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from the Bench

Faculty Biographies

Hon. Thomas L. Ambro is a U.S. Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Wilmington, Del., appointed in 2000. Previously, he was in private practice in Wilmington from 1976-2000 at Richards, Layton & Finger, where he was the head of its Bankruptcy Group and was involved in many of the most significant reorganizations in the 1990s. Judge Ambro joined the firm in 1976 following a judicial clerkship with Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel L. Herrmann. On the Third Circuit, he has authored over 1,000 opinions, many of which relate to bankruptcy and reorganization issues. Judge Ambro is a past chair of the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association and past editor of *The Business Lawyer*. He also is a past member of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation, and in Delaware he is a past president of the Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court and a former co-chair of the Collins J. Seitz Bankruptcy Inn of Court. Within the Delaware State Bar Association, Judge Ambro is a former chair of the Commercial Law Section and for 20 years chaired that Section's Committee on the Uniform Commercial Code. He currently is a member of the American Law Institute, the American College of Bankruptcy and the National Bankruptcy Conference, where he served on its Executive Committee. Judge Ambro is a member of the Third Circuit Judicial Council and chairs its Budget Committee, and he is a member of several committees, including the Bankruptcy Judges Committee and the Automation and Technology Committee. At the national level, he is a member of the Judicial Conference's Committee on the Judicial Branch. Judge Ambro has published numerous articles and lectured frequently throughout the country, including on bankruptcy and reorganization matters. Judge Ambro received his B.A. in 1971 from Georgetown University and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1975.

Jason D. Angelo is counsel with Reed Smith LLP's Financial Industry Group in Wilmington, Del., where he practices in the areas of restructuring, insolvency and commercial litigation, including related appellate work. His diverse practice includes advising a variety of constituents in complex business reorganizations and insolvency matters, including debtors, secured creditors, creditor committees, equityholders, parties to preference and fraudulent-transfer disputes, and other key stakeholders. He also has experience representing and advising indenture trustees and other fiduciaries in the corporate trust space. Mr. Angelo has been recognized as a "Rising Star" in the restructuring and insolvency community by the *IFLR1000* (2022-23), was selected as part of the "NextGen" Program (2021) sponsored by the American College of Bankruptcy and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and participated in the 2022 Pathfinder Program with the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity. Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Angelo clerked for Hon. Marie P. Simonelli of the New Jersey Superior Court—Appellate Division. He currently serves on the Delaware State Bar Association's DE&I Steering Committee, is a member of the board of directors of the Philadelphia LGBTQ+ Bar Association, and previously chaired the Delaware State Bar Association's LGBTQ+ Committee for a number of years. He also has been a Co-Chair of Reed Smith's Global LGBTQ+ Business Inclusion Group, PRISM, since 2019, and he was an inaugural member of the Diverse Alumni of Seton Hall (DASH) Committee. Mr. Angelo volunteers with the Delaware Office of the Child Advocate, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services and the ACLU of Delaware. He received his undergraduate degree in 2010 cum laude from the University of Delaware and his J.D. cum laude in 2013 from Seton Hall University School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Seton Hall Legislative Journal* and won Seton Hall's Congressman Peter W. Rodino, Jr. Award for Leadership, Service, and Humanitarianism.

Prof. Phillip Closius is the dean of Wilmington University School of Law in Wilmington, Del. He previously served as dean and professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law and the Univer-

