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Faculty Biographies

A. Todd Almassian is a partner with Keller & Almassian, PLC in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, reorganization and creditors' rights. He represents debtors, creditors and trustees. Mr. Almassian serves as a qualified mediator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan and was recently inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy as a Fellow. He received his B.A. in 1993 from Michigan State University James Madison College, and his J.D. in 1996 from the University of Detroit.

Hon. Joel D. Applebaum is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Flint. Prior to taking the bench in May 2019, he was a member of Clark Hill PLC, practicing in the firm's Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group. He concentrated his practice in the areas of bankruptcy and corporate reorganization, creditors' rights, commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and general commercial law. Judge Applebaum is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and ABI. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and has authored and lectured extensively on a wide variety of bankruptcy, creditors' rights and general commercial law topics. Judge Applebaum received his B.A. in 1979 from Michigan State University and his J.D. in 1983 from Wayne State University Law School.

Kyle F. Arendsen is a member of Squire Patton Boggs US LLP's Restructuring & Insolvency Practice Group in Cincinnati. He focuses his practice on companies and creditors in all aspects of corporate restructurings, including in chapter 11 cases, out-of-court restructurings, cross-border insolvencies and supply chain matters. Mr. Arendsen's restructuring matters encompass a wide variety of industries, including mining, real estate, aviation, manufacturing, oil and natural gas, health care and pharmaceutical. He is a member of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Arendsen received his B.S. in 2013 from Cornell University and his J.D. in 2016 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Michelle H. Bass is a partner at Wolfson Bolton Kochis PLLC in Troy, Mich., where she manages its consumer bankruptcy practice group. She represents both debtors and creditors in consumer bankruptcy proceedings and has represented individuals reorganizing under chapter 11, including under subchapter V. She helps with stopping foreclosures, stripping secured liens and cramming down loans on collateral for individuals seeking to reorganize under chapters 13 and 11. Ms. Bass has successfully defended appeals in the Federal Eastern District for the State of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of ABI, the Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Association and the Oakland County Bar Association, and she is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law. Ms. Bass has been named by *Michigan Lawyer's Weekly* as one of 2019's 30 Women in the Law, by *Crain's Detroit* as one of 2021's Notable Women in the Law, and by *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2023-25 for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. She also has been consistently recognized by *Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star in Consumer Bankruptcy from 2014-22, as a *Super Lawyer* in Consumer Bankruptcy from 2023-25, and by *Leading Lawyers* from 2023-25 for Individual Bankruptcy Law. Ms. Bass served on ABI's "40 Under 40" Program Steering Committee in 2023 and 2024, and she chaired the Michigan IWIRC Network from 2017-21. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Camille C. Bent is a partner in BakerHostetler’s Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice group in New York, where she focuses her practice in the areas of business bankruptcy and restructuring. She advises debtors, creditors and other interested parties in transactions and in litigation arising out of corporate insolvencies. Ms. Bent counsels clients on a broad range of insolvency-related matters, including cases under chapters 11, 15 and 7. She has significant experience in intercreditor disputes, international insolvencies and defending parties in fraudulent transfer and preference litigation. Ms. Bent is a frequent author and speaker for ABI, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the New York City Bar Association (NYCBA), for which she serves on its Bankruptcy & Corporate Reorganization Committee and has led its Voidable Transactions Subcommittee. She previously served at the local and international levels of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. In addition, she co-chairs the firm’s Inclusion and Diversity Committee, leading programming and other initiatives that support the New York office’s diversity, inclusion and equity goals. Ms. Bent received *Law360*’s “Rising Star award in 2021 and was honored as one of ABI’s “40 Under 40” in 2019. She received her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University and her J.D. and M.B.A. from Emory University, after which she clerked for Hon. Pamela Pepper in the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Hon. Hannah L. Blumenstiel is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of California in San Francisco. Prior to her appointment on Feb. 11, 2013, Judge Blumenstiel was an associate (2003-08) and then a partner (2008-12) with Winston & Strawn LLP, where she focused her practice on creditors’ rights litigation in state and federal court, including bankruptcy court. From 2001-03, Judge Blumenstiel was an associate with Murphy Sheneman Julian & Rogers LLP, where she represented debtors, creditors and trustees in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. She served as a law clerk to Hon. Charles M. Caldwell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio (Eastern Division) from 1998 to 2001, and from 1997-98, she represented the State of Ohio’s interests in bankruptcy cases as an assistant attorney general with the Revenue Recovery Section of the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. Judge Blumenstiel is ABI’s Vice President-Research Grants and serves as an Executive Editor of the ABI Journal. She received her J.D. from Capital University Law School in 1997 while working full-time for the Columbus Bar Association as director of its *pro bono* initiative, “Lawyers for Justice,” and her B.A. from Ohio State University in 1992.

