

# Faculty Biographies

**James E. Bailey, III** is a member of Butler Snow's Real Estate, Banking and Financial Services Group in Memphis, Tenn. He focuses on bankruptcy, workouts and commercial litigation, and regularly represents secured lenders and unsecured trade creditors in bankruptcy cases as well as individual and corporate chapter 11 debtors and chapter 7 trustees. He has also served as a liquidating chapter 11 trustee. Mr. Bailey is a former judicial law clerk to Hon. David S. Kennedy, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Mid-South SuperLawyers* in the areas of Bankruptcy/Creditor-Debtor Rights Law. Mr. Bailey is a frequent lecturer and is a past chair of the Tennessee Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and a member its executive committee. He is admitted to practice in Tennessee, Arkansas and Alabama, as well as in the Sixth, Eighth and Eleventh U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Bettye S. Bedwell** is a solo practitioner in the Bedwell Law Firm Inc. in Memphis, Tenn., and serves as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis. She has been an attorney for 19 years and concentrates her practice exclusively in the area of bankruptcy law. She represents consumer and business debtors, and she is a member of the Tennessee Bar. Ms. Bedwell received her J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1992.

**Charles D. Bullock** is an attorney with Stevenson & Bullock, PLC in Southfield, Mich. He is admitted to the State Bars of Michigan and Tennessee and is admitted to practice before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Bullock is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, ABI and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. Prior to joining Stevenson & Bullock, he clerked for Hon. Bernice B. Donald of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He is an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts on "Could Bankruptcy Reform Help Preserve Small Business Jobs?." He is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy-related topics for ABI and other professional organizations. A former contributing editor for the *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice* Treatise, Mr. Bullock has been recognized in *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2010-13) and *Business Magazine* (2010-13). He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

**Sean M. Cowley** is a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Detroit, and his practice focuses on chapter 7 bankruptcy issues at the trial and appellate level. Following law school, Mr. Cowley clerked for Hon. Sean F. Cox of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Unlicensed Practice of Law Standing Committee, and he is also a member of the Federal Bar Association and its Newer Lawyers Strategic Planning Committee, the Shamrock Bar Association, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, ABI and the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers. Mr. Cowley received his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where he was a member of the Frank Murphy Honor Society and the executive director of the Moot Court Board of Advocates, and where he currently serves as an adjunct professor teaching bankruptcy law.

**Hon. James L. Croom** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Jackson, appointed on March 20, 2013, by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Croom was previously an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, appointed in 1995. Prior to that, he served as an attorney/advisor in the Office of the U.S. Trustee for Region 8. During his time as an attorney, Judge Croom represented various federal agencies in civil matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, as well as the Second, Fifth and Sixth Circuit U.S. Courts of Appeals. He also prosecuted criminal cases before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Croom received his B.S. from the University of Tennessee and his J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

**Hon. Paulette J. Delk** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis. During law school, she served as a bankruptcy extern for Hon. Frederick J. Hertz, a bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Following law school, Judge Delk became an associate in the Creditors' Rights section of Winston & Strawn in its Chicago office and later was an associate with the Heiskell Donelson law firm (now Baker Donelson) in Memphis in its Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Section. In 1987, Judge Delk began her academic career as a law professor at The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, where she taught debtor/creditor law, secured transactions, remedies, franchising and business reorganizations under the Bankruptcy Code. As a law professor, Judge Delk received a fellowship from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and she served as faculty dean for the American Board of Certification. She is a recipient of the University of Memphis Law Alumni Association's Teaching Excellence Award and of the Association of Women Attorneys' Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award for Excellence in Law (2013). Judge Delk received her B.A. from Fisk University, her M.S.W. from Atlanta University and her J.D. from DePaul University.

**Natalie A. Eness** is an attorney with Educational Credit Management Corporation in Oakdale, Minn. She previously served as a judicial law clerk to then-Chief District Court Judge James M. Rosenbaum (D. Minn.). Ms. Eness is a member of ABI, the American Bar Association and the Association of Corporate Counsel. She received her J.D. from the University of Iowa and her B.A. from Iowa State University.

**Charles C. Exum** is a member of Rainey • Kizer • Reviere & Bell, PLC in Jackson, Tenn., where he specializes in creditors' rights and debt collection in both consumer and commercial law. He has represented creditors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases, as well as unsecured creditors' committees and case trustees. He has also represented a number of student loan creditors in bankruptcy. Mr. Exum graduated from Lambuth College in 1988 and received his J.D. from the University of Tennessee School of Law in 1991.

**Joel W. Giddens** is a partner with Wilson & Associates, PLLC in Memphis, Tenn., where supervises the firm's Tennessee bankruptcy attorneys. He has an extensive background in the bankruptcy courts of the Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of Tennessee and represents mortgage creditors in adversary proceedings in bankruptcy and in multiple real estate chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. Mr. Giddens is a current board member of the Memphis Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section, and he is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Western Division Liaison Committee for the U.S.

Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. He received his B.A. from Rhodes College and his J.D. with high honors from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

**Paul R. Hage** is a partner in the Insolvency & Reorganization Practice Group of Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, PC in Southfield, Mich., where he specializes in representing debtors, creditors' committees, secured and unsecured creditors, asset-purchasers and trustees in reorganizations, liquidations and other insolvency proceedings nationwide. Mr. Hage regularly speaks and writes for a number of organizations, including ABI, the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee, the Norton Institute on Bankruptcy Law, the State Bar of Michigan and the Turnaround Management Association. He is a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal*, newsletter editor for ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors' Committee and a member of the editorial board for ABI's Volo Circuit Court Opinion First Responder website. Mr. Hage earned his Bachelor's degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University, his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and his LL.M. in Bankruptcy from St. John's University School of Law.

**Henry E. Hildebrand, III** has served as standing chapter 13 trustee for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville since 1982 and as standing chapter 12 trustee since 1986. He is also Of Counsel to the Nashville law firm of Lassiter, Tidwell, Davis, PLLC. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and serves on its Education Committee, and he is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Mr. Hildebrand is chairman of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) and sits on the Board of Directors for the NACTT Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education, Inc. He has served as a case notes author for *The Quarterly*, a newsletter dealing with consumer bankruptcy issues and chapter 13 practice in particular, since 1991, and is a regular contributor to the *ABI Journal*. Mr. Hildebrand is an adjunct faculty member of the Nashville School of Law and St. Johns University School of Law. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and received his J.D. from the National Law Center of George Washington University.

**Hon. David S. Kennedy** was appointed in 1980 to the bankruptcy bench for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis and has served as chief judge since 1988. He has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis School of Law since 1981. Judge Kennedy formerly served as a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and of the Federal Judicial Center's Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee, having been appointed to both by Chief Justice Rehnquist. He was also a member of the Administrative Office's Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group, which he chaired for a number of years. Judge Kennedy served as the nation's second bankruptcy judge ever to the U.S. Judicial Conference from 2008-09, having been appointed by Chief Justice Roberts. He is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and is the immediate past president of the University of Memphis Law School Alumni Association.

**Hon. Jennie D. Latta** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, appointed on March 6, 1997, and reappointed to a second 14-year term on Feb. 14, 2011. She also served a four-year term on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit from 2003-07. Previously, Judge Latta practiced with the firm of Krivcher, Magids, Neal, Cottam & Campbell, P.C., and served as chairman of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Public Outreach Committee

from 2006-10. She is co-founder and chairman of the court's Bankruptcy *Pro Bono* Committee, and in 2010, she received the Memphis Area Legal Services' W.J. Michael Cody *Pro Bono* Attorney of the Year award. Judge Latta earned both her B.A. *summa cum laude* and her J.D. from the University of Memphis and her M.A. from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

**Russell W. Savory** is a member of Gotten, Wilson, Savory & Beard, PLLC in Memphis, where he focuses on bankruptcy and creditors' rights. He is a member of the Memphis Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and ABI. Mr. Savory received his undergraduate degree from Washington & Jefferson College and his J.D. from Vanderbilt University.

**Holly W. Schumpert** is a sole practitioner in Memphis, Tenn., where she represents consumer debtors in chapter 13 and 7 cases. She received her B.P.A. and B.B.A. from Mississippi State University and her J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

**Mark H. Shapiro** is an attorney with Steinberg Shapiro & Clark in Southfield, Mich., and also serves as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is admitted to practice before the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Shapiro is a contributing author of ICLE's *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies* and is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, ABI and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, and he is a board member of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. He received his B.A. from Kalamazoo College and his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School.

**James Patrick Shea** is a partner with Armstrong Teasdale LLP in Las Vegas and has represented numerous hotel casino properties and financial institutions. A frequent lecturer, he is the founding chairman of ABI's subcommittee on gaming insolvencies and reorganizations and chaired ABI's Civility Task Force. He is also ABI's President-Elect. Mr. Shea is a past chair and current vice chair of the State Bar of Nevada's Bankruptcy Law Section, and he 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.

**Michael T. Tabor** is the founder of Michael Tabor Attorney at Law in Jackson, Tenn., where he primarily represents clients in chapter 7 trustee cases. He has practiced bankruptcy law for more than 25 years, has served on the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the Western District of Tennessee for almost 23 years, is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and is a board member of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute. Mr. Tabor received his B.S. with high honors from the University of Tennessee and his J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he was a member of the *Tennessee Law Review*.

**Robert B. Vandiver** is a solo practitioner in Jackson, Tenn., where his practice focuses on the representation of consumer debtors. He was certified as a Consumer Bankruptcy Specialist by the Tennes-

see Commission on Legalization and Specialization in 2004. Prior to founding his firm in 1997, he was a member of the law firm of Waldrop and Hall, PA. He also clerked for the late Hon. Hewitt P. Tomlin of the Tennessee Court of Appeals, and for Hon. Jon P. McCalla of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Vandiver graduated from Memphis State University in 1989 and received his J.D. from Memphis State University School of Law in 1992.

**Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff** has served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago since 1987 and served 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 served as a governor, secretary and president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Wedoff is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, and he 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.

**Marianna "Molly" Williams** is an attorney with Ashley, Ashley & Arnold in Dyersburg, Tenn., where she focuses her practice in estates, Social Security disability, creditor bankruptcy and commercial litigation. She represents corporations and individuals, as well as nonprofit groups, and is experienced in collecting commercial debts, collateral liquidations and guarantee enforcement. She has also served as a chapter 7 and chapter 12 trustee for the Western District of Tennessee since 2000 and currently serves as the city judge for Halls, Tenn. Ms. Williams is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Association and a former chairman of the Tennessee Commission on CLE and Specialization. She received her J.D. from Vanderbilt Law School.

**Prof. Jodi L. Wilson** is an assistant professor and director of legal methods at the University of Memphis School of Law, where she teaches professional responsibility, arbitration and legal methods. Previously, Prof. Wilson was a litigator with a national practice focusing on class actions, business dispute and securities industry arbitrations. She has spoken at national and regional conferences on a variety of related topics. Prof. Wilson received her B.A. from the University of Arkansas in 1998 and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 2001.