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## **Faculty Biographies**

**Hon. James R. Ahler** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Indiana in Hammond, initially appointed in June 2017. Previously, he served as the judge of the Jasper Superior Court in Jasper County, Ind., from 2007-17. During his tenure as a state trial judge, Judge Ahler presided over hundreds of significant criminal and civil trials, including many jury trials. By appointment of the Indiana Supreme Court, he also served as a hearing officer to preside over attorney misconduct allegations prosecuted by the Indiana Disciplinary Commission. Prior to his judicial service, Judge Ahler was a litigation attorney for approximately 10 years. He also completed two separate federal judicial clerkships, the first for Hon. Michael S. Kanne and the second for Hon. William J. Bauer, both of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Judge Ahler received his Bachelor's degree from Indiana University-Bloomington and his J.D. from Saint Louis University School of Law.

**Samuel M. Andre** is a senior associate with Fredrikson & Byron P.A. in Minneapolis and represents businesses, commercial lenders and individuals in the areas of debtor/creditor law, bankruptcy and complex commercial litigation. His practice focuses on corporate restructuring, creditors' remedies, bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Prior to joining Fredrikson, Mr. Andre served as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of Texas. He is a member of the Turn-around Management Association and the Minnesota State Bar Association, and he was a member of the Houston Young Lawyers Association from 2016-18, the Houston Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers from 2016-18, and the Land, Water and Energy Clinic of the University of Minnesota Law School, for which he served as student director and attorney from 2014-16. Mr. Andre is and adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Bankruptcy Clinic. He received his B.A. *summa cum laude* in 2013 from Valparaiso University and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2016 from the University of Minnesota Law School, where he served as managing editor from 2015-16 of the *Minnesota Law Review*.

**Hon. Joel D. Applebaum** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Flint. Prior to taking the bench, he was a member of Clark Hill PLC, where he practiced in the firm's Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group and focused in the areas of bankruptcy and corporate reorganization, creditors' rights, commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and general commercial law. Judge Applebaum's practice included representing debtors, creditors' committees, customers, trade vendors, distressed-asset-purchasers, liquidating agents and trustees, among other parties in interest, in bankruptcy courts throughout the U.S. and in all industries and business types. He successfully briefed and argued cases in the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First, Third and Sixth Circuits, including issues of first impression in *United Food & Commercial Workers Union v. A/mac's Inc.* {*In re A/mac's Inc.*}, 90 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 1996), and *Bayer Corp. v. Masco Tech Inc.* {*In re Autostyle Plastics Inc.*}, 269 F.3d 726 (6th Cir. 2001). His practice also included federal and state law creditors' rights procedures, including receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors and trust mortgages. A member of the Michigan, New York, American and Federal Bar Associations, Judge Applebaum is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and of the American Bar Foundation, and he was selected as a leading attorney in bankruptcy and creditors' rights by *The Best Lawyers in America* (2011 through present), *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2007 through present) and *dBusiness* magazine (2009 through present). He was also named by *Michigan Super Lawyers* as a "Michigan Top 50 Business Lawyer" and a "Michigan Top 100 Lawyer." Judge Applebaum is a past co-chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Creditors' Rights Committee and has authored and lectured extensively on bankruptcy, creditors' rights and general commercial law topics. He received his B.A. with honors from Michigan State University in 1979 and his J.D. with honors from Wayne State University Law School in 1983.

**Kyle F. Arendsen** is a senior associate with Squire Patton Boggs and a member of its Restructuring & Insolvency Practice Group in Cincinnati. He is involved in all aspects of corporate in- and out-of-court restructuring, bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings. Mr. Arendsen has experience representing debtors and creditors throughout the restructuring process. His restructuring matters encompass a wide variety of industries, including coal mining, commercial real estate, oil and natural gas, and franchises. Mr. Arendsen is a member of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association. He received his B.S. in 2013 from Cornell University and his J.D. in 2016 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Hon. Janet S. Baer** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed on March 5, 2012. Previously, she was a restructuring lawyer for more than 25 years and was involved in some of the most significant chapter 11 bankruptcy cases in the country. The majority of her practice focused on the representation of large, publicly held debtors in both restructuring and chapter 11 matters, and she also represented companies in commercial litigation matters, including lender liability, fraud, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. Prior to forming her own firm in 2009, Judge Baer was a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Winston & Strawn and Schwartz, Cooper, Greenberger & Krauss. She is the current President-Elect of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Baer is a member of the ABI Board of Directors and its Education Committee, and a member of both the National and Chicago CARE Advisory Boards and the Chicago IWIRC Network Board. She also is a frequent speaker for the ABI, TMA, the Chicago Bar Association, IWIRC, CLLA and NCBJ. Judge Baer regularly acts as the presiding judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Naturalization ceremonies both in Chicago and at Great Lakes Naval Station. She received her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and her J.D. from DePaul College of Law.

**Eyal Berger** is a partner with Akerman LLP in its Bankruptcy and Reorganization Department in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he focuses his practice on complex business reorganizations, out-of-court debt restructuring, the representation of creditors' committees, assignments for the benefit of creditors, corporate dissolutions, Article 9 transactions and the enforcement of creditors' rights. He also protects the interests of financial institutions and lessors as secured and unsecured creditors in myriad insolvency proceedings by assisting them in preserving, liquidating or repossessing their collateral. He has nearly 20 years of experience as an insolvency professional representing debtors-in-possession, trustees, assignees and receivers. Previously, Mr. Berger served as judicial clerk extern to Bankruptcy Judge Michael G. Williamson and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Paul M. Glenn in the Middle District of Florida. In addition, he was a member of NCBJ-NextGeneration, for which he served on its Organizing Committee from 2014-19, and is a member of NCBJ's NextGeneration Class of 2012. Mr. Berger recently assisted a subchapter V debtor client in confirming a prepackaged subchapter V plan in 33 days. He is admitted to practice in all bankruptcy and district courts in Florida, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He also is listed in *Chambers USA* for 2020-24, ranked in Florida (South Florida) for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2020-24, listed in Florida for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and Litigation – Bankruptcy, listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2022 as “Lawyer of the Year” for Litigation - Bankruptcy in Fort Lauderdale, named a “Top Lawyer in Broward County” for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law in 2022 in *Fort Lauderdale Illustrated*, listed in *Super Lawyers* magazine from 2009-19 as a Florida “Rising Star” for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights, and named an “Up & Comer” in 2013 in *Florida Trend's* Legal

Elite. In addition, he received a book award in civil procedure, and he contributed testimony to ABI's Subchapter V Task Force, culminating in the release of its Final Report in 2024. Mr. Berger received his B.A. in criminology and his B.S. in psychology, both *cum laude*, in 1999 from the University of Florida, and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2004 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

