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2019 Hon. Steven W. Rhodes Consumer Bankruptcy Conference

Faculty Biographies

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

Michael G. Ardelean is a partner with Ardelean & Dunne, PLLC in Southfield, Mich. He previously practiced as an associate with the Law Offices of Peter Francis Geraci (Southfield, Mich.) and Schmidt, Isgrigg, Anderson & Miller (Waterford, Mich.), and was a paralegal and law clerk with Bodman, LLP in Detroit. Mr. Ardelean is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Northern District of Illinois. He is also a member of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. Mr. Ardelean received his B.S. from Central Michigan University and his J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where he received an academic scholarship.

Michelle H. Bass is a senior attorney at Wolfson Bolton PLLC in Troy, Mich., where she manages its consumer bankruptcy practice group. She represents both debtors and creditors in consumer bankruptcy proceedings and primarily represents debtors in chapter 7 liquidations and chapter 13 reorganizations, which span from high-net-worth and high-income-earning individuals to individuals seeking to prevent foreclosure or repossession of secured collateral. She also represents both debtors and creditors in divorce-related bankruptcy proceedings, and is a frequent speaker on the intersection of bankruptcy and family law disputes. Ms. Bass has represented individuals reorganizing under chapter 11, as well as small businesses going through chapter 7 liquidation, and has stopped foreclosures, the stripping of secured liens and the cramming down of loans on collateral for individuals seeking to reorganize under chapters 13 and 11. She also has successfully defended appeals in the Federal Eastern District for the State of Michigan and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Bass is a member of ABI and has written articles for the *ABI Journal*. She also is a member of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association, the Oakland County Bar Association and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, for which she currently co-chairs its Michigan Network. In addition, she has been named a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" from 2014-19 and is a member of the Class of 2019

Michigan Lawyers Weekly Women in the Law. Ms. Bass received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

Alane A. Becket is an AV-rated attorney and managing partner of Becket & Lee LLP, a Malvern, Pa., law firm providing comprehensive nationwide representation of financial institutions in bankruptcy matters, with a focus on consumer lenders and debt-purchasers. In addition to client and industry relations, she focuses on litigation strategy, and Becket & Lee has been lead or co-counsel in some of the most influential decisions in consumer bankruptcy over the last 20 years. In addition to her duties at the firm, Ms. Becket is ABI's President-Elect, and she formerly chaired its Consumer Committee and has served on its Board since 2009, most recently as Vice President-Publications. She is currently co-chair of the Bankruptcy Section and of the Professional Standards and Grievance Committees of the National Creditors Bar Association (NCBA), and is a member of the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT). Ms. Becket has written and lectured extensively on consumer bankruptcy issues for a variety of professional organizations, including ABI, the Federal Judicial Conference, NACTT, NABT, *Norton Bankruptcy Law Advisor*, NCBA, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and a host of local and regional organizations. She also served as a commissioner on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. Ms. Becket graduated from Pennsylvania State University and received her J.D. from Widener University School of Law.

Brett A. Border is the president and owner of Border Law PLLC in Southfield, Mich. He was licensed to practice law in the State of Michigan in 2003, in the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan in 2003, and in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2003, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2008 and the U.S. District/Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan in 2009. Mr. Border has practiced bankruptcy law and consumer law since 2003 and has represented thousands of debtors, creditors and Chapter 13 Trustee Tammy L. Terry in every type of bankruptcy matter, including trials and appeals to the U.S. District Court and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has taught introduction to bankruptcy at Madonna University and has served as the editor of ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Committee E-Newsletter. He also served on the Eastern District of Michigan Bankruptcy Court's Committee for Mortgage Modification, as well as on the planning committee for ABI's Hon. Steven W. Rhodes Consumer Bankruptcy Conference in Detroit, for which he has spoken on mortgage modifications and Rule 3002.1 practice. Mr. Border is currently a sitting board member for the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. He received his B.A. from Eastern Michigan University in psychology and criminology, and his J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2003, where he earned the Oral Advocate Award in the intra-school moot court competition and interned with the Sixty Plus Law Clinic in Lansing, Mich.