Hon. James W. Boyd is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids, appointed in May 2014, and presides over bankruptcy matters in Grand Rapids and Traverse City. Prior to his appointment, he was a partner in the law firm of Kuhn, Darling, Boyd and Quandt PLC in Traverse City, Mich., where he practiced in the areas of bankruptcy law and commercial litigation. From 1988-2014, he served as a chapter 7 panel trustee and as a chapter 11 operating and liquidation trustee in many cases. While a trustee, he served on the board of directors of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees from 1999-2013 and was its president in 2010. He has also served as an operating and liquidating receiver under Michigan law for numerous entities. Judge Boyd is a contributing author to ICLE’s *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies* and is a member of the Federal Bar Association and ABI, as well as a frequent speaker. He received his J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Patricia K. Burgess is a partner at Frost Brown Todd LLC in Nashville, Tenn. She chairs the firm’s Mobility (Automotive) Industry Team and leads the firm’s representation relating to troubled au-

tomotive suppliers, including large supplier and automotive bankruptcies, and supply chain risk-management matters. Ms. Burgess guides individual and corporate debtors in chapter 11 bankruptcy, as well as workout negotiations outside of court, across a spectrum of industries, including logistics companies, automotive suppliers, franchises, real estate investors, restaurant owners, manufacturers, communication companies and coal companies. Ms. Burgess assists secured lenders in protecting and recovering their collateral whether through workout and forbearance, self-help remedies, state or federal court litigation, or bankruptcy proceedings. She also assists secured and unsecured creditors, debtor-in-possession lenders, landlords, utilities and purchasers of assets in both complex commercial bankruptcies, as well as large and small individual chapter 11 cases. Ms. Burgess represents plaintiffs and defendants in preference actions nationally, fraudulent conveyance actions, claim objections, breach-of-fiduciary-duty investigations, and any other contested or litigation matters in bankruptcy court, and she represents financial institutions (from local to national) in defending lender-liability claims and violations of state and federal statutes, as well as pursuing commercial foreclosure and collection actions. When not helping in the distressed arena, she also counsels businesses of varying sizes engaged in complex commercial disputes, such as breach of contract, negligence, fraud, misrepresentation, tortious interference, successor liability, business ownership, control and governance issues, mineral trespass and energy-related disputes, franchise disputes, and violations of various state and federal statutes. In addition, she mediates complex commercial disputes. Ms. Burgess has been listed in *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers (2020-24), is a top-rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell and recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* for Commercial Litigation. Ms. Burgess is a member of ABI, for which she serves on its Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop Advisory Board and as education director for its Emerging Industries and Technology Committee; the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, for which she serves on its KIT Network board; and the Southern Automotive Women's Forum, for which she serves as board member and treasurer. She previously served on the board of the Tennessee Automotive Manufacturing Association. Ms. Burgess received her B.A. *summa cum laude* in 1991 from Thomas More College and her J.D. in 1994 from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif, Delta Theta Phi and the Moot Court Board.

Mark A. Carter is a partner with Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP in Chicago and assists clients with complex business transactions. His legal knowledge encompasses corporate formation and governance, finance and lending, acquisitions and dispositions, contract and commercial transactions, and business insolvency. Since the start of his legal career, Mr. Carter has worked with public and private companies, including start-ups and emerging brands, on a broad range of matters, including asset and business mergers and acquisitions (M&A), distressed M&A, capital-raising, debt transactions and restructurings. In the process, he has advised board members, managers and partners regarding their duties and obligations, and developed processes for addressing corporate governance matters. Mr. Carter also assists financial institutions and other lenders with middle-market loan documentation, secured transactions, workouts, distressed real estate and collateral dispositions. With more than 30 years of industry experience, including food and beverage, telecommunications, steel fabrication, health care, motor fuel and construction, he formulates and implements business-driven objectives and effective strategies for accomplishing transactions aligned with management's goals. Through his blended practice, Mr. Carter is frequently called upon to assist clients with tailoring their contracts for insolvency-preparedness, structuring and effectuating distressed acquisitions, and, where circumstances warrant, restructuring their operations and financial affairs. Before joining Hinshaw,

he spent most of his career with a Chicago boutique insolvency and bankruptcy law firm. More recently, he practiced with a Chicago-based business law firm. Mr. Carter received his B.A. with high honors in 1985 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his J.D. in 1988 from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Kimberly R. Clayson is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice group at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP in Southfield, Mich. She serves a diverse client portfolio in the areas of insolvency law, creditors' rights, business law and health law. Ms. Clayson has experience advising clients on creditor rights in bankruptcy matters and bankruptcy-related litigation. She also advises financially distressed companies and nonprofit organizations in bankruptcy restructuring, out-of-court wind-ups and dissolutions. Ms. Clayson is experienced in bankruptcy-related financial investigations. Her bankruptcy litigation experience includes litigating nondischargeability actions to fiduciary duty claims and other contested matters. She presently serves as a subchapter V trustee in the Eastern District of Michigan, and frequently writes and speaks on bankruptcy topics related to business bankruptcies, subchapter V and health care compliance law. Ms. Clayson received her B.A. in international relations from James Madison College at Michigan State University with an emphasis in economics, and her J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where she earned the 2004 Book Award for excellence in her writing and research course.