**Brendan G. Best** is a partner at Varnum LLP in Birmingham, Mich., and serves on the firm's Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights team. His practice focuses on representing senior secured lenders, debtors, other creditors and other stakeholders in complex chapter 11 restructurings, out-of-court workouts and insolvency-related transactions and litigation. Mr. Best has more than 20 years of experience representing clients in insolvency-related matters across a wide array of industries including manufacturing, automotive, building supply and service, energy, oil and gas, health care, food service, gaming, hospitality, construction and real estate. He serves as outside commercial counsel for clients, advising them on commercial issues with customers, suppliers and other parties. He also counsels buyers, sellers, lenders and other stakeholders in complex troubled company transactions, both out of court and in § 363 bankruptcy sales. Mr. Best is a senior chapter 11 bankruptcy practitioner and litigator who has successfully represented clients in bench trials over issues including adequate protection, plan confirmation, valuation and other matters, as well as nondischargeability actions, avoidance actions and other debtor/creditor matters in state and federal courts, including automotive tooling and construction lien litigation. He is a frequent writer and speaker on restructuring, workouts and bankruptcy topics. Mr. Best is routinely honored as a top practitioner by publications including *DBusiness* magazine, *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Michigan Super Lawyers*. He is a board member and immediate past president of the Turnaround Management Association's Detroit chapter and an ABI member. Mr. Best received his B.A. *cum laude* in 1997 from The George Washington University and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2003 from Wayne State University Law School, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was a member of the *Wayne Law Review*.

**Matthew Bordwin** is a principal and co-president of Keen-Summit Capital Partners LLC in Melville, N.Y., where he is responsible for all aspects of business development and execution. He focuses primarily on the development of new business, marketing and implementing strategic real estate plans for his clients, which involve real estate analysis, real estate acquisitions and dispositions, lease modifications and terminations, and corporate finance and capital market services. Mr. Bordwin has nearly 25 years of real estate advisory and transactional experience, which particular expertise in workouts and restructurings, specializing in strategic planning, the sale of real estate assets and lease negotiations. He has represented financial, corporate and retail clients, and in his more-than-21-year career he has worked with well-known clients such as Arthur Andersen, Blockbuster, SunEdison, Fruit of the Loom and Montgomery Ward. As a recognized expert on real estate restructuring issues, Mr. Bordwin is a frequent speaker on industry topics and has been quoted in national and industry publications. He is a former member of the National Board of Trustees of the Turnaround Management Association and a former ABI Board member. Mr. Bordwin is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and the New York State Bar, and he is a licensed real estate broker, general securities representative (Series 7), registered principal (Series 24), securities agent (Series 63) and investment banking representative (Series 79). He previously was with GA Keen Realty Advisors, KPMG Corporate Financer and Keen Consultants. Mr. Bordwin won the Turnaround Management Association's 2016 Transaction of the Year Award. He received his B.A. in 1991 from Tufts University and his J.D. in 1994 from Fordham University School of Law.

**Sumner A. Bourne** is a partner with Rafool & Bourne, P.C. in Peoria, Ill., where he primarily represents debtors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases, and has confirmed several subchapter V plans. He also is a subchapter V trustee in downstate Illinois, accepting trustee appointments in the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois. Mr. Bourne has experience in representing chapter 7 trustees in preference and other asset-recovery litigation. He is a past chair of the Illinois State Bar Association's section on Bankruptcy practice, and he is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy issues, having presented for ABI, the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA), the office of the Illinois Attorney General and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT), among other organizations. Mr. Bourne is a frequent author on bankruptcy issues, most recently focusing on subchapter V, and has been published in the *ABI Journal* and the journal of the NABT. He received his B.S. from the University of Illinois in 1990 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1994 from Boston University School of Law.

**Wendy D. Brewer** is senior counsel and a vice president with Old National Bank in Indianapolis, where she focuses on focusing on loan workouts and commercial lending. She previously was with Fultz Maddox Dickens, PLC, where she practiced in the areas of business bankruptcy and restructuring, commercial foreclosure, bankruptcy and commercial litigation, loan documentation, contract drafting and analysis, and providing general counsel advice for both small and large businesses. Ms. Brewer has a long history of representing banks and borrowers, creditors and debtors, and businesses and business owners, in all aspects of workout and restructuring matters. Ms. Brewer is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has been a frequent speaker on bankruptcy and restructuring topics, including serving as an adjunct instructor in bankruptcy at IUPUI. She has also been recognized as an *Indiana Super Lawyer* from 2008-13 and 2015-17, as one of Indiana's Top 25 Women Attorneys in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2017 and as one of Indiana's Top 50 Lawyers in 2017, and she was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2010-18, including as the Best Lawyers' 2016 and 2018 Indianapolis Mortgage Banking Foreclosure Law "Lawyer of the Year." Ms. Brewer received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Florida State University in 1992 and her J.D. in 1995 with high honors from Florida State University College of Law, where she was an associate editor of the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law* and a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Kendra Brodin** is founder and CEO of EsquireWell in Minneapolis. She brings to the challenge of unhappy lawyers 20+ years of industry experience, advanced degrees in both social work and law, coaching and leadership skills, and significant time in the trenches supporting lawyer talent. Ms. Brodin presents proven strategies, accessible and practical tools, speaking, coaching and consulting services to practitioners. She received her Master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota.

**Shirley S. Cho** is an attorney with Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones in Los Angeles and has experience advising key stakeholders in complex multinational reorganizations to restructure billions of dollars of debt for some of the largest companies in America. She has represented dozens of official committees of unsecured creditors across a variety of industries, as well as stalking-horse asset-purchasers acquiring assets out of chapter 11. Drawing upon her unique blend of extensive company and creditor-side representations, as well as her experience having served as an independent director of a public company, Ms. Cho has worked on both chapter 11 mega proceedings and out-of-court workouts. She also has served as an expert on U.S. insolvency law in foreign proceedings and regularly speaks

on insolvency topics around the world. She is currently serving as co-chair of the International Bar Association Creditors' Rights Subcommittee. An active member of the community, Ms. Cho is affiliated with several nonprofit organizations in leadership roles and has co-chaired several industry conferences. Ms. Cho has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 2016 and in the *Daily Journal's* Top 100 Women Lawyers in 2019. She also is ranked among the nation's top Bankruptcy/Restructuring attorneys by *Chambers USA*, and is admitted to practice law in both New York and California. Ms. Cho received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1994 from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. in 1997 from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

**Rebecca R. DeMarb** is a partner with Swanson Sweet LLP in Madison, Wis., where she represents companies in financial trouble and serves as a fiduciary for those same types of companies. She has more than 25 years of industry experience in hospitality, international receiverships, manufacturing, service businesses, construction, food and beverage manufacturing, intellectual property, c-stores, retail, e-businesses, dealerships, medical technology, all types of real estate, health care, agriculture and more. Courts have appointed Ms. DeMarb as receiver for more than 15 years in Wisconsin Chapter 128 cases, in other state receiverships and in federal court. In addition, she represents businesses and other interested parties in bankruptcies, state court receiverships, sales of business assets and out-of-court business restructurings. From 2021-24, she was a senior managing director with DSI, where she worked as a consultant and a fiduciary on the business side and, in doing so, both expanded and rounded out her fiduciary practice. She continues to be a strategic partner with DSI. Ms. DeMarb received her J.D. in 1997 from the University of Wisconsin.