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 the president of that organization in 2010. Judge Boyd has trustee and receivership experience in both chapter 7 and chapter 11 cases involving a wide variety of industries. 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*. He is a member of the Federal Bar Association and ABI, and is a frequent speaker. Judge Boyd received his J.D. from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Charles D. Bullock is one of the founders of Stevenson & Bullock PLC in Southfield, Mich., and has been practicing law for nearly 20 years. He became a member of the State Bar of Michigan in 1995 and is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association. Mr. Bullock has been selected to *Super Lawyers* (Michigan), *DBusiness Magazine* "Top Lawyers" (Michigan), *Leading Lawyers* (Michigan) and *The Best Lawyers in America*. He has contributed to several scholarly articles on bankruptcy practice in *Michigan Lawyer Weekly*, *ICLE* and other publications. Mr. Bullock is a former contributing editor for *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice*. He teaches bankruptcy law as an adjunct professor at Western Michigan University's Thomas M. Cooley School of Law, and he was a member of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Eastern District of Michigan Rules Subcommittee. He also served on the Merit Selection Panel - Bankruptcy Judgeship - Eighth and Sixth Circuit Pilot Program (2015). Mr. Bullock has testified to the U.S. Senate Commission on the Judiciary in Washington, D.C., regarding the impact of bankruptcy practice on small businesses. He is admitted to practice in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Bullock is a member of ABI and the Federal Bar Association, National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, Detroit Catholic Central Shamrock Bar Association and Oakland County Bar Foundation. In addition, he is a Charter Fellow of the American Bar Association and clerked for Hon. Bernice B. Donald of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. Mr. Bullock received his B.A. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the University of Memphis.

Dr. Barika M. Butler is the chief medical officer, a double-board-certified psychiatrist and founder of Peak Performance Global in Detroit, and specializes in personal, performance and executive coaching. She has served as medical director for Molina Health Care in Illinois and is chief medical officer for the Behavioral Center of Michigan and Samaritan Behavioral Center. Dr. Butler has previously served on several boards, including the Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Board of Governors, Michigan Dental Association Foundation and as advisor to the Board of Directors for Vista Maria. She has been recognized with honors by the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Butler completed her undergraduate work in biopsychology and cognitive science from the University of Michigan before earning her Doctorate of Medicine at Wayne State School of Medicine. She is also a candidate for her Masters in Health Care Management from Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health as of May 2018.

Tracy M. Clark is a partner with Steinberg, Shapiro & Clark in Southfield, Mich., where she represents creditors, chapter 7 and 11 debtors, and chapter 7 trustees. She is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Clark is a member of the Federal Bar Association, ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the Consumer Bankruptcy Association (Eastern District of Michigan). She received her B.A. with distinction from Walsh College and her J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School.

Kimberly R. Clayson is an attorney and president of Clayson, Schneider & Miller, PC in Detroit, and has practiced in the field of bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights law since November 2006. In 2017, she and her partners took ownership of the firm and have expanded the firm's bankruptcy practice to serve bankruptcy trustees, debtors and creditors dealing with complicated bankruptcy issues. In recent years, Ms. Clayson developed a business law practice inspired by years of experience in insolvency law. Her business law practice takes a preventative and proactive approach to effective corporate governance and best practices in the negotiation of contracts, commercial leases and other critical business agreements. Ms. Clayson is an adjunct professor teaching secured transactions at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She 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. Scott W. Dales is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids, initially appointed in 2007 and named Chief Judge in 2013. In 2016, the Chief Justice appointed him to serve on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Following law school, Judge Dales clerked for Hon. Constantine G. Cholakakis, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of New York, and subsequently practiced law for several years with Barrett Gravante Carpinello & Stern in Albany, N.Y. After clerking for Hon. James D. Gregg, Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan, and prior to taking the bench, he practiced law with Dykema Gossett, PLLC in Grand Rapids and served as in-house counsel to National City Corp. and its bank and nonbank subsidiaries. As a member of National City's insolvency practice group, he worked primarily with distressed commercial transactions, including National City's aircraft lease portfolio and troubled automotive-supplier loans. Prior to attending law school, he served as a legislative analyst for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (Freddie Mac). Judge Dales received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1987 and his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

