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2019 Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff Seventh Circuit Consumer Bankruptcy Conference

Faculty Biographies

Nathan E. Curtis is a supervising attorney at Geraci Law L.L.C. in Chicago and has filed or reviewed more than 10,000 consumer bankruptcy cases. His duties include detailed review of complicated chapter 7 and 13 matters, including litigation and appeals. Mr. Curtis is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and ABI. After serving a two-year term as a member of the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee, he served a four-year term on the Executive Committee for the Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee, including as chair in his final year. Mr. Curtis is a member of the advisory board for the ABI's Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff Chicago Consumer Bankruptcy Conference. He has also spoken at the Chicago Bar Association's monthly meetings, as well as at its annual Consumer Seminar. Mr. Curtis received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School.

Nathan E. Delman is an attorney with Horwood, Marcus & Berk, Chtd. in Chicago and is part of its Bankruptcy, Reorganization and Creditors' Rights Practice. He also has a decade of experience representing consumer debtors in chapter 7s and 13s. Mr. Delman is a past chair of the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee and a current member of the Bankruptcy Court Rules Advisory Committee for the Northern District of Illinois. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and his J.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Hon. Dennis R. Dow is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters 7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases, and had been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law every year since 1995. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow is a member of ABI and the Missouri Bar and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, inducted in March 2013, and was selected in November 2014 to become a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference. He also is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and serves as a member of the faculty of the Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Institute. Judge Dow is a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and was appointed in October 2014 to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, then appointed in 2018 to chair the committee. He received his B.A. with honors from the University of Wyoming and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law, where he was notes editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

Virginia E. George is an attorney at Steinhilber Swanson, LLP in Oshkosh, Wis., and has served as a chapter 7 panel trustee in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee Division) since 1999. She has experience in all aspects of chapters 7 and 13, including consumer and business cases and all types of adversary proceedings and enforcement actions. She has also represented creditors, as well as debtors in chapter 11 and 12 cases. For the past 25 years, Ms. George has concentrated over 95 percent of her practice in bankruptcy and insolvency matters, and has served as receiver in state and federal courts, having previously represented a national lender in its Special Assets Division. She is a past two-term board member of the Bankruptcy Insolvency and Creditor's

Rights Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and she is a regular presenter at conferences on various bankruptcy topics. Ms. George received her J.D. from Marquette University Law School.

Hon. A. Benjamin Goldgar is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago, appointed in 2003. From 1982-95, Judge Goldgar was in private practice with the Chicago firm of Keck, Mahin and Cate. In 1995, he joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office as an assistant attorney general in its Civil Appeals Division. He became a supervising attorney in the Division in 1997, serving there until his appointment to the bench. During his tenure with the Attorney General's Office, Judge Goldgar represented Illinois departments, agencies and officials in more than 140 appeals and original actions in state and federal reviewing courts, presenting more than 50 oral arguments. He has taught appellate advocacy at Loyola University of Chicago Law School and is a past president of the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association. He has also served as an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* and chaired the Federal Rules Advisory Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He is currently a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Goldgar received his A.B. *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University and his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law, where he was a member of the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*.

Hon. Mary P. Gorman is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois in Springfield, appointed in September 2005 by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She became Chief Judge in January 2013. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice, concentrating in bankruptcy and commercial transactions and litigation. Judge Gorman is a past president of the Winnebago County Bar Association and has been active on the Illinois State Bar Association's Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and the Commercial, Banking, and Bankruptcy Section Council. She is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, and the Illinois State, Winnebago County, and Sangamon County Bar Associations. From 1999-2003, Judge Gorman was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Northern Illinois University College of Law. Judge Gorman has served on the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group and on the Administrative Office's Budget and Finance Advisory Committee. She currently serves as one of the five bankruptcy judge representatives on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and also serves as a liaison to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. Judge Gorman has been admitted to practice by the Illinois Supreme Court, the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Tax Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. She graduated with honors from Rosary College (now Dominican University) and attended the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She graduated with high honors from the University of Illinois College of Law, where she served as a member of its law review and the Order of the Coif.