Hon. David D. Cleary is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed in December 2019. Previously, he chaired Greenberg Traurig LLP's Business Reorganization & Financial Restructuring Practice in Phoenix, where he focused his practice on business restructuring and reorganizations, distressed-asset dispositions and financings, debt restructurings and workouts, and litigation. He regularly represented distressed companies, financial institutions, secured and significant creditors, noteholders and bondholders, hotel/resort owner/operators, boards of directors, debtors, official and ad hoc committees, and insurance and surety portfolios. Judge Cleary is a Master with the Arizona Inns of Court, past co-chair of the American Bar Association's Litigation Section of its Bankruptcy and Insolvency Committee, past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Rules Sub-Committee of its Bankruptcy Committee, and past co-chair of ABI's Asset Sales and Health Care Committees. He was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and in *Southwest Super Lawyers*, and he was a member of the winning team for The M&A Advisor's "Restructuring of the Year (Over \$500mm to \$1 Billion)" award in 2015 for the restructuring of FriendFinder Networks. He is also rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Judge Cleary was admitted to practice in Arizona and Illinois, before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Seventh Circuits, and before the U.S. District Courts for the District of Arizona and the Northern District of Illinois. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Arizona State University in 1984 and his J.D. with honors from DePaul University College of Law in 1987, where he was an article and note editor for the *DePaul Law Review*.

John J. Cruciani, CPA is a partner with the Kansas City, Mo., office of Husch Blackwell LLP, where he practices in the areas of bankruptcy, insolvency, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. He regularly represents debtors, trustee, creditors, committees and buyers in bankruptcy actions, and he has substantial bankruptcy experience within the manufacturing industry. Mr. Cruciani effectively defends many bankruptcy preference and fraudulent-transfer actions on behalf of manufacturers and other firm clients. His work includes counseling Emerson Electric on nationwide bankruptcy and insolvency matters; being lead bankruptcy counsel in PatientFirst Healthcare and affiliates in its chap-

ter 11 bankruptcy, being lead bankruptcy counsel for the chapter 11 trustee and now the chapter 7 trustee in the *Brooke Corp. et al.* (Brooke Insurance) jointly administered bankruptcy proceedings in the District of Kansas, and serving as lead bankruptcy counsel for the largest agricultural cooperative chapter 11 bankruptcy case ever filed in Kansas. In addition to the manufacturing industry, Mr. Cruciani's restructuring experience includes health care (surgical specialty hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, physician practices and critical-access hospitals), transportation (capital equipment), agriculture (cooperative restructuring) and insurance. A frequent author and speaker on bankruptcy law matters, he has published periodic articles in the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's *KC Counselor* and has spoken on bankruptcy topics for ABI, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association and Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association events. Mr. Cruciani received his J.D. in 1994 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

Ebba Gebisa is counsel in the Chicago office of Latham & Watkins LLP and serves on Latham's Recruiting Committee. She advises both company-side and creditor clients on complex restructurings and bankruptcies, both in and out of court. Ms. Gebisa's practice focuses on chapter 11 and out-of-court restructurings, and includes advising clients in all aspects of complex corporate restructurings across a wide array of industries. Specifically, she helps clients navigate chapter 11 proceedings; prepackaged, prearranged and involuntary bankruptcies; § 363 sales; cross-border bankruptcies; out-of-court restructurings; and distressed mergers and acquisitions. Ms. Gebisa is a member of the Turnaround Management Association's Network of Women (NOW) Global Committee. She received her B.B.A. with honors in 2005 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. in 2008 from the University of Chicago Law School.

Greg Giordano is a director at Alvarez & Marsal Restructuring & Turnaround in New York. He previously was a director of Turnaround and Restructuring at EY-Parthenon. Mr. Giordano received his undergraduate degree in finance from Wake Forest 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 currently serves on 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 ABI's Board of Directors, and is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and he 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.