Thomas D. DeCarlo is a staff attorney at the office of David Wm. Ruskin, the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Southfield, Mich. He has practiced in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights and has represented debtors, creditors, committees and other parties-in-interest in chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings in cases throughout the southeastern U.S. He is also an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Thomas Cooley School of Law in Ann Arbor, Mich., and previously served as the adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at Ave Maria University College of Law, also in Ann Arbor. Mr. DeCarlo is a member of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, as well as the Sixth and Seventh U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals. He is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and related topics for ABI, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education of the State Bar of Michigan, and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. Mr. DeCarlo received his B.G.S. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law, where he was the editor-in-chief of the *Stetson Law Review*.

David Findling is a partner with The Findling Law Firm, PLC in Royal Oak, Mich., and has more than 21 years of experience serving as a receiver and addressing debtor/creditor issues. He focuses on receiverships, insolvency issues, bankruptcy, business operations and enforcement of creditor claims.

Mr. Findling has experience in the enforcement of court orders, administration of assets, sale of real and personal property and litigation of fraudulent conveyances. He also specializes in partition commissioner, support enforcement and assignments for the benefit of creditors. Mr. Findling received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Michigan in 1985 and his J.D. from Michigan State University College of Law in 1988.

Leo J. Foley, Jr. is an associate at the Bankruptcy Law Office in Flint, Mich., and was a staff attorney for the chapter 13 trustee in Flint. He also worked at Trott. Mr. Foley serves on the board of directors for the Genesee County Bar Association and is active in its bankruptcy committee.

Melissa D. Francis is an associate with Zelmanski, Danner & Fioritto, PLLC in Plymouth, Mich., and has extensive experience representing both creditors and debtors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings. She has spoken at several events for United Condominium Owners of Michigan, the Michigan Chapter of the Condominium Association Institute, and the firm's Board Education and Training (BEAT) program. Ms. Francis has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan since 2002. She was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 2008 and is also admitted in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Federal District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. Ms. Francis is a member of ABI and the Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Association. She is a past dean and current board member of the Metro Detroit Alumni Senate of Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, International and currently sits on the Board of Spotlight Players. Ms. Francis received her B.A. in international relations from Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1998 and her J.D. from Wayne State University Law School in 2001.

Laura J. Genovich is a shareholder in the Grand Rapids, Mich., office of Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, where she practices municipal, land use and commercial law. She works closely with municipal clients on issues related to zoning, election law and campaign finance issues, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) compliance, labor/employment matters, real estate transactions, public finance, and contract drafting and negotiation. She also handles complex property tax appeals and has expertise in property tax exemptions and special assessments. Ms. Genovich also works with both public entities and private clients (including developers) on land use matters, including development agreements, annexations, Act 425 agreements and zoning approvals. She has represented local governments and private clients in both trial-level and appellate matters. Ms. Genovich has argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Michigan Court of Appeals, and has drafted many briefs in the Michigan Supreme Court. She also co-authored a merits-stage brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of a township client and filed numerous Michigan Supreme Court briefs on municipal law and property tax issues. Ms. Genovich maintains a blog about new bankruptcy cases (www.michbankruptcyblog.com) and regularly presents at municipal law and bankruptcy seminars in addition to offering free webinars. In addition, she has taught as an adjunct professor at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School and serves as the chairperson of the Federal Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section. Ms. Genovich received her B.S. *summa cum laude* in 2005 in communications from Ohio University and her J.D. *summa cum laude* in 2008 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Hon. John T. Gregg is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Michigan in Grand Rapids, appointed on July 17, 2014. Previously, he was a partner with the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg

LLP, where he focused on corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and other insolvency matters. Judge Gregg is a frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and other commercial issues. He has written and co-edited numerous treatises and articles for various publications, 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* and *Interrupted! Understanding Bankruptcy's Effects on Manufacturing Supply Chains*, both published by ABI; *Michigan Security Interests in Personal Property*, published by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education; *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies in Michigan*, published by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education; and *Receiverships in Michigan*, published by the Institute for 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.