Hon. Beth E. Hanan is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, 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. She also worked at larger firms Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren and Quarles & Brady. Judge Hanan was chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Council, a supervisor of the Small Claims Mediation Clinic at Milwaukee County Circuit Court, and also chaired the board of Catholic Charities in Milwaukee. She received her J.D. in 1996 from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

John M. Hauber is the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Southern District of Indiana in Indianapolis, appointed on April 1, 2015. Prior to his appointment, he was a partner in the Indianapolis office of Tom Scott & Associates, P.C., where his practice included business and consumer bankruptcy, debtor and creditors' rights including financial restructuring and workouts, and all aspects of bankruptcy litigation. Mr. Hauber worked for the Indiana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division from 1993-97 as a deputy attorney general, and he was a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Indiana Home Defense Task Force. He worked in private practice from 1997-2002 emphasizing the representation of consumer bankruptcy debtors. Mr. Hauber was a staff attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Robert A. Brothers in December 2002 before returning to consumer bankruptcy practice in August 2008. He is admitted to all Indiana state courts, federal courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Hauber is currently an adjunct professor at the I.U. McKinney School of Law and has lectured on all aspects of consumer bankruptcy for ICLEF, the Indianapolis Bar Association, ABI and the Office of the U.S. Trustee for Region 10 since 2002. He received his A.B. from Wabash College in 1990 and his J.D. from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1993.

Ariane R. Holtschlag is an attorney with the Law Office of William J. Factor in Chicago, where her practice is focused primarily in the field of consumer bankruptcy and is equally divided among representing trustees, debtors and creditors in chapters 7 and 13. She also represents individuals and small businesses in chapter 11. Ms. Holtschlag has spoken at several bankruptcy education programs and also volunteered for CARE, speaking to high school students about credit and bankruptcy. In 2017, she was chosen as one of ABI's inaugural "40 Under 40" award recipients in recognition of her achievements. Ms. Holtschlag was a commissioner on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy and in 2018 testified before congress on chapter 7 trustee fees. She received her undergraduate degree in 2004 from Illinois Wesleyan University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa in 2007.

Prof. Robert M. Lawless is the Max L. Rowe Professor of Law and co-director of the Program on Law, Behavior & Social Science at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Ill. He also served as the College's associate dean for research from 2013-16. Prof. Lawless writes and teaches about bankruptcy, consumer finance and business law. He is a co-author of *Secured Transactions: A Systems Approach and Empirical Methods in Law* and a regular contributor to the blog Credit Slips, a discussion on credit, finance and bankruptcy. Prof. Lawless served as the reporter for ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy and currently serves as an associate editor for the *Law & Society Review*. He also is a member of the American Law Institute, the National Bankruptcy Conference and the American College of Bankruptcy. Prof. Lawless has testified before Congress, and his work has been featured in media outlets such as CNN, C-SPAN, NPR, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, the *National Law Journal*, the *L.A. Times* and the *Financial Times*. He received both his undergraduate degree in accounting and his J.D. from the University of Illinois, during which time he served as editor-in-chief of the *University of Illinois Law Review*.

David P. Leibowitz is founder and managing member of the Law Offices of David P. Leibowitz, LLC in Chicago. He is also Of Counsel to Lakelaw in Chicago and a senior legal advisor to Upright Law, a national consumer bankruptcy firm headquartered in Chicago. Mr. Leibowitz has been a chapter 7 trustee in the Northern District of Illinois for close to 30 years, and his service as trustee is now the focus of his practice. He is a member of ABI's Board of Directors and has served as co-chair of ABI's

task force studying individual chapter 11 cases, as well as co-chair of ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy and Commercial Fraud Committees. In addition, he was an author and editor of the ABI's *Commercial Fraud Manual* and is a frequent speaker at ABI national, regional and local conferences. Mr. Leibowitz is Board Certified in both Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. In 2010, he received the Liberty Bell Award from the judges of the 19th Judicial Circuit, Lake County, Ill., for "Outstanding Commitment and Service" for his work in organizing that court's mortgage foreclosure help desk and producing mortgage foreclosure information videos. In 2006, he received the Excellence in Pro Bono Service Award from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Leibowitz received his B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where he was note editor of its law review.