E. Philip Groben is a partner with Gensburg Calandriello & Kanter, P.C. in Chicago, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy and commercial litigation. He represents a variety of clients in bankruptcy proceedings, including debtors, creditors, trustees and equity-holders. Mr. Groben has worked on complex chapter 11 restructurings, chapter 13 reorganizations and chapter 7 liquidations. He also has successfully defended favorable rulings on appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Groben represents clients in nonbankruptcy dissolution proceedings and assignments for the benefits of creditors. He has substantial commercial litigation experience in both state and federal courts. Mr. Groben has prosecuted and defended breach of contract and other commercial matters, brought foreclosure proceedings on behalf of secured lenders, negotiated favorable workouts with secured lenders, and enforced the rights of judgment creditors and debtors. He also has sued to set aside illegally obtained trust and will amendments, and has defended civil forfeiture matters. Mr. Groben served as a co-chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section Bankruptcy Committee, and he organizes the group’s annual CLE seminar as well as monthly committee meetings and presentations on a variety of topics including nondischargeability and domestic-support issues. He also served as the vice chair for the Chicago Bar Association’s Asset Protection Committee and is a regular speaker to industry groups, including ABI. Previously, Mr. Groben served as a judicial extern to Hon. Bruce W. Black of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois and as an extern with the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Region 11. Prior to starting his legal career, he worked with durable goods manufacturers to streamline global supply chains and reduce inventory costs. Mr. Groben received his B.S. from Iowa State University in 2002 and his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 2009.

Karim A. Guirguis, PMP, CAE is chief operating officer of the American Bankruptcy Institute in Alexandria, Va., the nation’s largest association of bankruptcy professionals, comprised of nearly 10,000 members in multidisciplinary roles, including attorneys, bankers, judges, lenders, turnaround specialists and others. Formerly ABI’s Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer, he joined the staff in 2002 and has continually provided vision and leadership in providing innovative products and services to better serve ABI members and staff. Prior to joining ABI, Mr. Guirguis held several positions in website architecture and computer animation, most recently with Disney MGM Studios in Florida. His work has earned several awards from his peers, including an Oscar, technical achievement award, the prestigious Horizon Award for ABI’s video honoring its founders, and a Webby Award, to name a few. Mr. Guirguis is a regular presenter on cutting-edge technology issues for several professional educators, such as the American Society of Association Executives, for which he served on its technology board. He was a two-time honoree of the 40/40 Awards by the Alexandria (Va.) Chamber of Commerce, and was selected by the Leadership Center of Excellence as part of its 2017 “40 under 40” class to recognize top men and women, age 40 and under, engaged in a variety of fields, including business, technology, nonprofit management, civic life, public service, education and the arts, who are shaping future. Mr. Guirguis received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Cambridge University in England, his Master’s in multimedia and animation from George Mason University, and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Hon. Paul R. Hage is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, sworn in on Sept. 30, 2024. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was co-chair of the bankruptcy group at Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, where he practiced for 18 years. Judge Hage serves on ABI’s Executive Committee as Secretary and as an Executive Editor of the *ABI Journal*. He is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and serves as co-director of the Conrad B. Duberstein

National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. In 2017, Judge 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. 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.

Hon. Bruce A. Harwood is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of New Hampshire in Concord, appointed to the bench in March 2013, and currently resides in San Francisco. He also served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge prior to his retirement from the bench, and he served on the First Circuit's Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Harwood chaired the Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Creditors' Rights Group at Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green in Manchester, N.H., representing business debtors, asset-purchasers, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, trustees in bankruptcy, and insurance and banking regulators in connection with the rehabilitation and liquidation of insolvent insurers and trust companies. He was a chapter 7 panel trustee in the District of New Hampshire and mediated insolvency-related disputes. Judge Harwood is ABI's President. He previously served as ABI's Secretary and Vice President-Communication, Information & Technology, as co-chair of ABI's Commercial Fraud Committee, as program co-chair and judicial chair of ABI's Northeast Bankruptcy Conference, and as Northeast Regional Chair of the ABI Endowment Fund's Development Committee. He also served on ABI's Civility Task Force. Judge Harwood is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and was consistently recognized in the bankruptcy law section of *The Best Lawyers in America*, in *New England SuperLawyers* and by *Chambers USA*. He received his B.A. from Northwestern University and his J.D. from Washington University School of Law.

Leslie C. Heilman is a partner in the Litigation Department and Bankruptcy, Reorganization and Capital Recovery Group of Ballard Spahr LLP in Wilmington, Del. She concentrates her practice on commercial restructuring and bankruptcy, specializing in representing commercial landlords of shopping centers and other commercial properties, among other creditors, in all aspects of chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and nonbankruptcy workouts across the country, including in such high-profile retail cases as *24 Hour Fitness*, *Chuck E. Cheese*, *Ascena*, *Lord & Taylor*, *J.C. Penney*, *Hertz*, *Pier 1 Imports*, *Forever 21*, *Sears*, *Toys R Us*, *Gymboree*, *Payless Shoes*, *Linens 'N Things*, *RadioShack* and *Sports Authority*. She is also experienced in bankruptcy-related litigation, including claims administration, avoidance actions and other adversary proceedings. Ms. Heilman is a long-time member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and sits on the board of the Delaware Network

of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). She is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and landlord issues. Ms. Heilman received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1994 from Cedar Crest College and her J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2004 from Widener University School of Law, where she served as a research editor of the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*, received the Honorable Helen S. Balick Award for excellence in the study of bankruptcy or creditors' rights, received the Donald E. Pease Best Student Article Award for the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*, and was a nominee for the American College of Bankruptcy's Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Student Award.