**Michael K. Desmond, CPA** is a partner in the Litigation Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP in Chicago. He is experienced in handling a variety of complex business matters, including accounting and legal malpractice, shareholder litigation, construction litigation, corporate investigations, bankruptcy reorganizations and bankruptcy-related litigation. In addition, he has trial experience in both federal and state court. Mr. Desmond previously served as an adjunct faculty member at DePaul University College of Law, where he taught basic financial accounting for lawyers. Prior to joining the practice of law, he served as assistant controller for Mid America Bank. Mr. Desmond has been appointed to serve on the private panel of bankruptcy trustees maintained by the U.S. Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. He is admitted to practice law in the State of Illinois, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois. Mr. Desmond is a member of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association and ABI, and he has been recognized by his peers as a leading lawyer in commercial litigation. Prior to joining SGR, Mr. Desmond served as an attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee, where he handled a variety of bankruptcy-related litigation and complex business reorganizations. He received his B.S. from Northern Illinois University and his J.D. from John Marshall Law School.

**Scott A. Eisenberg, CPA** is a partner with Amherst Partners in Birmingham, Mich., and has nearly 40 years of experience structuring and negotiating transactions and advising companies on financial matters. His experience includes M&A transactions, restructuring and turnaround engagements, and a wide variety of management advisory services. Mr. Eisenberg has acted as CRO, court-appointed receiver and trustee for clients in a wide range of industries, and he has worked on over 75 investment banking transactions with middle-market sized companies and advised more than 200 such companies in

regards to their operations, business plans, projections and other financial matters. He also has advised numerous companies and their respective management teams in regards to restructurings, strategic plans and exit strategies for lenders and investors in connection with the restructuring advisory services he offers. Prior to founding the firm, Mr. Eisenberg served as a manager the National Office Corporate Finance Group at Deloitte & Touche from 1983-91 and was responsible for providing merger and acquisition, financing assistance and valuation services for middle-market clients. Before that, he was vice president of Onset BIDCO, Inc., a subordinated debt investment company, from 1991-93, where he was part of the management team that built a large and successful portfolio consisting of more than 20 investments in small and medium-sized companies. Mr. Eisenberg received his undergraduate degree in accounting from the University of Illinois and his M.B.A. in finance from Indiana University.

**Mark D. Gensburg** is a commercial restructuring attorney at the law firm of Jones & Walden, LLC in Atlanta. He is experienced in representing both debtors and creditors in commercial bankruptcy reorganizations and in related proceedings. He also represents clients outside of bankruptcy in corporate workouts and distressed loan negotiations and litigation. Mr. Gensburg represents large and small businesses in their chapter 11 cases and is well versed in subchapter V reorganizations. He is equally experienced in representing secured and unsecured creditors in chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcies. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Gensburg clerked for Hon. Paul M. Baisier of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

**Matthew T. Gensburg** is senior counsel with Gensburg Calandriello & Kanter, P.C. in Chicago and leads the firm's bankruptcy, commercial litigation and restructuring practice group, with an emphasis in financial services. He has more than 30 years of legal experience in bankruptcy, financial restructuring and related matters. On behalf of secured and unsecured lenders, lessors, creditors' committees and debtors in all phases of corporate reorganizations and debt structuring, he manages breach-of-contract, settlement agreements, civil lawsuits, collections, post-judgment enforcement, and the purchase and sale of assets. Mr. Gensburg is the former chair and current member of the Chicago Bar Association's *Pro Bono* Bankruptcy Committee, and throughout his career he has assisted *pro se* debtors with various aspects of chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases before the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Illinois. In addition to monitoring the committee's cases and managing his own *pro bono* cases, Mr. Gensburg oversees fundraising and lawyer recruitment on behalf of the CBA committee. He was the past program chair and is a current advisory board member ABI's Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. As a frequent lecturer to business and professional groups, Mr. Gensburg instructs loan officers and attorneys on the Bankruptcy and Uniform Commercial Codes and statutory state options. Earlier in his career, he lectured as a faculty member of the American Bankers Association's National Commercial Lending School and Commercial Lending Graduate School, as well as to members of the National Business Institute on bankruptcy law and procedure. He is a frequent author and contributor to industry publications and formerly published a monthly "Business and the Law" column in the *Kane, McHenry* and *Lake County Business Journals* for many years. He also contributed to *Pratt's Journal of Bankruptcy Law*. He has also published course materials on behalf of the National Business Institute and Lorman Educational Services. Mr. Gensburg formerly served on the Board of Editors of the *Annual Survey of Bankruptcy Law*. He received his B.A. in 1980 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. in 1983 from Emory University School of Law.

**Ivan M. Gold** is Of Counsel to Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP in its San Francisco office, where he represents clients in all areas of real estate-related litigation in state and federal courts, as well as contested matters and adversary proceedings in bankruptcy court. He has experience in breach-of-lease and unlawful-detainer litigation, as well as pre-litigation counseling and negotiation involving a wide variety of commercial real estate, including neighborhood and regional shopping centers, office buildings, warehouse and industrial properties, data centers, restaurants and hotels. Mr. Gold represents shopping center developers and landlords of office and data center properties in major bankruptcy proceedings throughout the U.S. He also has utilized alternative dispute resolution in a wide variety of disputes, including arbitration, mediation and private judge proceedings. Prior to joining Allen Matkins, Mr. Gold was senior counsel at Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison LLP and a partner in the San Francisco law firm of Berg, Ziegler, Anderson & Parker. He has spoken at continuing education programs sponsored by ABI and the International Council of Shopping Centers, State Bar of California, Bar Association of San Francisco and California Continuing Education of the Bar on such topics as landlord/tenant disputes, the treatment of leases in bankruptcy proceedings, alternative dispute resolution and real estate-related litigation. Mr. Gold received his B.S. from American University and his J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

**Joseph Greenwood, CPA, CIRA** is a partner with Livingstone Partners LLC in Chicago. He began his career at Livingstone in 2010 when he was brought on to lead Livingstone's Special Situations practice, which assists clients in developing, evaluating and executing M&A, refinancing and debt-restructuring transactions across various industries. Mr. Greenwood has nearly 25 years of financial advisory experience with extensive transaction expertise, including § 363 sales, UCC Article 9 sales, federal receivership sales, assignments for the benefit of creditors, debt-for-equity swaps, and other negotiated balance-sheet restructurings on behalf of his clients. His clients have included Gissing North America, Aztec Shaffer, Arro Foods, Maurice Sporting Goods, Cardiac Science, IPC International, Hartmarx Corp., Tempel Steel Co., Robbins Bros. Corp., Key Lime Cove Resort, Waterworks Holding Corp., American IronHorse Motorcycles, Inc., Budget Group, Inc., Kmart Corp. and UAL Corp. Prior to Livingstone, Mr. Greenwood was one of three founding members of William Blair's Restructuring Group. He also was a vice president with KPMG's Corporate Recovery practice. Mr. Greenwood received his B.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin and his M.B.A. from Georgetown University.