sity of Toledo College of Law. In addition, he taught at Southwestern University School of Law (California), the University of Bridgeport School of Law (Connecticut) and the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law. Dean Closius garnered experience in practicing law at several firms before establishing a career in academia, and he serves as Of Counsel for Silverman, Thompson, Slutkin & White, a Maryland- and Washington, D.C.-based firm. He also has published extensively. Dean Closius received his J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Jacqueline Dakin is a Corporate Restructuring associate with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Wilmington, Del., where she represents debtors, creditors, investors and other stakeholders in complex business reorganizations and distressed transactions, including chapter 11 reorganizations, out-of-court workouts, M&A transactions, and other related financing and restructuring matters. She also advises clients on general corporate and litigation matters. Ms. Dakin's experience includes counseling Endo International plc and certain of its affiliates in their chapter 11 cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York; Armstrong Flooring, Inc. and three affiliated debtors in their chapter 11 cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, including the \$107 million sale of Armstrong's North American assets, the \$59 million sale of its assets in China and Hong Kong and the \$31 million sale of its assets in Australia; Highline Management Inc. in connection with the \$880 million sale of substantially all of the assets of Prime Automotive Group to Group 1 Automotive, Inc.; Black Diamond Capital Management, L.L.C. as lender to, and potential purchaser of, Speedcast International Ltd. in its chapter 11 cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas; The McClatchy Co. and certain of its affiliates in their chapter 11 cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, including the \$312 million sale of substantially all of its assets to its largest bondholder, Chatham Asset Management; Patriarch Partners in connection with multiple matters, including the restructuring of Dura Automotive in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware; and the special litigation committee of Clovis Oncology Inc. in an 18-month internal investigation and successful resolution of high-profile Caremark claims. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 2016 from the University of Connecticut, and her J.D. *summa cum laude* in 2019 from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was a member of the *Villanova Law Review*.

Michael V. DiPietro is an associate with Polsinelli in Wilmington, Del., where he advises clients on corporate restructuring, distressed-asset sales and other insolvency matters, both in and out of court. His experience includes representing distressed businesses, acquirers of such businesses and primary lender constituencies in chapter 11 cases, article 9 foreclosure sales, "friendly" strict foreclosures and assignments for the benefit of creditors. Mr. DiPietro is Membership Chair of the Delaware Bankruptcy Inn of Court and is a member of the Turnaround Management Association and ABI. He received his B.A. *maxima cum laude* in 2018 from LaSalle University and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2021 from Temple University Beasley School of Law, and he served as legal extern to Hon. Richard A. Lloret of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania through Temple University's Federal Judicial Clerkship Honors Program. He also served as articles editor for the *Temple Law Review* and editor-in-chief of the Temple Law Political and Civil Rights Society.

Hon. Paul A. Fioravanti, Jr. was sworn in as a Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery in Wilmington on Feb. 10, 2020. Prior to joining the court, he was a director at the Wilmington law firm of Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A., where he practiced for 21 years with a primary focus on corpo-

rate and commercial litigation in the Court of Chancery. While in private practice, Vice Chancellor Fioravanti served on the Court of Chancery Rules Committee and the Corporation Law Council of the Corporation Law Section of the Delaware State Bar Association. Upon graduating from law school, he served as a judicial clerk on the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland for Hon. Ellen L. Hollander, who now serves on the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Vice Chancellor Fioravanti is a member of the American Bar Association, the Delaware State Bar Association and the Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court. He received his B.A. in political science from the University of Delaware and his J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the *Maryland Law Review*.

Hon. Craig T. Goldblatt is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed in April 2021. Prior to his appointment, he was a bankruptcy litigator in the Washington, D.C. office of WilmerHale, where his practice primarily involved the representation of financial institutions and other commercial creditors in complex bankruptcy litigation and appeals. Earlier in his career, Judge Goldblatt clerked for Hon. Richard D. Cudahy of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and Hon. David H. Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a Conferee in the National Bankruptcy Conference (for which he serves as Secretary) and is a vice president of the American College of Bankruptcy. He also has been active on the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. Judge Goldblatt has served on the Education Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and George Washington University Law School, where he teaches classes focused on bankruptcy law. He has helped coach teams of law students (from George Washington University Law School, Howard Law School and Temple Law School) in the Duberstein Moot Court Competition for each of the past seven years. Judge Goldblatt received his Bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University in 1990 and his J.D. with honors from the University of Chicago Law School in 1993, where he served as comment editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*.

L. Katherine Good is a partner with Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP in Wilmington, Del., and co-heads its bankruptcy team. She focuses her practice on corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and creditors' rights. Ms. Good regularly represents debtors, secured lenders, committees, asset-purchasers, liquidation trusts and other parties in chapter 11 cases, as well as foreign representatives and other parties in chapter 15 ancillary proceedings. She regularly litigates in bankruptcy court as well as in appeals before federal district courts and courts of appeals. Ms. Good has represented companies in successful out-of-court restructurings and pre-packaged and pre-arranged bankruptcy cases. In addition, she has experience with substantive nonconsolidation opinions for structured finance transactions. Ms. Good received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from Emory University School of Law.