Hon. Peter W. Henderson is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois in Peoria, appointed on April 1, 2023. Before his appointment, he was an attorney with the Federal Public Defender's Office, where he represented indigent federal criminal defendants at the trial and appellate levels, and managed the Federal Defender's litigation of motions under the First Step Act, as well as post-conviction petitions under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and 2255. He also taught a course in appellate advocacy as an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. Judge Henderson has served as lead counsel in more than 100 felony cases in the Central District of Illinois and more than 300 appeals in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He received his A.B. in 2007 *magna cum laude* from Brown University and his J.D. in 2012 from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was a Harno Scholar.

Victoria C. Hotchkiss is a director at Ducera Partners LLC in New York and has worked on a broad range of restructuring transactions, including Aeromexico, Bumble Bee Foods, CBL & Associates, Puerto Rico and Spirit Airlines. Previously, she worked at Miller Buckfire & Co. and Brookfield Asset Management. Ms. Hotchkiss received her B.A. from Georgetown University.

Hon. Marvin P. Isgur is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, appointed on Feb. 1, 2004, and reappointed on Feb. 1, 2018. He also served as Chief Judge from 2009-2012. Judge Isgur serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Houston Law Center. Between 1978 and 1990, he was an executive with a large real estate development company in Houston. From 1990 until 2004, he represented trustees and debtors in chapter 11 and chapter 7 cases, as well as various parties in 14 separate chapter 9 bankruptcy cases. Judge Isgur has written over 500 memorandum opinions. He was one of the first judges to issue opinions interpreting the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. Judge Isgur is a volunteer with the Houston Urban Debate League, a nonprofit organization that works in partnership with the Houston Independent School District to bring policy debate to high school students. He is one of the principal organizers of the annual University of Texas Consumer Bankruptcy Conference and is a frequent speaker at continuing education programs. Judge Isgur received his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston in 1974, his M.B.A. with honors from Stanford University in 1978, and his J.D. with high honors from the University of Houston in 1990.

Jeffrey L. Johnston, CPA, CFA, ABV, CFF is a partner and managing director at AlixPartners, LLP in Detroit. For more than 35 years, he has specialized in leading the financial and operational restructuring of underperforming companies and serving as a damages expert in complex commercial litigation matters. As a turnaround advisor, Mr. Johnston has enhanced the value of challenged businesses ranging from middle-market to large corporate across a variety of industries. As an expert witness

with significant courtroom experience, he regularly provides testimony on damages, valuation and forensic accounting in state and federal courts. Prior to joining AlixPartners in 2007, Mr. Johnston spent 20 years at a boutique restructuring and litigation services consulting firm after starting his career at Deloitte in Detroit. He received his B.B.A. in accounting from Michigan State University.

Peter J. Keane is an attorney with Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones in Wilmington, Del., where he represents clients in complex restructurings, financially distressed situations and liquidations, including debtors, trustees, creditors' committees, asset-purchasers, lenders, mass tort claimants, and other significant creditors and parties in interest. He is regularly involved in the largest and most complex bankruptcy cases all around the country. Mr. Keane has authored articles for the American Bankruptcy Institute, the American Bar Association, and the *Journal of Corporate Renewal* on a variety of bankruptcy topics, and also wrote book chapters on § 363 sales for several years for the *Norton Annual Survey of Bankruptcy Law*. He was named in the 2024 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, was selected as a Delaware Rising Star by Thomson Reuters' *Super Lawyers* in 2021 and 2022, was selected in 2019 by The M&A Advisor for its 10th Annual Emerging Leaders award, and was part of the 2017 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Program. Mr. Keane received his B.A. from the University of Delaware and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of New Hampshire Law School.