**Hon. John T. Gregg** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids, appointed on July 17, 2014. He was recently appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit. Previously, Judge Gregg was a partner with the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where he focused on corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and other insolvency matters. Judge Gregg served as chair of the education committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges for 2022, serves on the ABI's Board of Directors, was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and is a member of the American Law Institute. He is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and other commercial issues, and he has written and co-edited numerous secondary sources, including *Collier Guide to Chapter 11*, published by LexisNexis; *Strategies for Secured Creditors in Workouts and Foreclosures*, published by ALI-ABA; *Issues for Suppliers and Customers of Financially Troubled Auto Suppliers*, published by ABI; *Michigan Security Interests in Personal Property*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education; *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies in Michigan*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education; *Interrupted! Understanding Bankruptcy's Effects on Manufacturing Supply Chains*,

published by ABI; and *Receiverships in Michigan*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Judge Gregg received his B.A. in 1996 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. in 2002 from DePaul University College of Law.

**Hon. Lisa S. Gretchko** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, sworn in on April 5, 2021. Prior to her judicial appointment, she spent more than four decades as a bankruptcy/creditors' rights attorney and represented nearly every constituency in bankruptcy courts around the country, including secured creditors, unsecured creditors' committees, landlords, licensors of intellectual property, customers, suppliers, business debtors and trustees. Judge Gretchko has written and lectured extensively for various organizations on numerous bankruptcy and creditors' rights issues. From April 2018-April 2022, she served as ABI's Vice President-Publications, as a member of ABI's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and as ABI's Publications Committee chair. Judge Gretchko is a former Executive Editor of the *ABI Journal* and a former co-chair of the ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee, which named her 2014 Committee Person of the Year. She also has been named in *Michigan Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, and she was honored as a Woman in the Law by *Michigan Lawyer's Weekly* in 2011. Judge Gretchko received her B.A. with honors in 1976 from the University of Michigan, where she was elected Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. with honors in 1978 from the University of Detroit.

**Michael Gutting** is a tax attorney and partner with Gensburg Calandriello & Kanter, P.C. in Chicago, where his practice focuses on federal and state tax controversy. He represents clients before the IRS, Illinois Department of Revenue and Illinois Department of Employment Security in audit/examination matters and collection matters for a variety of taxes, including income, employment and sales/use taxes, as well as penalties for persons responsible for collecting trust fund taxes. Mr. Gutting handles cases in the U.S. Tax Court, the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal and the Illinois Department of Employment Security Administrative Hearings. For tax-collection matters, he has negotiated many tax resolutions, which have included offers in compromise, installment agreements, getting clients placed in Currently Not Collectible status, penalty abatement and innocent spouse relief. He has negotiated numerous offers in compromise including an offer in compromise that reduced a taxpayer's liability from over \$10,100,000 to \$21,641 and an offer in compromise that reduced a taxpayer's liability from over \$4,900,000 to \$74,000. Prior to starting his legal career, Mr. Gutting was employed as a tax consultant and Illinois CPA by the Chicago Division of Deloitte Tax LLP. He received his B.S. in accounting from Northern Illinois University, his M.S. in accounting and his J.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**Paul R. Hage** is co-chair of the Business Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Group at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Southfield, Mich. He also is a member of the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Mr. Hage is ABI's Secretary on its Board of Directors and is an Executive Editor of the *ABI Journal*. He is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and serves as the president of Access to Bankruptcy Court, a nonprofit that raises funds to provide experienced bankruptcy counsel, free of charge, to low-income individuals residing in the Eastern District of Michigan. Additionally, he serves as co-director of the Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, the largest single-site moot court competition in the country. In 2017, Mr. Hage was selected as a member of ABI's inaugural "40 Under 40" class. He received 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.

**Hon. G. Michael Halfenger** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, initially appointed on Jan. 11, 2013, and named Chief Judge on Jan. 1, 2019. Previously, he was a partner with Foley & Lardner LLP, practicing commercial litigation out of its Milwaukee office. Judge Halfenger received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Lawrence University and his J.D. with honors from the University of Chicago Law School. Following law school, he clerked for Hon. Frank H. Easterbrook of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

**Hon. Beth E. Hanan** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and Green Bay, appointed in May 2015. Previously, she was an appellate lawyer and litigator in Wisconsin, and served several terms as managing member of a trial practice boutique, Gass Weber Mullins. Judge Hanan was chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Council and president of the Milwaukee Bar Association, and she remains a Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. Since joining the bench, she has been the judicial co-chair of ABI's annual Wedoff Consumer Conference (in 2020 renamed the Consumer Practice Extravaganza) and has served as the bankruptcy representative to the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council (2019-21). She also chaired the Public Outreach committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) from 2020-22 and is a member of NCBJ's Ethics and International Judicial Relations committees. Judge Hanan received her undergraduate degree from Marquette University and her J.D. in 1996 from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

**Michael Hanrahan** is a partner at CBH Attorneys & Counselors, PLLC in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he focuses his areas of practice on bankruptcy law, business law and tax law. He was named a Top 40 Under 40 Lawyer by the American Society of Legal Advocates in 2016, and a Top Lawyer in Grand Rapids in the area of Bankruptcy and Tax Law, and he has been named as a "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* since 2018. He also acts as the Treasurer of the Debtor's Bar of West Michigan, frequently speaks at bankruptcy seminars, and has acted as an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at Western Michigan Cooley Law School. Mr. Hanrahan received both his B.S. in business administration and his M.B.A. from St. Bonaventure University, and his J.D. from Western Michigan University's Cooley Law School. He also holds an LL.M. in taxation.

**John F. Hiltz** is an attorney with Lakelaw in Chicago and has extensive experience representing businesses and individuals in bankruptcy and reorganization matters. He has guided clients through out-of-court restructurings and settlements with individual creditors, as well as chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings. He also has represented both debtors and creditors in adversary proceedings. After graduation from law school, Mr. Hiltz clerked for Hon. Bruce W. Black in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois and assisted with hundreds of chapter 7 and chapter 13 individual consumer bankruptcies. After his clerkship, he was an associate in the Bankruptcy Groups of two large Chicago law firms, where he represented debtors and creditors in both bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy cases. Mr. Hiltz has been involved in some of the largest bankruptcies, such as Lehman Bros. and Chrysler, as well as smaller individual bankruptcies. He was named in *Super Lawyers* for 2020-21 and as a "Rising Star" by *Illinois Super Lawyers* for 2012-16. Mr. Hiltz received his B.A. in 1997 from Wake Forest University and his J.D. cum laude in 2006 from the John Marshall Law School, where he served as managing editor of the *The John Marshall Law Review*.