Matthew B. Harvey is a partner with Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP in Wilmington, Del., and focuses his practice on chapter 11 business bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation, reorganization and restructuring. He represents international, national and regional clients, including debtors, official and ad hoc committees, asset-purchasers, debtor-in-possession (DIP) lenders, secured and unsecured creditors, petitioning creditors in involuntary bankruptcy filings, and other parties in interest. Mr. Harvey's experience includes in- and out-of-court restructuring transactions for publicly traded and

private companies, and he has represented clients in bankruptcy litigation and appeals, as well as commercial litigation. He also has substantial experience representing debtors, foreign representatives and others in cross-border cases. Mr. Harvey devotes a portion of his time to *pro bono* matters, such as serving as an attorney guardian *ad litem* in the Family Court for the State of Delaware. He is also a volunteer attorney for the Federal Civil Panel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware. Mr. Harvey is a 2021 honoree of ABI's "40 Under 40" program, and he also was one of a dozen corporate restructuring lawyers under the age of 40 recognized as a 2021 outstanding young restructuring lawyer in *Turnarounds & Workouts*. In 2022, *Chambers USA* ranked him as being among leading Delaware attorneys in the bankruptcy and restructuring area. In 2017, Mr. Harvey participated in the renowned National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) Next Generation Program. Also in 2017, he was one of eight attorneys selected for the Bankruptcy Trial Practice Seminar sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware and the Delaware Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Harvey is admitted to practice in Delaware and Maine, before the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Delaware and Maine, and before the U.S. Supreme Court. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in English literature from Florida State University in 2005 and his J.D. in 2008 from Boston College Law School, where he participated in the Duberstein National Bankruptcy Memorial Moot Court Competition.

Hon. Thomas M. Horan is U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed in 2023. He previously practiced law in Wilmington for 18 years, focusing on financial restructuring and bankruptcy litigation. Most recently, Judge Horan had been a member of the Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Restructuring group at Cozen O'Connor, a national firm headquartered in Philadelphia with a Wilmington office. His national practice included representing debtors and official unsecured creditor committees in complex chapter 11 proceedings, and he represented secured creditors and other parties in litigation. He also frequently provided opinion letters on commercial transactions and represented parties before the state's Court of Chancery and Superior Court. Last year, Judge Horan was named to *Lawdragon's* list of the Top 500 U.S. bankruptcy and restructuring lawyers. He also serves on ABI's Board of Directors. Judge Horan received his B.A. in 1989 and his M.A. in 1992 from Fordham University, and his J.D. *cum laude* from St. John's University School of Law in 2002, where he was executive notes and comments editor for the *ABI Law Review*.

Zachary J. Javorsky is an associate in Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A.'s Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring department in Wilmington, Del., where his practice focuses on corporate bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation, corporate restructuring and other insolvency matters. He received his undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Penn State Dickinson Law.

Joseph O. Larkin is a litigation partner in the Corporate Restructuring department of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in Wilmington, Del. He represents a broad range of clients in high-profile, bet-the-company disputes involving mergers and acquisitions, commercial contracts, anti-trust matters, securities class actions, corporate control challenges and troubled-company litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country. He also frequently advises clients on Delaware law governing corporations and alternative entities. Mr. Larkin has represented companies and boards in litigation arising from some of the largest transactions in history, and he has been at the forefront of corporate innovation. He was one of the lead litigators that represented MacAndrews & Forbes in the

Delaware Supreme Court's seminal decision in *Kahn v. M&F Worldwide Corp. (MFW)*, and he has successfully tried cases and arbitrations to judgment for Sabre Corp., CommonWealth REIT, Service Properties Trust, TravelCenters of America LLC and the stockholders of EPCO Carbon Dioxide Products, Inc. Mr. Larkin has been repeatedly named to *The Best Lawyers in America* for Corporate Law, and has been consistently recognized by *The American Lawyer* and the *Financial Times* for litigation victories in the Delaware Court of Chancery. He also has been recognized by *Turnarounds & Workouts* magazine as one of its Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyers and by *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring, in addition to being named as a Litigator of the Week in September 2020 by *The American Lawyer* for a victory in the Delaware Court of Chancery. Mr. Larkin received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Richmond and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Villanova University School of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and served as associate editor of the *Villanova Law Review*.