David Levy, CAI, CCIM is head of the Chicago office of Summit Investment Management and Keen-Summit Capital Partners. He is responsible for all aspects of business development and execution in connection with the combined company's real estate brokerage and auction, investment banking, and lease modification and restructuring services, plus distressed-debt acquisitions and opportunistic credit transactions. Mr. Levy has more than 17 years of experience in real estate advisory and transaction experience, with particular expertise in workout, bankruptcy and other special situations. He is a Special Projects Leader for ABI's Real Estate Committee with responsibility for producing webinar programs. Mr. Levy is one of less than 50 professionals in the U.S. to hold both Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) and Certified Auctioneers Institute (CAI) designations. He also is a frequent speaker and moderator on real estate restructuring programs. Mr. Levy received his M.B.A. from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Sandra D. Mertens is a partner with Gensburg Calandriello & Kanter, P.C. in Chicago, where she practices in the areas of federal and state tax controversy and consulting, offshore account disclosures, estate-planning, probate, estate and trust administration, general business law and commercial litigation. She has negotiated many tax resolutions with the IRS and Illinois Department of Revenue, reducing her clients' overall tax liabilities and helping them lower their monthly payment. Since 2008, Ms. Mertens has served as a periodic contributor to *Debts and Credits*, a newsletter published by the Independent Accountants Association of Illinois. She also has been published in the *Illinois Bar Journal* (where she now also serves as on the editorial board), *CBA Record*, and her firm's blog, GCK on Law. Ms. Mertens is a member of the CBA's State and Local Tax Committee and a council member on the ISBA's Federal Taxation Committee, and she has lectured and prepared seminar materials for accountant and attorney education on a variety of topics, including offers in compromise, trust fund recovery penalties, IRS Voluntary Classification Settlement Program for workers, foreign reporting requirements, and the IRS's Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program and compliance procedures. In addition, she assists large and small businesses with all stages of their business, from

formation of an entity to contracts, employee issues and dissolution. Ms. Mertens is admitted to the Illinois State Bar Association, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and the U.S. Tax Court, and she has been admitted *pro hac vice* in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, New York State Court and others. She has received multiple awards, including most recently the Outstanding Faculty Award for 2023 from the National Business Institute for her presentations on various topics in the areas of tax, corporate, probate, and estate and trust administration. Ms. Mertens received her J.D. with honors from the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Frank Pometti is a partner and managing director with AlixPartners, LLP in New York and has more than 20 years of financial and operational experience that spans a wide range of industries. His expertise encompasses providing assistance for distressed and underperforming companies and their creditors in all areas of operational and financial restructuring, including interim management, performance improvement, organizational redesign, contingency planning, divestitures and working-capital management. Mr. Pometti received his B.S. in engineering management from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and his M.B.A. in finance and operations from Columbia Business School.

Joseph Richman is a senior director with FTI Consulting, Inc. in Denver and has worked with troubled and insolvent companies both in and out of the bankruptcy process, as well as unsecured creditors and secured lenders. He has experience in matters related to the financial advisory of distressed clients, including cash-flow projections, business plan analysis, liquidation analyses, claims reconciliations and fraudulent conveyance investigations (including expert report preparation). His recent sector experience includes retail, energy, minerals & mining, professional services and government contracting. Mr. Richman has worked as a turnaround and restructuring consultant for over a decade. Prior to joining FTI Consulting, he worked for a boutique debtor-side advisory practice based in Denver. Prior to moving to Denver, he worked in a similar role for a New York-based accounting firm. Mr. Richman has experience in securities trading and spent time working for a foreign exchange broker trading oil, precious metals and various foreign currencies. He also traded exchange-listed equity securities. Mr. Richman previously was a manager with BDO USA, LLP and a senior consultant with Gavin/Solmonese LLC. He received his Bachelor's degree in psychology, political science and government in 2010 from Georgetown University, and his M.Sc. in political science and government from The London School of Economics and Political Science in 2011.

Michael P. Richman is a member of Richman & Richman LLC in Madison, Wis., where he focuses on representing chapter 11 business debtors, creditors and creditors' committees and advises on virtually every aspect of financial distress and bankruptcy, as well as out-of-court restructurings. He is also an experienced litigator who frequently represents parties in commercial litigation in state and federal courts. In addition to chapter 11 business debtor, creditor and creditor committee work, Mr. Richman's bankruptcy experience includes the prosecution and defense of complex preference and fraudulent conveyance cases, breach-of-duty claims against corporate insiders, and advocacy for purchasers of assets under § 363. Prior to moving to Wisconsin in April 2018, his legal practice was centered in New York City in the federal, state and bankruptcy courts located in the Southern District of New York, and he appeared frequently in Delaware. Mr. Richman maintains his active bar admission in New York and continues to represent clients in bankruptcy and litigation matters across the nation. In a career of more than 40 years, he has appeared in courts in more than 20 states. Mr.

Richman is a past ABI President and chaired the Section 363 Subcommittee of ABI's Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11, and he served as co-vice chair of ABI's National Ethics Task Force. He has for many successive years been named a "Super Lawyer" in peer surveys conducted by Thomson Reuters, including most recently for Wisconsin in 2022-24. He was also recently honored by *The Best Lawyers in America* as a Lawyer of the Year in both 2024 and 2025 in Wisconsin. Mr. Richman has written numerous articles on ethics in bankruptcy practice published in the *ABI Journal*, is a regular lecturer on bankruptcy ethics topics for ABI and the Practising Law Institute, and over the past 30 years has been an invited speaker/lecturer at hundreds of bankruptcy conferences on many other topics. He is also the founder and a performing member of ABI's house band, the Indubitable Equivalents, and since January 2018 he has taught bankruptcy law as an adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison. Mr. Richman received his undergraduate degree with honors from Vassar College and his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone scholar and was awarded the David M. Berger award in honor of Prof. Wolfgang Friedmann for distinction in international law. He also served as managing editor of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*.

