

# Faculty Biographies

**Carroll L. Andre, III** is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis and serves as the district's bankruptcy fraud coordinator. He is the primary point of contact for the Office of the U.S. Trustee and bankruptcy judges, and reviews and evaluates criminal referrals received from the Office of U.S. Trustee, case trustees and bankruptcy judges. Mr. Andre has been lead counsel in 20-25 criminal jury trials in U.S. district court and has directed investigations and prosecutions of various types of criminal cases, with primary emphasis on financial institution fraud and other white collar crimes such as mail, wire and mortgage loan fraud. He also provides advice and counsel to various client agencies, including the FBI, U.S. Postal Inspection Service and U.S. Secret Service, as well as other attorneys in the office on investigative strategy and charging decisions. In addition, he is the primary point of contact for federally insured financial institutions and federal agencies investigating crimes committed against such institutions. Mr. Andre served as a member of the Western District of Tennessee's Mortgage Fraud Task Force from 2009-13. Previously, he was in private practice with the Law Offices of Ralph Golden and Gary C. McCullough. Mr. Andre is admitted to the Tennessee Bar, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He received his B.A. *cum laude* in broadcast journalism and radio/TV/film from the University of Memphis in 1979 and his J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1983.

**James E. Bailey, III** is a partner with Butler Snow LLP in Memphis, Tenn., and leads its Finance, Real Estate and Restructuring Practice Group. He focuses on bankruptcy, workouts and commercial litigation, and bankruptcy appeals, 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 also often serves as a 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 past director of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute. 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. Mr. Bailey received his B.A. in political science from Auburn University in 1990 and his J.D. from the University of Memphis in 1993.

**Bettye S. Bedwell** is a solo practitioner in the Bedwell Law Firm Inc. in Memphis, Tenn., where she concentrates her practice in the area of bankruptcy. She has also been serving as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis since 2005. Ms. Bedwell represents consumer and business debtors, and she is a member of the Tennessee Bar. She received her J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1992.

**Sylvia F. Brown** serves as a standing chapter 13 trustee for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis and is responsible for half of the cases filed in the district. Previously, she clerked for the late Justice Ray L. Brock with the Tennessee Supreme Court. She also worked as an assistant attorney general for the state of Tennessee and as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee before serving as a trial attorney for the U.S. Justice Department's Commercial Litigation Section in Washington, D.C. In addition, she previously served as chapter 13 trustee for

the Southern District of Georgia. Ms. Brown received her B.A. in sociology from Memphis State University and her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

**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.

**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. Previously, he served as an estate administrator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee in 1987 until his appointment as an attorney/advisor in the Office of the U.S. Trustee for Region Eight in 1988. After serving in this capacity for seven years, he was appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Tennessee in 1995, where he served until his judicial appointment. Judge Croom has represented various federal agencies in civil matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and the Second, Fifth and Sixth Circuit U.S. Courts of Appeals. He has also prosecuted criminal cases before the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Croom received his B.S. in accounting with high honors from the University of Tennessee in 1983 and his J.D. from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in 1986.

**Hon. Paulette J. Delk** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, appointed on July 1, 2006. 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 the Law in 2013. Judge Delk received her B.A. in French from Fisk University, her M.S.W. from Atlanta University and her J.D. from DePaul University.

**Hon. George W. Emerson, Jr.** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, appointed on July 1, 2006. He also served a four-year term on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel from 2011-14. Previously, Judge Emerson served as a law clerk to the late U.S. Bankruptcy Judge William B. Leffler and clerked for three years for the Western District of Tennessee. He is also a former partner in the law firm of Stevenson and Emerson, and he served as a chapter 7 panel trustee from 1983-2006 and as a standing chapter 13 trustee from 1988-2006. In addition, he taught bankruptcy law as a professor in the Paralegal Studies Degree Program at the University of Memphis. Judge Emerson received his J.D. in 1980 from the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

**Hon. Thomas H. Fulton** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Kentucky in Louisville, initially appointed on Dec. 6, 2002. He also served as Chief Judge of the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Previously, Judge Fulton served as a Minuteman II Missile Launch Commander at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana upon graduating college. He was also a visiting lecturer at Loyola University in New Orleans and later taught political theory as an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Fulton was in private practice with the law firm of Humphreys, Dunlap, Wellford, Acuff & Stanton in Memphis. He graduated with special distinction from Mississippi State University and received his M.A. and M.Phil. in political theory from Columbia University, which he attended as a President's Fellow. He received his J.D. from Tulane University Law School.