Joseph M. Mulvihill is an associate with Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor LLP in Wilmington, Del., and has represented diverse clients through the chapter 11 process, including some of the most well-known retailers and high-profile companies to recently undertake restructuring initiatives. He has represented debtors, lenders, purchasers and official committees of unsecured creditors as both lead and co-counsel. Mr. Mulvihill previously clerked for the Delaware Bankruptcy Judges Brendan L. Shannon, Kevin Gross, Laurie S. Silverstein and Peter J. Walsh (ret.); was a judicial extern for the Delaware Supreme Court for Chief Justice Myron T. Steele (ret.) and Justice Henry DuPont Ridgely (ret.); and served as a federal judicial intern for Delaware Bankruptcy Judge Mary F. Walrath. He is a member of the Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania state bars. Mr. Mulvihill is a member of the Turnaround Management Association and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law since 2020, and he was named a 2023 *Delaware Super Lawyers* "Rising Star." He received his B.A. in 2011 from Muhlenberg College and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Widener University Delaware Law School, where he was an articles editor for the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law* and a member of the Transactional Law Honor Society.

Hon. Karen B. Owens is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington. Prior to her appointment, she was a director in the Bankruptcy and Insolvency group of Ashby & Geddes, P.A., where she maintained a diverse practice, representing corporate debtors, estate professionals, various secured and unsecured creditor constituencies, and other interested parties in reorganization and liquidation proceedings and bankruptcy-related litigation. Prior to joining Ashby & Geddes, Judge Owens started her career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as a corporate restructuring associate, and later went on to clerk for Hon. Brendan Linehan Shannon of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. She is an adjunct professor in the Bankruptcy L.L.M. Program at St. John's University School of Law in New York, co-president of the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, a member of the board of directors of the Philadelphia/Wilmington Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, and a member of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Judge Owens received her Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, where she was Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from American University's Washington College of Law, where she served as an associate managing editor for the *American University Law Review* and as legal intern to Hon. Stephen S. Mitchell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Morgan L. Patterson is a partner with Womble Bond Dickinson in Wilmington, Del., where her practice focuses on corporate bankruptcy and creditors' rights in complex chapter 11 proceedings. She has broad experience representing debtors, creditors' committees, lenders, bondholders, secured and unsecured creditors, liquidation trustees, landlords, asset-purchasers, and other interested entities in various bankruptcy reorganization and liquidation proceedings. Ms. Patterson's bankruptcy work includes all matters of litigation and transactions, including involuntary petitions, avoidance actions, relief-from-stay proceedings, trustee motions, sale and purchase of assets, executory contracts and lease issues, post-petition financing, disclosure statements, plan confirmation, and representing liquidating trustees and plan administrators in the winding down of estates. She also has expertise with cross-border insolvency proceedings, specifically with respect to the consummation of large cross-border asset sales. Ms. Patterson is Membership chair for the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation's Delaware Chapter and is a member of the Federal Bar Association, ABI, the Delaware Bankruptcy Inn of Court and the Delaware State Bar Association. She has been listed in *Chambers USA* as a Ranked Lawyer for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Delaware since 2022 and was listed as a "Delaware Rising Star" in Bankruptcy by *Super Lawyers* from 2018-19. Ms. Patterson received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 2005 from Temple University and her J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2009 from Widener University School of Law, where she was Bluebook editor of the *Delaware Journal of Corporate Law*.

Hon. Collins J. Seitz, Jr. is Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court in Wilmington, initially sworn in on April 14, 2015, and named Chief Justice on Nov. 8, 2019. Prior to his appointment, he was a founding partner of Seitz Ross Aronstam & Moritz LLP, a boutique corporate advisory and litigation firm in Wilmington, where he represented clients in high-profile corporate and trust disputes in the Delaware Court of Chancery and the Supreme Court. He also was a long-time partner in a large Wilmington law firm, where he litigated corporate and intellectual property disputes. Chief Justice Seitz serves as judicial liaison to the Corporate Laws Committee of the American Bar Association and is an adviser on the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law, Corporate Governance. He also serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction. A member of the Delaware Bar since 1983, Chief Justice Seitz formerly served as a board member and chair of the Delaware Board of Bar Examiners, and he was a board member of the Board on Professional Responsibility. Federal and state courts have appointed him as a master and trustee to oversee complex corporate, commercial and intellectual property cases, and he is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Chief Justice Seitz is a trustee of the American Inns of Court and serves as a board member of Hockessin Colored School 107C – an organization dedicated to celebrating Delaware's role as one of the cases appealed in *Brown v. Board of Education*. He has led court efforts in Delaware to promote greater diversity in the Delaware Bar through the Delaware Bench and Bar Diversity Project. Under his leadership, major changes were made recently to the Delaware Bar Exam to make the state a more attractive and welcoming place to practice law and engage in public service. Chief Justice Seitz received his undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and his J.D. from the Villanova University School of Law.