Bill Rochelle is ABI's editor-at-large, based in New York. He joined ABI in 2015 and writes every day on developments in consumer and reorganization law. For the prior nine years, Mr. Rochelle was the bankruptcy columnist for Bloomberg News. Before turning to journalism, he practiced bankruptcy law for 35 years, including 17 years as a partner in the New York office of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. In addition to writing, Mr. Rochelle travels the country for ABI, speaking to bar groups and professional organizations on hot topics in the turnaround community and trends in consumer bankruptcies. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Christina M. Sanfelippo is an attorney with Cozen O'Connor in Chicago, where she focuses her practice on financial restructuring and bankruptcy law. She represents debtors, trustees and creditors in a range of chapter 7 proceedings, including preference and fraudulent-transfer actions, as well as complex bankruptcy litigation. Ms. Sanfelippo also assists debtors and official committees of unsecured creditors in chapter 11 proceedings, and she handles commercial disputes, including contract claims and business torts. She is actively involved in the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and currently serves on IWIRC's international board of directors as U.S. Programs Committee co-director. Ms. Sanfelippo was elected as the chair of the board of directors for its Chicago Network for 2023 and 2024. In 2018, she received the prestigious Rising Star Award for her exceptional leadership and contributions to IWIRC's mission of enhancing the professional status of women in the insolvency and restructuring profession. An active member of ABI, Ms. Sanfelippo is a coordinating editor of the *ABI Journal's* Benchnotes column and serves on the advisory board for its Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. She also co-chairs ABI's Young and New Members Committee. Ms. Sanfelippo is a 2024 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree, and she has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* as one of its "Ones to Watch" since 2021. She also was named a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" for 2025. Ms. Sanfelippo received her B.S. in 2012 from the University of Minnesota and her J.D. *cum laude* in 2015 from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Hon. Michael B. Slade is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago. Prior to his appointment, he practiced at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago for 24 years, 19 of them

as a partner. While at Kirkland, Judge Slade had a broad commercial and appellate practice, focusing on products liability, employment and restructuring-related matters across the country. He also taught seminars as a Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago Law School and had an active *pro bono* practice in which he, among other things, accepted appointments representing individual criminal defendants in their criminal cases. Following law school, Judge Slade clerked for Hon. Emilio M. Garza of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in San Antonio. In 2000, he served on the board of directors for CARPLS (the Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services), Cook County's largest legal aid provider, for 10 years, including two as president. He currently serves on the boards of directors of the Chicago Bar Foundation and Thrive Scholars. Judge Slade received his B.A. in political science with high honors from Emory University, where he was a member of the Barkley Forum and was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa, and his J.D. with honors in 1999 from Harvard Law School.

Ronald A. Spinner is a principal in Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C.'s Bankruptcy, Restructuring, and Insolvency Practice Group in Detroit. He specializes in bankruptcy litigation, including preference and fraudulent transfer prosecution and defense. He also counsels clients on deal structure prior to bankruptcy. Mr. Spinner has written and presented on numerous bankruptcy and related topics, such as preference law, the Small Business Reorganization Act and cryptocurrencies. He currently serves on the Programming Committee for the Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA). Mr. Spinner has been recognized as a top bankruptcy lawyer by *DBusiness* magazine, received the 2024 "Corporate Wind Down of the Year" on behalf of Miller Canfield from the Detroit TMA, and received the "Go-To Thought Leadership Award" from *The National Law Review* in 2022. He received his M.S. in computer science from Rutgers University, his M.B.A. in marketing from New York University and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

Craig E. Stevenson is a partner at Swanson Sweet LLP in Madison, Wis., and practices in creditors' rights, business bankruptcy and litigation. His expertise spans foreclosures, receiverships, workouts, and state and federal litigation. As debtor's counsel, Mr. Stevenson has assisted many types of businesses, including dealerships, manufacturing companies, commercial and residential rental properties, restaurants, hotels and farms — as well as individuals — in chapters 11 and 12. He also has handled many complex cases for individuals under chapters 7 and 13, and he represents secured and unsecured creditors in both bankruptcy and nonbankruptcy matters. In addition to his practice, Mr. Stevenson's leadership roles and educational contributions underscore his standing as a prominent figure in the field of bankruptcy law. He has participated in frequent speaking engagements at seminars and conferences hosted by the State Bar of Wisconsin, ABI and the National Business Institute, and he has served as secretary of the Wisconsin State Bar's Bankruptcy, Insolvency, and Creditors' Rights Section, as well as chair and vice-chair of the Western District of Wisconsin Bankruptcy Bar. Mr. Stevenson received his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

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 *Preference Defense Handbook: The Circuits Compared* and a co-author of ABI's *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* for 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.