**James R. Irving** is the managing partner of the Louisville, Ky., office of Dentons US and co-chairs its Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy practice group, where he focuses on bankruptcy and restructuring matters, purchasing distressed businesses and their assets, as well as commercial litigation. He has experience representing debtors, creditors' committees, foreign representatives in chapter 15 bankruptcy cases, liquidating trustees, and parties acquiring assets in distressed situations. Mr. Irving is an ABI director and is a member of ABI's inaugural 2017 class of 40 Under 40. He also was named one of *Louisville Business First's* Forty Under 40 in 2019 and was selected for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Program in 2018. In addition, Mr. Irving received the Chicago Bar Association's Exceptional Young Lawyer Award in 2013. His experience with matters of juvenile justice through his *pro bono* work has led to opportunities to teach CLEs and edit publications on the subject for the American Bar Association. He received his B.A. in history and political science from Williams College and his J.D. in 2008 from Vanderbilt University Law School.

**Buffey E. Klein** is a partner with Husch Blackwell LLP in Dallas, where she focuses her practice on complex commercial bankruptcy, insolvency and commercial litigation. She helps clients navigate troubled loans, particularly in real estate and health care. Ms. Klein routinely assists mortgage-holders, developers, landlords, health care operators, senior living markets, manufacturers, airlines, and those in the retail and energy sectors with distressed assets. Her experience is valued by colleagues on high-profile matters, and she regularly handles large nationwide dockets for clients. Ms. Klein handles commercial loan workouts, out-of-court restructurings, loan documentation, creditors' rights, chapter 11, asset sales, receiverships and special assets. Her practice also includes traditional bank financing, corporate transactions and complex commercial litigation. Ms. Klein is admitted to practice in Tennessee, Florida and Texas. She received her B.A. in journalism from Texas Christian University and her J.D. from South Texas College of Law.

**Nicholas S. Laue** is a partner at Keller & Almassian, PLC in Grand Rapids, Mich., where his practice includes representing creditors, lenders, debtors and asset-buyers in both the consumer and corporate bankruptcy arena. He regularly represents clients in state and federal commercial litigation matters. He also has considerable experience prosecuting and defending adversary proceedings in the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Michigan. Before joining Keller & Almassian, PLC, Mr. Laue was an attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals, Research Division. He graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Toledo College and is a member of the University of Toledo College of Law Chapter of the Order of the Coif.

**Timothy J. Martin, CIRA, CFE, CTP, CCFI** is a managing director at Huron Consulting Group in Boston and leads its Corporate Dispute Advisory practice. He has more than 20 years of experience providing forensic, investigative and financial advisory services to companies, boards of directors, creditors, equityholders and the legal community. Mr. Martin's experience includes leading engagements involving misappropriation of funds, fraudulent conveyances, securities and financial statement fraud, Ponzi and pyramid schemes, portfolio company forensic investigations and professional malpractice. He has been involved in many high-profile investigations, including investigating the failures at HealthSouth, the Kmart Stewardship investigation, the Thomas Petters and TelexFree Ponzi schemes, the Residential Capital examiner report and advising parties in the Purdue Pharma opioid litigation. Mr. Martin recently served as financial advisor to the court-appointed examiner in the Celsius Networks LLC chapter 11 case. He previously held positions with KPMG, LLP and Ar-

thur Andersen, LLP. Mr. Martin received his B.A. in accounting in 1997 from the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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**John W. Menn** is a partner and founding member of Swanson Sweet LLP, in its Oshkosh, Wis., office. He primarily represents consumers, small businesses and family farmers in bankruptcy and financial reorganization cases under chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code, and in non-bankruptcy workouts, foreclosure proceedings, mortgage modifications, state court receiverships and chapter 128 debt-amortization plans. In addition to his debtor work, Mr. Menn represents individuals and small businesses as creditors in all chapters of bankruptcy, advising them of their rights, filing claims, negotiating and litigating disputed matters, and pursuing nondischargeability complaints. He has regularly presented at various state, regional and national seminars on bankruptcy/insolvency topics. Mr. Menn received his B.A. from Calvin College in 2005 and his J.D. in 2009 from the University of Wisconsin.

**Kevin H. Morse** is member-in-charge of Clark Hill PLC’s Chicago office and a member of its Bankruptcy and Restructuring business unit. He supports businesses and their owners in a wide variety of industries afflicted with financial distress through out-of-court restructuring, bankruptcy and litigation. Mr. Morse has nearly two decades of experience handling insolvency matters, including chapter 11 debtor representation, assignments for the benefit of creditors, fiduciary representations, committee representations, creditors’ rights and other insolvency issues. He also has served as counsel for Sub-V debtors-in-possession in California, Delaware, and Illinois. Mr. Morse’s clients include publicly traded companies, privately held corporations, REITs, start-ups, nonprofits, traditional and non-traditional financial entities, and individuals. He has been listed in *Illinois Super Lawyers*’ “Rising Stars” list for 2018-19, as an “Emerging Lawyer” in *Law Bulletin*’s Leading Lawyers Division from 2015-19, and as a 2022 “Emerging Lawyer in Illinois” by *Leading Lawyers*. Mr. Morse is co-chair of the Turnaround Management Association’s Communication Committee and a member of TMA’s Chicago Chapter Membership Committee. He previously served on the Young Lawyers Editorial Board of *American Lawyers Magazine*, in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges NextGen Class in 2015, and on the Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee in 2015. He is licensed to practice in California and Illinois. Mr. Morse received his B.A. *cum laude* in 2003 from the University of Colorado at Boulder and his J.D. in 2007 from Pepperdine University School of Law.

**Paul T. Musser** is a partner in Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP's Insolvency and Restructuring group in Chicago. He focuses his practice on helping middle-market lenders maximize their recovery in out-of-court workouts and in-court proceedings. He also represents corporate debtors and borrowers, receivers, trustees and independent directors. Mr. Musser regularly represents clients in bankruptcies, receiverships, avoidance actions and commercial foreclosures. He also helps his clients navigate distressed asset and business sales and acquisitions, including through UCC, § 363 and commercial foreclosure sales. Mr. Musser's experience spans a wide range of industries, including real estate, health care, financial services, franchising, manufacturing, and cryptocurrency and digital assets. He received his B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College, his M.A. and D.M.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

**Hon. Daniel S. Opperman** is the Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Bay City, sworn in on July 13, 2006, and reappointed in 2020. He also served for six years on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit and was its Chief Judge for two years. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Opperman practiced with Braun Kendrick Finkbeiner, where he concentrated in litigation, bankruptcy and real estate. He earned his B.S. *magna cum laude* from Eastern Michigan University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School, where he was a member of the *Wayne Law Review* and served as note and comment editor. He currently is a trustee of the Eastern Michigan University Foundation.