Hon. Brendan Linehan Shannon is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed in 2006. He manages a full chapter 11 docket and also handles all chapter 13 consumer bankruptcy cases filed in Delaware. He served as Chief Judge from 2014-18. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Shannon was a partner with Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Wilmington, Del., where he primarily represented corporate debtors and official committees

in chapter 11 cases. He is an adjunct professor in the Bankruptcy LL.M. Program at St. John's University School of Law in New York, and previously taught at Widener School of Law in Delaware. He also serves on the board of editors of *Collier on Bankruptcy* (16th ed.) and is a contributing author for *Collier Forms* and for several chapters covering the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. In addition, he serves on the editorial board of the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*. In 2011, Judge Shannon was appointed to serve as a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference. In 2020, he was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Shannon is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, ABI and the Rodney Inns of Court in Wilmington, Del. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Delaware Council on Economic Education. Judge Shannon received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University and his J.D. from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary.

Hon. Laurie Selber Silverstein is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, initially sworn in on Jan. 7, 2015. She served a term as Chief Judge. Judge Silverstein is a member of the American Bar Association's Business Law and Litigation Sections and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and the American Bar Foundation. She serves on the board of directors of the Delaware Bar Foundation and the Historical Society of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She also is a member of the Legislative Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Silverstein was a partner at Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP in Wilmington, Del., where she led the firm's bankruptcy and corporate restructuring practice group. She received her B.S. *cum laude* in economics in 1982 from the University of Delaware and her J.D. with honors from George Washington University's National Law Center in 1985.

Natasha M. Songonuga is a partner with Archer & Greiner, P.C. in Wilmington, Del., and focuses on business reorganization and restructuring matters, working across the full spectrum of chapter 11 cases and counseling creditors in assignments for the benefit of creditors state court insolvency proceedings. Her clients include debtors and creditors, chapter 11 and chapter 7 trustees, landlords, bidders at bankruptcy sales, and trustees appointed pursuant to the Securities Investor Protection Act. Ms. Songonuga is a subchapter V trustee and successfully shepherded the first confirmed subchapter V chapter 11 plan of reorganization in Delaware. She works with subchapter V debtors and their creditors facilitating the development of a consensual chapter 11 reorganization plan. Ms. Songonuga's extensive practice includes debtor/trustee representation, with her focus on financially troubled corporate entities and trustees in both chapter 11 and chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. She also represents secured and unsecured creditors in large bankruptcy cases. In addition, she has experience in bankruptcy and insolvency-related litigation, including the prosecution and defense of preferential and fraudulent transfer avoidance actions and fiduciary duty claims, the preparation of discovery requests and responses, disputes involving the assumption and rejection of leases and contracts, and assistance in depositions. She also has experience defending avoidance action defendants in state court assignments for the benefit of creditors proceedings. Ms. Songonuga also handles a wide range of other matters, including managing the claims objection and reconciliation process for thousands of claims; drafting, negotiating, and objecting to plans of reorganization and liquidation; § 363 sales; stay-relief motions; and handling related litigation. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has consistently been ranked by *Chambers USA* in the top tiers for bankruptcy and restructuring lawyers, and she is a frequent author and speaker on topics related to bankruptcy. Ms. Songonuga re-

ceived her B.S. from Rutgers University and her J.D. *cum laude* from Seton Hall University School of Law, where she was a member of the *Seton Hall Law Review*.

Hon. Christopher S. Sontchi is an international judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court and is the former Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, where he served for 16 years. He also is the sole member of Sontchi, LLC, where he conducts mediations and arbitrations, provides expert services, and serves as an independent fiduciary. Judge Sontchi is a frequent speaker in the U.S. and abroad on issues relating to corporate reorganizations, having made over 100 appearances. He also is a Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago Law School and has taught restructuring to international judges with the World Bank Group, most recently in the People's Republic of China. Judge Sontchi is a member of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, International Insolvency Institute, Judicial Insolvency Network, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI and INSOL International. He recently was inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy. In addition, he is a member of the International Advisory Council of the Singapore Global Restructuring Initiative and the Founders' Committee for the University of Chicago Law School's Center on Law and Finance. Justice Sontchi has testified before Congress on the safe harbors for financial contracts. He has also published articles on creditors' committees, valuation, asset sales and safe harbors. Following law school, Judge Sontchi clerked for Hon. Joseph T. Walsh in the Delaware Supreme Court. He received his B.A. Phi Beta Kappa with distinction in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Hon. J. Kate Stickles is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed on April 6, 2021. Previously, she was member of Cole Schotz P.C.'s Bankruptcy and Corporate Restructuring Department in its Wilmington, Del., office and practiced in the areas of corporate bankruptcy, insolvency and creditors' rights, having represented debtors, official committees, creditors, examiners and trustees in chapter 11 cases. Before joining Cole Schotz, Judge Stickles was a partner in the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice at Saul Ewing LLP and a director at Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristol & Schnee, P.A. She is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. She also is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association and the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Judge Stickles has published in, and served as a contributing editor for, the *ABI Journal* and has also published in *The Americas Restructuring and Insolvency Guide*, the ABI Bankruptcy Litigation Committee eNewsletter and the ABI Commercial Fraud Committee eNewsletter. She received her B.A. in political science and communications from Western Maryland College and her J.D. from Temple University School of Law.

Andrew R. Vara is the U.S. Trustee for Regions 3 and 9 in Cleveland, which encompass 10 field offices in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. He has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice for 30 years, serving as a trial attorney, Assistant U.S. Trustee in Cleveland and Wilmington, Del., and the acting assistant U.S. Trustee in both the Southern District of New York and Western District of Michigan. Following law school, Mr. Vara clerked for Hon. Laurence Howard, Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Grand Rapids, Mich. He also is a regular faculty member and lecturer at training seminars held at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. Mr. Vara has been a panelist at numerous ABI conferences, including its Annual Spring Meeting,

Winter Leadership Conference, Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop and Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. He was a member of the ABI's Ethics Task Force and chaired ABI's Ethics and Professional Compensation Committee. Mr. Vara served as a presenter on U.S. and international insolvency law at forums sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program in Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in political science from Duke University and his J.D. with honors from The Ohio State University in May 1991, where he was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif.

Margaret A. Vesper is an associate in Ballard & Spahr LLP's Litigation Department and Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Restructuring Group in Wilmington, Del. She works with a diverse group of clients, including commercial landlords and various other businesses in commercial litigation and corporate bankruptcies. As a 2019 Ballard Spahr summer associate, Ms. Vesper drafted memoranda on corporate and commercial litigation issues. She is admitted to practice in Delaware and Pennsylvania, and before the U.S. District Courts for the District of Delaware and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Vesper received her B.A. *summa cum laude* in 2016 from Loyola University Maryland and her J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2020 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was a managing editor of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*.

Hon. Mary F. Walrath is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed in 1998. She served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge from 2003-08. Judge Walrath previously clerked for Hon. Emil F. Goldhaber, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and was an attorney at Clark Ladner Fortenbaugh & Young in Philadelphia, concentrating in the areas of debtor/creditor rights and commercial litigation. In addition to speaking at numerous bankruptcy educational programs and panels throughout the country, Judge Walrath is a founding member and former co-president of the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, a member of the Delaware Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), a member of ABI and a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. She is also an editor of the *Rutter Group Bankruptcy Practice Guide*. Judge Walrath is active in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ), having served on its Board of Governors from 2007-12, as secretary from 2013-14, as chair of its Education Committee from 2014-15 and as president from 2016-17. Judge Walrath served as an associate editor and then business manager of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* from 2009-15. She also testified before the House Judiciary Committee on H.R. 1667, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2017. Judge Walrath received her A.B. in history from Princeton University and earned her J.D. *cum laude* from Villanova University, where she was a member of the *Villanova Law Review* and was awarded the Order of the Coif.