Ann Marie Uetz is a partner and vice chair of Foley & Lardner LLP's national Litigation Department in Detroit, where she works with an extensive network of business leaders and professionals across the country. She is a member of the firm's Manufacturing Sector, including its Automotive Industry Team, as well as a member of its Finance & Financial Institutions and Transactions practices. Ms. Uetz has more than 30 years of experience as a trial attorney representing manufacturers in all aspects of the supply chain, and has extensive knowledge of the manufacturing supply chains of a variety of industries. She has become a go-to lawyer nationally for manufacturers facing complex issues related to supply contract negotiations, breach, surcharge and capacity issues, stop-ship situations and pricing disputes. Her work is integral to the firm's focus on the manufacturing sector. Ms. Uetz is one of the authors of Foley's *Automotive Update*, published biweekly, which analyzes trends and future developments in the automotive supply chain. She is recognized by *The National Law Review* as a Go-To Thought Leader in the areas of "Transportation Law" and "COVID-19: Manufacturing Impact," and was recognized by *JS Supra* as "No. 1 Top Author: Transportation." She has also been a sought-after interview source on such topics as the United Auto Workers strike and its impact on the automotive supply chain. In addition to her focus on the manufacturing industry, Ms. Uetz represents debtors, creditors and lenders in all facets of workouts and formal restructurings and bankruptcies. Much of her work focuses on distressed-debt workouts, representing debtors, creditors, lenders and receivers and CROs in all phases of workouts. Her team has led debtor and creditors' committee interests in multiple industry sectors, including manufacturing, energy and health care. Ms. Uetz received her B.A. in 1989 with distinction in political science from the University of Michigan and her J.D. magna cum laude in 1993 from Wayne State University Law School, where she received the Eugene Driker Award for achieving the highest grade point average (4.0) in her class, was admitted to the Order of the Coif, and served as associate editor of the *Wayne Law Review*.

Elizabeth B. Vandesteeg, CIPP is a partner in the Financial Services & Restructuring Group at Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC in Chicago, where she focuses on identifying risk exposure and mitigating liability for clients, with a concentration in the areas of bankruptcy, creditors' rights, commercial litigation, and data security and privacy. She represents secured creditors, debtors, unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, landlords and shareholders in bankruptcy courts throughout U.S., as well as clients in civil litigation in federal and state courts. She also advises clients on data security and data privacy compliance and regulatory issues. Ms. Vandesteeg is a Certified Information Privacy

Professional for the U.S. Private Sector by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, and she advises clients on cybersecurity and privacy compliance and regulatory issues. She also guides clients in developing and implementing information security programs that are reasonable and appropriate for their specific business needs and risks, as well as advising them in responding to data breaches, and was instrumental in launching the *ABI Journal's* Cyber U column. She is especially well-versed with ethical concerns for lawyers related to cybersecurity and AI use. Previously, Ms. Vandesteeg was with Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP, where she was a partner and member of the firm's Executive Committee. She also is a member of ABI's 2017 inaugural class of "40 Under 40," and sits on ABI's Board of Directors. Ms. Vandesteeg received her B.A. from Columbia University and her J.D. from Boston College.

Matthew L. Warren is a partner in the Financial Restructuring group at Paul Hastings, LLP and is based in the firm's Chicago and Houston offices. He advises clients on restructuring matters with a particular emphasis on distressed debt and insolvency issues. Mr. Warren represents lenders and bondholders, as well as companies and asset-buyers, in connection with restructuring and insolvency-related matters. He is a member of ABI's 2019 class of "40 Under 40" emerging leaders. He also was recognized for his work in Bankruptcy and Restructuring by *Chambers USA 2019*, and *Turnarounds & Workouts* named him a 2018 Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyer. Mr. Warren is an ABI member, teaches as an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the DePaul College of Law, and regularly speaks and writes on bankruptcy topics. He received his B.S. *summa cum laude* from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Arizona.

Steven R. Wybo is a senior managing director with Riveron in Detroit and has more than 20 years of experience in providing turnaround, reorganization, M&A and financial advisory services to distressed and underperforming companies. He specializes in insolvency/bankruptcy matters, turnaround and crisis management, profit-enhancement, mergers and acquisitions, business valuation, raising of debt/equity capital, and liquidations both in and out of court. He has also served as an interim chief financial officer, chief restructuring officer, interim chief operating officer, treasurer, and court-appointed receiver for several middle-market clients. In prior roles, Mr. Wybo was a senior associate at PwC, where he specialized in financial service compliance, investment banking in technology and other service industries, and automotive industry financing, including debt offerings, securitizations and private placements. He received his B.S. in accounting from Michigan State University and his M.B.A. with high distinction from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, where he was a member of the national honor societies of Beta Gamma Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi.