow is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Dow was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters 7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow has authored or co-authored several articles, including "ERISA-Related Claims in Bankruptcy," *Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Nov/Dec 1993); "'Rent to Own' Agreements in Bankruptcy: Sales or Leases?," *ABI Law Review*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1994); and "Gramm-Leach-Bliley and the Bankruptcy/Collection Attorney,"

Norton Bankruptcy Law Advisor (Feb. 2002). He is a member of the Missouri and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Associations, as well as ABI's Board of Directors. Judge Dow has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law since 1995. He received his B.A. with honors from the University of Wyoming and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law, where he was notes a editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

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

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

Richard V. Fink has served as standing chapter 13 trustee for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City for nearly 25 years and presently administers 8,800 cases. He speaks locally, regionally and nationally on topics related to chapter 13 law and administration. Mr. Fink is admitted to practice in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. He received his B.A. from Baker University and his J.D. from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law.

Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia in Richmond on Sept. 11, 2006. Prior to his appointment, Judge Huennekens was a partner with the firm of Kutak Rock LLP. He also served as a panel trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia (1988-2006) and was co-editor of the Virginia CLE publication *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia* (2004 and 2008). Judge Huennekens is a Fellow in the American

College of Bankruptcy and a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and ABI. He was also recognized in *Who's Who Legal USA in Insolvency and Restructuring* and *The International Who's Who of Insolvency and Restructuring* in 2006, and was listed in the *Best Lawyers in America* from 1995-2006. He is a planning committee member of the Annual Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice and has also been a speaker at Virginia CLE courses on basic and advanced bankruptcy. He received his B.A. from the College of William & Mary and his J.D. from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and its law review and has been an adjunct professor of law.

Eric L. Johnson is a partner at Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP in Kansas City, Mo., where he practices in its Financial Services Group. He represents debtors, creditors, committees, trustees and other interested parties in bankruptcy, workout and collection matters. In addition to being a frequent speaker on bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights, Mr. Johnson is a former articles editor for *The Journal of Corporation Law* and authored "Waste Not, Want Not: An Analysis of Stock Option Plans, Executive Compensation, and the Proper Standard of Waste," which was published in *The Journal of Corporation Law's* Fall 2000 edition. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2010, as a Missouri and Kansas Rising Star for 2009 by *Super Lawyers* and in the *Kansas City Business Journal's* 2010 "Best of the Bar." Mr. Johnson received his bachelor's degree in political science with highest honors from the University of Northern Iowa, and his J.D. with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law.

James A. Lodoen is a partner with Lindquist & Vennum, PLLP in Minneapolis, where he co-chairs the firm's Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group and represents lenders, debtors, committees and buyers in bankruptcy cases and workouts, and has been involved in numerous 363 sales. Mr. Lodoen is a frequent lecturer and author on various bankruptcy and debtor/creditor issues. He has practiced law at Lindquist & Vennum since 1987 and previously served as judicial law clerk to Hon. William A. Hill, a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of North Dakota. He is recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers* and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. He received his J.D. in 1985 from the University of North Dakota School of Law and his B.S. from North Dakota State University.

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

Edward J. Nazar is a partner of Redmond & Nazar, LLP in Wichita, Kan., where he represents individuals and businesses in restructuring tax liabilities with both the IRS and the Kansas Department of Revenue. He has been a chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee in the state of Kansas since 1991 and a chapter 12 trustee since 1986, and he is licensed to practice in Kansas, the Western District of Missouri, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Nazar is a former

commissioner of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission (1996 - 2000) and a member of the University of Kansas Hospital Authority Board (2001-03). He is a member of ABI, the American, Kansas Bar and Wichita Bar Associations, and he is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Nazar was also a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Bankruptcy from 2001-05, and of the Board of Directors of the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation from 2005-08. He is currently president-elect of the board of trustees of the Kansas Bar Foundation. Mr. Nazar has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy, Creditor-Debtor Rights Law and Business Litigation. He graduated from Boston College and received his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law.

Hon. Cynthia F. Norton is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City. Prior to her appointment, she was a founding partner of Grimes & Rebein, LC in Lenexa, Kan., where she focused on consumer and business bankruptcy, creditors' rights, commercial workouts and related fields. She clerked for Hon. John E. Rees of the Kansas Court of Appeals and Hon. James A. Pusateri of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Topeka, Kan. Judge Norton was previously an associate with Stinson, Mag & Fizzell, an associate and then partner with Lewis, Rice & Fingers, and of counsel with Levy & Craig. She has published an annual column reviewing Eighth Circuit bankruptcy cases of interest for *Norton's Bankruptcy Law Advisor* and has authored numerous articles, book chapters and seminar papers on bankruptcy-related topics, is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is a member of various bankruptcy organizations. Judge Norton received her B.A. in French and art history Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from Kansas University and her J.D. from the Kansas University Law School, where she was associate editor of its law review.