Hon. Andrea K. McCord is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Indiana in Bedford, appointed on May 20, 2019. Before her appointment, she served as the Circuit Court Judge in Lawrence County, Ind., from 2007-19 and as the Lawrence County Circuit Court Referee from 1995-2007. Judge McCord clerked at Indiana Court of Appeals from 1990-91 before entering private practice and ultimately being appointed to the state court bench. She is a graduate of the Indiana Judicial College and the Indiana Graduate Program for Judges, and she chaired the Indiana State Bar Association's Improvements to the Judiciary Committee. As a state court judge, Judge McCord was appointed to various committees by the Indiana Supreme Court, including the Strategic Planning Committee, Probate Committee and Community Relations Committee. She has served as a member of the board of directors for the Indiana Judges' Association and the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and she served on the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Board of Trustees by appointment of the governor. Judge McCord has been a frequent presenter at judicial conferences and community trainings, and taught legal and business ethics at the local community college for several years. She received the Indiana Torchbearers Award by the Indiana Women's Commission and the Indiana State Bar Association's Hon. Viola Taliaferro Award, and she was selected as a member of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, among other accolades. Judge McCord received her bachelor's degree from Franklin College in 1987 and her J.D. from the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in 1990.

John W. Menn is a partner in the bankruptcy and insolvency group of Steinhilber Swanson LLP in Oshkosh, Wis., and has built a practice centered primarily around consumer bankruptcy, farm reorganizations and business reorganizations. He represents individual and business debtors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases, and he represents debtors in adversary proceedings in bankruptcy, as well as negotiating settlements outside of bankruptcy. He also assists clients who are facing foreclosure, helping them defend their foreclosure case and resolve their default through chapter 13, and he has helped many clients obtain home mortgage modifications through the Mortgage Modification Mediation Program, as well as through direct modifications with lenders outside of bankruptcy. In addition to his debtor work, Mr. Menn represents creditors in all chapters of bankruptcy, advising them of their rights, filing claims, negotiating and litigating disputed matters, and pursuing nondischargeability complaints. He has been a speaker at various seminars on topics including exemption issues in bankruptcy, creditors' rights when customers file bankruptcy, chapter 12 farm-reorganization issues, and chapter 13 bankruptcy issues including attorneys' fees, student loans, unfiled claims and dealing with underwater mortgages in chapter 13 cases. Mr. Menn received his J.D. in 2009 from the University of Wisconsin.

Michael Miller is a supervising attorney at the Semrad Law Firm, LLC in Chicago, where he focuses on consumer bankruptcy. He also works in the firm's appellate practice, and has argued twice in front of the Seventh Circuit. Mr. Miller co-chairs the Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee for the Northern District of Illinois. He is also a member of the Chicago CARE Program, ABI, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the Chicago Bar Association, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court Volunteer Panel, the John Marshall Law School Alumni Mentor Program and the Seventh Circuit Volunteer Panel. Mr. Miller received his undergraduate degree with honors from Roosevelt University and his J.D. from The John Marshall Law School, during which time he was an extern for the U.S. Trustee's Office.

Thomas P. O'Hern is program manager for Enterprise Cybersecurity & Resilience at ICF International, Inc. in Fairfax, Va. For the last 21 years, he has been a cybersecurity consultant, supporting defense, federal and commercial clients for Jacob & Sundstrom, now part of ICF. Mr. O'Hern was a founding member, program manager and technical lead for the Army Research Laboratory Center for Intrusion Monitoring and Protection. He staffed and managed this national 24x7 computer emergency response capability, where he performed intrusion-detection systems research and development, computer incident response, enterprise information assurance and compliance management. Previously, Mr. O'Hern was with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where he coordinated a multimillion-dollar research wing renovation integrating supercomputing capabilities and produced graphical renderings of the AIDS virus selected for covers of international biochemistry research publications. Over the last 17 years, he has been the program manager of the Standing Trustee Alliance for Computer Security (STACS) on behalf of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT), for which he and his team provide cybersecurity consulting services and on-site security assessments to 150 chapter 13 trustees across the U.S. He also provides custom cybersecurity programs to medium-sized and small business. Mr. O'Hern received his degrees in engineering technology and computer science graduate from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where he also provided Unix computer expertise for more than 600 systems in the academic departments.