**Paul R. Hage** is a partner with Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss in Detroit, where he specializes in representing debtors, unsecured creditors' committees, secured and unsecured creditors, asset-purchasers and trustees in reorganizations, liquidations and other insolvency proceedings nationwide. He regularly speaks on bankruptcy issues for ABI, the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee and the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Hage is a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal* and co-chair of ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors' Committee, and he is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. 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.

**Sean M. Hayes** is a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Memphis, Tenn. Prior to joining the U.S. Trustee's Office, he was an attorney at Baker, Donelson, Bearman & Caldwell, primarily focusing on the representation of secured creditors in bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

**Hon. David S. Kennedy** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, initially appointed in 1980 and named chief judge in 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. Judge Kennedy received his undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1972 and his J.D. from Nashville School of Law in 1977.

**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 Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel 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 also co-founder 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* in English and her J.D. in 1986 from the University of Memphis, her M.A. from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 2003, and her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Memphis in 2014.

**Selene D. Maddox** is a solo practitioner with Maddox Law Office in Tupelo, Miss., where her practice focuses on debtor bankruptcy. She has also served as a chapter 7 bankruptcy panel trustee in the Northern District of Mississippi since 2005. Ms. Maddox served as vice president of the Lee County Bar Association from 1998-99 and as president from 1999-2000. She was appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court to serve on the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education June 30, 1999, and is now serving her sixth consecutive term, having served as vice chairman from 2007-08, 2010-11 and 2014-15, and as chairman from 2008-09. Ms. Maddox was a member of the Mississippi Bar President-Elect Nominating Committee for 2011 and is presently serving for 2014-15. She also served on the Mississippi Bar's Ethics Committee from 2005-08, and she served two one-year terms as president of the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference for 2005 and 2006, and on its Board of Directors from 2003-07. Ms. Maddox assisted with drafting new local rules for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi, and has served on the Advisory Committee on Local Rules for the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi since 2010. She was inducted as a Mississippi Bar Foundation Fellow in 2007 and subsequently served as a trustee on the Mississippi Bar Foundation Board of Trustees from 2011-13. Ms. Maddox received her B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi in 1983 and her J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1987.

**Brad Reasonover** is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (2015) and completed his B.A. at the University of Tennessee in 2012. While attending the University of Tennessee, he interned for U.S. Senator Bob Corker and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. While at Memphis Law, he was an articles editor for the *Mental Health Law & Policy Journal*, was selected as a member of the Moot Court Board, and served as an orientation leader. Mr. Reasonover participated in the Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Competition in New York in 2014, earning Best Brief and third place overall. He returned the fol-

lowing year as an oral arguer. Mr. Reasonover's team won First Place at the 2014 and 2015 Lloyd D. George Regional Bankruptcy Competition in Las Vegas, and he received the Hon. David S. Kennedy Bankruptcy Achievement Award for 2014 and 2015.

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

**Ross Smith** is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (2015) and received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 2007. Prior to attending law school, he spent five years in the sports marketing arena in Nashville, Tenn., and Greenville, S.C. While at Memphis Law, Mr. Smith was elected vice president of the Student Bar Association, was chosen as a member of the Moot Court Board, and served on various internal committees and organizations. His team brought home awards for Best Brief and Third Place Overall at the 2014 Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Competition in New York, and won First Place at the 2014 and 2015 Lloyd D. George Regional Bankruptcy Competitions in Las Vegas; during the 2015 competition, Mr. Smith was also awarded Best Oral Advocate. In addition, he received the Hon. David S. Kennedy Bankruptcy Achievement Award for 2014 and 2015.