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

Jill D. Olsen is a solo practitioner at The Olsen Law Firm, LLC in Kansas City, Mo., practicing primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, collections and commercial litigation and representing both creditors and debtors. She is admitted to the Missouri and Kansas Bars. Ms. Olsen has been a member of the Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Committee for the District of Kansas, for which she helped draft and update local bankruptcy rules in the wake of BAPCPA. She is presently a member of the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri. Ms.

Olsen received her B.A. in English from Weber State University in 1990 and her J.D. with honors from the University of Missouri Kansas City in 2000.

David Peress is a principal at Hilco Streambank, LLC in Needham, Mass., where he provides intangible asset-disposition, advisory and valuation services. He most recently served as president of Hudson Capital Partners, where he led the company's investment review and management processes. Mr. Peress has 20 years of experience working in the corporate restructuring and distressed-investing industry. Until 2000, he was a partner in the bankruptcy department of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Wilmington, Del., and he later served as managing director and general counsel of The Ozer Group LLC, an asset-disposition firm, and as the COO of Ozer's Real Estate Services. Prior to joining Hudson, Mr. Peress led the special-situations investing business for Crystal Capital, a multi-strategy private investment fund. At Crystal Capital, he structured and managed debt and equity investments in several retailers and consumer-products companies, including Tower Records, The Sharper Image, Polartec, Cranium, Tommy Armour Golf and Bob's Stores. Mr. Peress is a member of ABI, the Turnaround Management Association and the ICSC, and is a frequent speaker and author on issues related to corporate restructurings and distressed investing. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

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 in 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.

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

William Jewell College in 1972 and received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1976.

Claire Ann Resop is a shareholder in the Madison, Wis., office of Steinhilber, Swanson & Resop, where she concentrates her practice in bankruptcy, real estate, and commercial and claims litigation. She serves on ABI's Board of Directors, was appointed to the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the Western District of Wisconsin from 2004-11, and was formerly a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees' New Trustee Advisory Committee. She is also immediate past chair of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Creditors' Rights Section and serves as co-chair of its Legislative Committee. Ms. Resop formerly served as chair of both ABI's Central States Advisory Board and the State Bar of Wisconsin's Convention Committee, and she was a member of the Ethics Committee for the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. In 2005, she was recognized as one of the "Top 25 Female Super Lawyers," and was named a "Super Lawyer" in both *Law & Politics* and *Milwaukee Magazine* from 2005-10. Ms. Resop received her B.A. from Marquette University in 1987 and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1993.

Damian S. Schaible is a partner with Davis Polk & Wardwell's Insolvency and Restructuring Group in New York, where he works on corporate restructurings and bankruptcies, representing debtors, creditors, agent banks, lenders, asset-purchasers and other strategic parties. He currently chairs the Committee on Bankruptcy and Corporate Reorganization of the New York City Bar Association. Mr. Schaible has been named a "Rising Star" in the *New York Law Journal 2013*, a "Leading Lawyer, New York: Bankruptcy/Restructuring" in *Chambers USA 2103* and one of the "40 Under 40" by the *M&A Advisor*. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in political science from the College of the Holy Cross in 1998 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from New York University School of Law in 2001, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Hon. Barry S. Schermer is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, appointed in 1986 and reappointed in 2000, and a judge on the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, appointed in 1996 and reappointed to a seven-year term in 2003. He sits in both St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, Mo., and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Schermer serves as a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy*, authored an article on negative amortization that was published in the *Bankruptcy Developments Journal* and published a *Washington University Law Quarterly* article examining the effects of community interests in bankruptcy. He received his J.D. from Washington University School of Law, where he currently serves as an adjunct professor of law.

Mark A. Shaiken is a partner with Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP in Kansas City, Mo., where his practice includes all facets of the debtor/creditor relationship, including secured creditor, creditors' committee, trustee and debtors representation, as well as workouts, foreclosures, *replevin*, Reg B, lender-liability defense and secured-transactions litigation. He is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in Business Bankruptcy Law and is licensed to practice in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Pennsylvania. He served as law clerk to Hon. James A. Pusateri, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas, from 1981-84. Mr. Shaiken has taught advanced bankruptcy law at the University of Kansas since 1996 and is co-author of *Litigation under the Automatic Stay in Bankruptcy*, a one-volume treatise published by Aspen Publishing. He is a member of ABI, the American

Bar Association and the Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys, and was given the Missouri Bar Association's Michael Roser Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy in 2001. He was also named a 2012 "Lawyer of the Year" in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Shaiken received his B.A. in American studies from Haverford College in 1977 and his J.D. *cum laude* from Washburn University in 1981.

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

Paul D. Sinclair is a shareholder with Polsinelli in its Kansas City, Mo., office, and has spent more than 30 years as a lead trial lawyer in jury, non-jury and arbitration cases. He represents secured and unsecured creditors, business debtors, unsecured creditors' committee and equity security-holders, and liquidating trusts in business restructuring, workout and bankruptcy matters. His background in complex business litigation and planning includes veil-piercing, successor liability, executive employment, director and officer liability litigation, and construction and real estate litigation of every type and description. Mr. Sinclair has represented buyers and sellers of significant businesses in asset/business sales and acquisitions. His general business clients are active in the service industry, real estate, lending and finance, trucking, insurance, automotive and other general business enterprises. Mr. Sinclair has repeatedly been listed as the "Best of the Bar" in the *Kansas City Business Journal* and in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. He received his B.A. from Boston College *magna cum laude* and his J.D. from Georgetown University.

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

Bruce E. Strauss is a lawyer with Merrick, Baker & Strauss in Kansas City, Mo., where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy, commercial and real estate law and collections. He received his B.A. from Park College and his J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Mark G. Stingley is a member of the Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights and Commercial Litigation Client Service Groups at Bryan Cave LLP in its Kansas City, Mo., office. He additionally serves as litigation coordinator of its Commercial Litigation Client Service Group. Mr. Stingley represents lending institutions in the areas of litigation and insolvency, as well as debt-

ors in workout and bankruptcy-related matters. In addition, he has represented a number of commercial and lending clients in real estate and commercial litigation cases in both state and federal courts in several jurisdictions. Mr. Stingley was previously an adjunct professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and co-authored a chapter on composition agreements in Thomson West's upcoming book *Non-Bankruptcy Alternatives*. Named a "Super Lawyer" in Missouri, he is also annually listed in Kansas City's *Best of the Bar* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Stingley received his J.D. from University of Missouri at Kansas City and his B.S. from William Jewell College.

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

John Tittle, Jr., CPA/CFF, CTP, CIRA, CDBV, is president of Tittle Advisory Group, Inc. (TAG) in New York and Irving (Dallas), Texas. He has more than 30 years of bankruptcy advisory, restructuring and financial, consulting experience involving rendering bankruptcy advisory/reorganization services on behalf of stakeholders in the bankruptcy/turnaround arena. Since 1983, Mr. Tittle has also been retained in numerous cases in which he had to render testimony relative to recharacterization issues, accounting and financial matters, damage-calculation projects, valuation and solvency issues, confirmation matters, and other adversary proceedings in the bankruptcy context. Having been admitted to testify as an expert in federal, bankruptcy and state courts across the country, he has rendered testimony as an expert witness for more than 100 matters. Prior to founding TAG, Mr. Tittle led the Southwest Region for XRoads Solutions Group, LLC and the Reorganization Services practice in the Mid-America Region as a partner for Deloitte. His prior experience has also included Cascade International Capital Corp. (president), Price Waterhouse LLP (director) and The Leather Factory, Inc. (chief financial officer). Mr. Tittle has served on ABI's Executive Committee since 2002 and is a 30th Anniversary Circle contributor to ABI's Anthony H.N. Schnellling Endowment Fund. He is also a frequent speaker on financial/restructuring matters and has written articles for the *ABI Journal*. Mr. Tittle received his B.B.A. *magna cum laude* in accounting from Texas Christian University.

Hon. Thomas F. Waldron (ret.) was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Dayton in 1985. He also served as Chief Judge of that court and as the first Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Judge Waldron retired in 2007. Prior to his judicial appointment, he represented debtors and creditors and served as a chapter 7 trustee in Cincinnati. He has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the University of Cincinnati and the University of Dayton law schools, and since his retirement he has served as the initial advisor to the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustee's Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education establishing its website, ConsiderChapter13.org. Judge Waldron is a member of the American College of Bankruptcy and the American Board of Certification and has contributed to various publications. He is a managing co-editor for *Norton's Bankruptcy Advisor* and is a speaker at national, regional and local bankruptcy programs. Judge Waldron received his J.D. from the University of Cincinnati Law School.

Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff has served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago since 1987 and as Chief Judge from 2002-07. After graduating from law school, Judge Wedoff became a partner and member of the executive committee at the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block. As co-chair of ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Committee, he prepared analyses of bankruptcy reform legislation and testified before the House Subcommittee on Commercial & Administrative Law. For his work in this area, Judge Wedoff received a special award from ABI. He is chair of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and was a member of the working group that drafted the means test forms adopted by the Judicial Conference for the implementation of BAPCPA. He also drafted the model chapter 13 plan currently used in the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Wedoff is the author of the chapter on professional employment in Queenan, Hendel and Hillinger, *Chapter 11 Theory and Practice* (LRP Publications, 1994), and has been an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. He has served on ABI's Executive Committee and as a governor and secretary of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the presidency of which he will assume in 2013. Judge Wedoff is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, and presided over the United Air Lines chapter 11 reorganization. Judge Wedoff received the Excellence in Education Award from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in 1995. He graduated from the college and law school of the University of Chicago.