Ronald R. Peterson is a partner in the law firm of Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial, insolvency and bankruptcy law. He is a member of the firm's Restructuring and Bankruptcy and Bankruptcy Litigation Practices, as well as a member of its Real Estate and Construction Litigation and Corporate Finance Practices, and its Real Estate Finance Litigation and Workout Task Force. A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, Mr. Peterson focuses primarily on representing debtors, trustees, creditors, committees, landlords and secured lenders in chapter 11 cases. In addition to his insolvency litigation practice, he counsels clients on a variety of transactional issues, including corporate restructurings. Since 2003, *Chambers & Partners* has named him one of the country's leading lawyers in bankruptcy law. AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, Mr. Peterson has been a member of the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the Northern District of Illinois's Eastern Division since 1988. He has presided over numerous complex commercial cases, including Stotler & Co, the country's 10th-largest commodities house, and Lancelot Investment, a \$1.7 billion Ponzi scheme. He has also served as examiner in Robert Lund, a large real estate developer, and as the chairman of the creditors' committee in *Thomas J. Petters*, a \$3.5 billion Ponzi Scheme. Mr. Peterson is a member of ABI and the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the Business Law Section and the Bankruptcy Litigation Committee of the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association. He is a director and past president of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and is also a member of INSOL (International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals). Mr. Peterson co-chaired the avoidance power and *in pari delicto* committee of ABI's Chapter 11 Reform

Commission and served as a commissioner on ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Commission. He is also a federal equity receiver and a member of the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers. Mr. Peterson is a prolific lecturer and writer on bankruptcy and commercial law issues. He received his A.B. *cum laude* in speech and political science from Ripon College in 1970 and his J.D. in 1973 from the University of Chicago Law School.

M. Gretchen Silver is a senior trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Chicago. Prior to joining the U.S. Trustee's Office in August 2002, she was an enforcement attorney with the Midwest regional office of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Before joining the SEC, Ms. Silver practiced bankruptcy law at Rudnick & Wolfe, where she represented debtors, creditors' committees, secured lenders and chapter 7 trustees. She also clerked for Hon. Sarah Sharer Curley in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona in Phoenix from 1987-90. Ms. Silver received both her B.S. and J.D. from the University of Illinois - Champaign/Urbana.

Catherine L. Steege is a partner with Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago and co-chairs the firm's Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice group. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference and an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School, and she has been a member of the panel of trustees for the Northern District of Illinois since 1987. In addition to a traditional bankruptcy practice, Ms. Steege has represented numerous parties in complex bankruptcy litigation matters, including her representation of defendants in the *Tribune* fraudulent-conveyance litigation and the *Sentinel Management Group* litigation trustee, the *Magna-trax* litigation trust, the *NKK* litigation trust and the trustees of Emerald Casino Inc. and Consolidated Industries Corp. She recently argued in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Wellness International Network in *Wellness International Network v. Sharif*. She also represented the examiner in the *Lehman Brothers* chapter 11 case and authored the sections of the *Lehman Brothers* examiner's report that considered potential avoidance actions against various financial institutions. Ms. Steege received her J.D. in 1982 from DePaul University.

Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago from 1987-2015 and as chief judge from 2002-07. ABI's Board Chairman, he served on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy and devotes his present legal practice exclusively to *pro bono* representations in bankruptcy appeals. Judge Wedoff presided over the chapter 11 reorganization of United Air Lines, was a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules from 2004-14 and served as its chair after 2010. His work on the Rules Committee involved both the implementation of the means test forms and creation of the national form for chapter 13 plans. Judge Wedoff was the president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2013-14 and also served as a member of the NCBJ's Board of Governors as its secretary and as chair of its education committee. Judge Wedoff is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, as well as a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference. He is the author of the chapter on professional employment in Queenan, Hendel and Hillinger, *Chapter 11 Theory and Practice* (LRP Publications 1994) and was an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. Judge Wedoff is a frequent lecturer and served as a member of the Federal Judicial Center's Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Education. In 2016, he received the Judge William L. Norton Jr. Judicial Excellence Award; in 2009, he received the Lawrence P. King Award from the Commercial Law League; and in 1995, he received the Excellence

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in Education Award from the NCBJ. Judge Wedoff graduated from the college and law school of the University of Chicago.