**Nicole I. Pellerin** is a shareholder with Murphy Desmond Lawyers S.C. in Madison, Wis., and co-chair its Creditor Rights, Business Bankruptcy & Commercial Litigation Practice Group. She focuses her practice on bankruptcy, insolvency litigation and probate matters, and she represents individual and business debtors and creditors in all chapters of bankruptcy and other insolvency proceedings, including creditors' committees in chapter 11. In addition, she has represented chapter 7 trustees across Wisconsin and receivers in state court receiverships. In 2018, Ms. Pellerin was appointed to the Panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Western District of Wisconsin. She has served as a panel trustee in the Western District of Wisconsin, as well as the Northern District of Illinois, and in this capacity serves clients in probate matters. Ms. Pellerin is a member of various bankruptcy organizations, and she previously served as associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Trustee Journal*, a publication of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. She is named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, as well as in *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* for Creditor/Debtor Rights, and she is a member of ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the Wisconsin Bar Association. Ms. Pellerin received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and her J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**Nancy A. Peterman** is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig and chairs its Chicago Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice. She focuses her practice on complex corporate restructurings and M&A transactions involving distressed companies. Ms. Peterman represents private-equity funds, debtors, sellers, purchasers, investor groups and creditors in these matters. She also has deep experience in health care restructuring. Ms. Peterman assisted in drafting the health care bankruptcy provisions of Public Law No. 109-8 (the 2005 amendments to the Bankruptcy Code). She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Ms. Peterman has been heavily involved with ABI throughout the years, including serving as a member of its Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and serving a co-chair for

multiple committees. She also was co-editor-in-chief of the *Wiley Bankruptcy Law Update*, assistant editor for West's *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice* treatise, and an assistant editor and a contributing author for *ABI's Health Care Insolvency Manual*. Ms. Peterman is listed in *Chambers USA* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. She received her B.A. in 1988 from the University of Michigan and her J.D. in 1991 from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Charissa Potts** is principal attorney with consumer bankruptcy-focused firm Freedom Law, PC in Eastpointe, Mich., which she formed in 2014. She served on the Sixth Circuit Merit Selection Panel and is board-certified by the American Board of Certification. Ms. Potts is a 2019 honoree of ABI's "40 Under 40" Program. She received her B.A. in philosophy and political science with honors in 2003 from Wayne State University, and her J.D. in 2006 from Wayne State University Law School, following which she interned for Federal Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen of the Eastern District of Michigan.

**James E. Romey** is a managing director with Development Specialists, Inc. in Chicago and has been directly involved in various bankruptcy and distressed corporate matters, advising companies through chapter 11 proceedings and general assignments for the benefit of creditors across multiple industries. He primarily focuses on facilitating sale processes, addressing operational issues, project management, strategic planning, litigation support and claims resolutions. Prior to joining DSI, Mr. Romey was a senior research analyst and senior trader at Franklin Templeton Investments for more than 10 years, where he performed financial analysis, provided recommendations to Portfolio Managers and executed trades. He primarily covered securitized products, REITs and various alternative assets for a team that managed over \$30B in AUM. Mr. Romey received his B.S. from Santa Clara University.

**Melissa M. Root** is a managing partner with Jenner & Block in Chicago. She focuses on representing creditors, committees, debtors, examiners and trustees in complex financial restructuring matters and high-stakes bankruptcy litigation. Ms. Root represented USA Gymnastics in its chapter 11 case, and a significant part of her practice includes representing committees of retired employees. She also counseled the official committee of government retirees in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Title III case, and she previously represented retiree committees in the Budd Co., American Airlines and Walter Energy cases. Ms. Root also frequently represents parties in bankruptcy-related appellate matters. She served as counsel for the prevailing petitioners before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Wellness International Network, Limited v. Sharif*, and also served as counsel for the American Bar Association in connection with its *amicus curiae* brief in *Executive Benefits Insurance Agency v. Arkinson*, and as counsel for the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees in connection with its *amicus curiae* brief filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in *Baker Botts L.L.P. and Jordan, Hyden, Womble, Culbreth & Hozer, P.C. v. Asarco LLC*. Ms. Root devotes significant time to *pro bono* work and currently represents a class of former students in the ITT Technical Institute bankruptcy case. She is active in ABI, for which she serves on the advisory committee for several conferences, and she was honored as one of ABI's "40 Under 40" in its 2017 inaugural class. Ms. Root is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 2000 from Bowling Green State University and her J.D. *cum laude* in 2003 from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Nathan Q. Rugg** is a partner with Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP in Chicago and has more than two decades of insolvency and workout experience. He also chairs the firm's Bankruptcy & Creditor Rights Group. Mr. Rugg has experience in all aspects of business reorganizations,

workouts and bankruptcies, inside and outside of court restructurings. This includes the representation of creditors, suppliers, equipment lessors, lenders, landlords, OEMs and asset-purchasers in small to large, complex chapter 11 cases. He also counsels parties in business restructuring and liquidation situations outside of bankruptcy, such as assignment for the benefit of creditors and forbearance agreements. Mr. Rugg represents suppliers to bankrupt and other distressed entities, including counseling on and prosecuting § 503(b)(9) claims, advising on post-petition credit and defending preference claims. He also works with transactional lawyers on distressed deal structures and provides legal opinions that support secured financings. Mr. Rugg is consistently recognized in the areas of Bankruptcy and Reorganization in *Illinois Super Lawyers* and in the Commercial Bankruptcy and Workout Law categories in *Leading Lawyers*, and he is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He also co-chaired the Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee and serves on the Volunteer Attorney Panel in the Northern District of Illinois. Outside the practice of law, Mr. Rugg has worked with World Bicycle Relief for years to fundraise and raise awareness for its mission to provide large-scale, comprehensive bicycle distribution programs to aid poverty relief in developing countries around the world. He received his B.A. in history in 1997 from Dartmouth College and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2000 from the University of Illinois College of Law.

**Carolina Y. Sales** is a partner with Robbins DiMonte in Chicago and concentrates her practice in commercial litigation, business workouts and reorganizations. She has nearly 20 years of experience representing a wide variety of clients in all stages of litigation. Ms. Sales has represented debtors, creditors and parties in interest in numerous chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy cases for individuals and businesses. She has been recognized as a Law Bulletin Media Leading Lawyer since 2021 and as an Emerging Lawyer from 2018-20 in the practices of Bankruptcy/Workouts and Business Litigation across the Chicagoland area. Ms. Sales co-authored the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education's (IICLE) chapters on the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019, *Representing Clients in Bankruptcy Cases, Chapter 11 Cases for Individuals and Small Business Debtors* and *Mechanics Liens in Bankruptcy*. She also has been recognized as a 2024 *Super Lawyers* honoree, and she was selected as a honoree for *Crain's Chicago Business* 2024 Notable Women of Law. Ms. Sales received her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, where she served as lead articles editor for the *John Marshall Law Review* and was a Distinguished Scholar Award recipient. She also externed in the Circuit Court of Cook County for various judges hearing foreclosure cases, and received an LL.M. in real estate law with honors.

**Christopher J. Schreiber** is a partner with Michael Best & Friedrich LLP in Milwaukee and has assisted myriad clients facing insolvency-related challenges and opportunities. He has particular experience representing banks, private equity, corporations, and other secured and unsecured creditors with respect to bankruptcy, including representation of vendors and landlords in large national chapter 11 cases, enforcing liens against real estate, equipment and other business assets in chapters 11, 12 and 13, and nondischargeability litigation; commercial foreclosures, including multi-tenant and mixed-use buildings, apartment developments and hotels; workouts, including loan restructuring, discounted payoff agreements, and deeds in lieu of foreclosure; negotiation and litigation related to lien priority, asset-disposition and preference demands in the context of Wisconsin's unique chapter 128 receivership proceedings; and enforcement of clients' Article 9 remedies in equipment and other business assets through self-help repossession and state court *replevin* litigation. Mr. Schreiber also has complementary practices involving real estate, construction and cannabis matters in which he represents businesses, lenders, and individuals with respect to real estate; reviewing, drafting and

negotiating commercial real estate loan documents; buying or selling commercial real estate, including due diligence, zoning and development matters; representing buyers in the acquisition and management of distressed and real estate owned (REO) properties; representing landlords and tenants in commercial lease disputes; construction; negotiation and litigation of construction project invoice disputes; filing and enforcing construction liens under Chapter 779 of the Wisconsin Statutes; navigating the opportunities and regulatory challenges of the legalized hemp and CBD industry in Wisconsin; and advising clients on insolvency developments specific to the cannabis industry. Prior to joining Michael Best, he was a shareholder in a Milwaukee-based full-service firm, where he served as chair of the firm's Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights practice and co-chair of its Hemp, CBD and Cannabis practice. Mr. Schreiber is chair of the Bankruptcy Section and a member of the Milwaukee Bar Association, and he is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin's Bankruptcy, Insolvency, and Creditors' Rights Section, ABI, and the Turnaround Management Association's Chicago/Midwest Chapter. He received his B.A. in 2000 in political science from the University of Dayton and his J.D. in 2003 from Marquette University Law School.

**Jacob W. Sparks** is a partner and trial attorney with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Plano, Texas, who focuses primarily on bankruptcy litigation, commercial litigation, and banking and financial services litigation. He works closely with financial institutions and frequently handles high-stakes disputes, often involving fraud claims and other torts involving misrepresentations. Additionally, Mr. Sparks has represented chapter 11 and 7 bankruptcy trustees and secured creditors in several hundred bankruptcy cases. He is admitted to practice in Texas and Arizona. Mr. Sparks received his B.B.A. in 2004 from Oklahoma Christian University and his J.D. in 2008 from the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

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USA for Bankruptcy/Restructuring from 2008-23, and in *Illinois Super Lawyers* from 2005-24. Ms. Steege received her B.S.J. in 1978 from Northwestern University and her J.D. in 1982 with honors from DePaul University.

**Laura D. Steele** is a trial attorney with the U.S. Trustee Program for Region 11 in Milwaukee.

**Marc N. Swanson** is principal and Bankruptcy Group Leader at Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C. in Detroit and specializes in representing debtors, lenders, creditors, equityholders and unsecured creditors' committees in bankruptcy cases and related litigation in Michigan and throughout the country. He has experience in the municipal, energy, automotive, banking and building supply industries. In 2021, *Crain's Detroit Business* selected Mr. Swanson as one of its "40 Under 40," and he is a member of ABI's 2019 class of "40 Under 40." He has been consistently recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization and by *Michigan Super Lawyers* as a rising star in business bankruptcy. Mr. Swanson co-chairs the Debtor/Creditor Rights section of the State Bar of Michigan and is president of the Turnaround Management Association's Detroit Chapter. In his role as counsel to the City of Detroit in its bankruptcy case, he argued and won two bankruptcy appeals at the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals for the City. One of these appeals sought to unravel the City's entire bankruptcy plan and Grand Bargain, and the other appeal challenged the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's ability to collect past due bills and set its rates. He also successfully represented the City at the U.S. Supreme Court in the appeal of its bankruptcy plan. Mr. Swanson frequently speaks at restructuring conferences and seminars and publishes articles on insolvency-related topics. He received his B.A. in 2004 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. in 2007 from the University of Minnesota Law School.

**Hon. Keshia L. Tanabe** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Minnesota in St. Paul, appointed on Jan. 7, 2022, and the first Asian-American woman on the federal bench in Minnesota. She previously was a bankruptcy attorney with Tanabe Law in Minneapolis and is licensed in North Dakota, Minnesota and New York. Judge Tanabe started her career as an assistant attorney general in New York. Prior to starting her own firm, she was a partner at ASK LLP, Maslon LLP and Faegre Baker Daniels. Additionally, she was a subchapter V trustee in Region 12 and taught bankruptcy law at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Judge Tanabe is a board-certified business bankruptcy specialist, a former member of the Bankruptcy Practice Committee for the District of Minnesota and a former co-editor in chief of the *MSBA Bankruptcy Bulletin*. She is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy topics nationwide, and she is a member of several legal and community organizations, including the Japanese American Citizens League, International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association and Minnesota Lavender Bar Association. She also served as a Special Projects Leader for ABI's Bankruptcy Litigation Committee. Judge Tanabe is a graduate of the University of St. Thomas and the London School of Economics, and she received her J.D. in 2005 from Cardozo School of Law.

**Hon. Deborah L. Thorne** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed on Oct. 22, 2015. Prior to joining the bench, she was a partner in the Chicago office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where she was a member of its Financial Insolvency and Restructuring Department. Her practice included the representation of creditors and other parties in insolvency proceedings, and she frequently served as a federal equity receiver in commodity fraud cases brought

by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition, she co-chaired the Women’s Initiative for the firm. Judge Thorne is past chair of the Chicago Bar Association Bankruptcy and Restructuring Committee and past chair of the Bankruptcy Committee for the Seventh Circuit Bar Association. She previously served as ABI’s Vice President-Communications and Information Technology and is the author of ABI’s *The Preference Defense Handbook: The Circuits Divided* and a co-author of its *Interrupted! Understanding Bankruptcy’s Effects on Manufacturing Supply Chains*. Judge Thorne is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. She served as Education Committee chair for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2019-20 and as its president from 2021-22. Judge Thorne is included in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy and creditor/debtor rights law, is recognized as a Leading Lawyer in Illinois, and has been recognized by *Illinois Super Lawyers* every year since 2003. For seven years, she chaired Women Employed, a Chicago nonprofit policy organization focused on improving the lives of low-wage women through enhancing access to post-secondary education and improving job quality. Judge Thorne received her B.A. from Macalester College, her M.A.T. from Duke University and her J.D. with honors from Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law.

**Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen** is a partner with Warner Norcross + Judd LLP in Grand Rapids, Mich., where she focuses her practice on real estate development and financial services. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Northern and Southern Districts of Illinois, and the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana. Ms. Von Eitzen is a member of the American and Federal Bar Associations, the State Bar of Michigan, the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Kalamazoo Bar Association, and she has been named a *Michigan Super Lawyer* Rising Star since 2013. She received her undergraduate degree with honors from Hope College in 2003 and her J.D. in 2006 with honors from Wayne State University Law School, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and the national moot court team.

**Jolene E. Wee, CIRA** is the owner, managing director and founder of JW Infinity Consulting, LLC in New York, a financial advisory firm specialized in providing transaction advisory, interim management, litigation consulting, and forensic accounting services to distressed companies and its stakeholders. Using her mathematics and computer science background, she deploys large-scale data analytics to derive forward-looking business insights based on her professional training in accounting, finance and economics. Ms. Wee has served as an advisor to investors, fiduciaries, creditor committees, debtors, legal counsel, distressed companies, high-net-worth individuals, and public agencies on restructuring, bankruptcy, litigation, forensic, financing, merger and buyout matters. She has also performed fraudulent-transfer analyses and business valuations on bankruptcy litigation matters. Her case experience includes companies in the banking, e-commerce, financial services, health care, insurance, manufacturing, professional services, real estate and retail industries with revenues of up to \$15B. Fluent in several Chinese and Southeast Asian languages, Ms. Wee was selected as a member of ABI’s 2020 “40 Under 40” class. In 2018, she was named Valuation Adviser of the Year by *Finance Monthly Global Awards*. Ms. Wee is a subchapter V trustee in Region 2, covering the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, and Region 4, covering Maryland, the District of Columbia and the Eastern District of Virginia. She received her bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and business administration with a focus on finance from Berea College, and her M.B.A. from Miami University of Ohio.

**Christopher B. Wick** is a partner with Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP in Cleveland and chairs the firm’s Commercial Services & Restructuring Practice Group. He specializes in corporate restructuring and bankruptcy and focuses his practice on corporate reorganizations, workouts, debtors’ and creditors’ rights and corporate transactions across the U.S. Mr. Wick has represented parties in the restructuring, reorganization or sale of complex business in various industries, including energy, automotive, agriculture, telecommunications, logistics, manufacturing, real estate and steel. He also has a broad range of transactional experience and has advised clients in connection with a variety of DIP-financing facilities, recapitalization transactions, and asset dispositions and acquisitions. Mr. Wick has experience in commercial loan enforcement and in representing and advising companies, buyers and investors in all aspects of distressed and insolvency situations. He counsels boards of directors, chief executive officers and other members of senior management with respect to their duties and obligations to and exposures in connection with financially challenged companies. Mr. Wick has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency from 2016-24 and for Corporate Law in 2024, in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/ Restructuring from 2015-24, and in *Ohio Super Lawyers* from 2014-24. He serves on the advisory board of ABI’s Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop and is a member of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. Mr. Wick received his B.A. in print journalism and European history in 1997 from Washington and Lee University and his J.D. in 2000 from Washington and Lee School of Law.

**Sean P. Williams** is a partner in the Financial Services and Restructuring Group of Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC in Chicago, where he assists debtors, creditors, creditors’ committees and purchasers of assets in bankruptcy courts throughout the nation. He represents purchasers and sellers in out-of-court restructurings and distressed-asset sales. He also has experience in general commercial litigation matters, with substantial experience prosecuting and defending large preference and fraudulent transfer actions in bankruptcy cases. Mr. Williams has represented debtors in courts nationwide and confirmed plans in the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Central and Northern Districts of Illinois, and the Central District of California. He also has represented creditors’ committees in more than 15 cases throughout the country. His committee experience includes a regional seed company located near Des Moines, Iowa, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa; a manufacturer located near Peoria, Ill., in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois; a well-known fashion retailer in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware; and a Chicago-based printing company in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. His creditor practice also includes the regular representation of landlords, condominium associations, individuals and other unsecured creditors in large chapter 11 bankruptcies. Since joining LP, Mr. Williams has participated in numerous ESOP transactions, representing both trustees and sellers. He previously externed for Hon. Bruce W. Black (at the time, the Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois). He is a member of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association, and he chairs the Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section Bankruptcy Committee, and he has been listed as a “Rising Star” in *Illinois Super Lawyers* since 2019 and as one of *The Best Lawyers in America*’s “Ones to Watch” for 2024. Mr. Williams received his B.A. *cum laude* from Augustana College and his J.D. *cum laude* from The John Marshall Law School, where he finished in the top 10 percent of his class and was the candidacy editor of its law review.

**Deborah D. Williamson** is a member of Dykema Cox Smith in San Antonio and has practiced insolvency and restructuring law for over 30 years. She is regularly called on by clients in a variety of industries for her bankruptcy experience and advice regarding counterparty risk. She also served as

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**Scott A. Wolfson** is practice lead of Corporate Bankruptcy & Restructuring and ADR/Facilitation at Wolfson Bolton Kochis in Troy, Mich., where he focuses on bankruptcy and insolvency, commercial litigation, business disputes and counseling, automotive supply chain issues, and ADR/facilitation. His clients have included distressed companies, corporate debtors in bankruptcy, unsecured creditors' committees, preference and fraudulent transfer defendants, hospitals, tier-one and sub-tier suppliers, technology companies, start-ups, directors and officers, trade creditors, trustees, receivers, lenders, landlords, tenants, asset-purchasers and lessors. Mr. Wolfson has experience representing original equipment manufacturers and suppliers, including ensuring the continuity of supply from non-performing, financially distressed or bankrupt suppliers. His expertise is in representing customers in the enforcement of their contract rights with suppliers in both state and federal courts. Mr. Wolfson

also has experience litigating lien disputes under Michigan's Special Tools Lien Act and Molder's Lien Act. He advises secured creditors in all aspects of loan workouts and restructurings, including creditors' rights representation, and represents financially distressed companies restructuring in and out of court. He also represents purchasers of assets in bankruptcy and similar state court proceedings, including litigation of sale procedures and disputes. Mr. Wolfson is a certified mediator and has mediated preference, fraudulent conveyance and commercial disputes, members of boards of directors, and corporate officers in breach-of-fiduciary-duty and derivative litigation. He also has criminal jury trial experience as defense counsel and as a former prosecutor for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Mr. Wolfson has been named one of the top 100 lawyers in Michigan in the 2010-16 *Super Lawyers* survey, and as one of the top 50 Michigan business lawyers from 2013-16, in *Michigan Super Lawyers* from 2009-17, in *Michigan Rising Stars* for 2008, in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2010-18 (for which he was named Lawyer of the Year) and as one of the *dbusiness* Top Lawyers from 2010-18. He is a Fellow of the Oakland County Bar Foundation and is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Wolfson received his B.A. from Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1992 and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1995, where he was a managing editor of the *Law and Inequity Journal*.