Paul R. Hage is the chair of the Insolvency & Reorganization practice group at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss in Detroit, where he represents debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, asset-purchasers and trustees in insolvency proceedings nationwide. He frequently writes and speaks on bankruptcy issues for ABI, the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee, Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law, the State Bar of Michigan and the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Hage is a member of the ABI's Board of Directors and previously chaired ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee. He also is a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal* and co-director of ABI's and St. John's University School of Law's Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. Mr. Hage is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has been an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School. In 2017, Mr. Hage was selected as a member of ABI's inaugural "40 Under 40" class. He received his bachelor's degree from James Madison College at Michigan State University, his J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law and his LL.M. in bankruptcy from St. John's University School of Law.

Erika D. Hart is an attorney with The Taunt Law Firm in Birmingham, Mich., where she specializes in insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings and litigation at the trial and appellate levels. She regularly represents trustees in chapter 7 matters, as well as debtors and creditors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases. Ms. Hart has litigated appeals from bankruptcy court to both the U.S. District Court and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also regularly handles nondischargeability proceedings. Ms. Hart is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and she is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan, Consumer Bankruptcy Association, Women's Lawyers Association of Michigan and ABI. She is admitted to practice in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan. Ms. Hart received her B.S. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Wayne State University.

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.

Hon. Terrance A. Keith is a judge for the Wayne County Probate Court in Detroit, appointed in December 2010 and reelected in November 2014. Prior to joining the court, he served as the chief deputy treasurer for Wayne County, and before that, he was a principal attorney for the Wayne County Corporation Counsel. Judge Keith received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Richardo I. Kilpatrick is the president of Kilpatrick & Associates, PC in Auburn Hills, Mich., where he focuses on corporate, consumer and commercial litigation and bankruptcy, real property remedies for creditors, real property transactions and general corporate counseling, and specializes in creditors' rights and insolvency law. He is a past president and chairman of ABI, served as a commissioner on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy, and served on the board of directors for the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Kilpatrick is a member of the ABA's Litigation Committee and Business Law Committee, the Federal and Oakland County Bar Associations, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees' Ethics Committee, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees' Bankruptcy Arbitration and Mediation Services and board of directors, and the Trustees' Education Network's board of directors, and he has been an interviewer for admissions for the Harvard Alumni Association and an adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law's LL.M. in Bankruptcy program. Mr. Kilpatrick has spoken at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and is a presenter at numerous seminars focusing on bankruptcy and collections presented by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education faculty for the Norton Litigation Institute, PESI and ABI. He is a frequent speaker and an editor for *Norton's Treatise on Bankruptcy*, and he frequently publishes articles on consumer and commercial bankruptcy. In October 2008, Mr. Kilpatrick was invited to be a conferee at the National Bankruptcy Conference, and in August 2011 he accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. He is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and he received his B.A. in economics in 1973 from Harvard University and his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Michigan Law School.

Scott M. Kwiatkowski is an associate with Goldstein Bershad & Fried, PC in Southfield, Mich., admitted to the Bar in 2004. His experience includes the representation of debtors, creditors and chapter 7 trustees, and advising and planning strategies for complex chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases. Mr. Kwiatkowski frequently represents plaintiffs and defendants in adversary proceedings including and not limited non-dischargeability complaints under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523 and 727, preferential transfers and fraudulent conveyances. He frequently files complex chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases. Mr. Kwiatkowski received his B.A. in 2001 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from Wayne State University Law School in 2004.

Caralyce M. Lassner is the principal of Caralyce M. Lassner, JD, PC in Flint, Mich., and Of Counsel to Karen E. Evangelista, PC. She is a former partner in the law firm of Scarletta Lassner, PLC, and a former associate of the law firms of Thav, Gross, Steinway & Bennett and Acclaim Legal Services. Ms. Lassner has been practicing law for more than 15 years in the areas of bankruptcy, family law, general

civil and contract litigation, administrative law and estate planning. She is a regular presenter on continuing education topics locally and regionally, and she was recently re-elected to a six-year term on the Consumer Bankruptcy Board of Directors. Ms. Lassner received her Bachelor's degree in technology and interdisciplinary studies from Wayne State University in 1997 and her J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2000.

David A. Lerner is a partner with Plunkett Cooney, PC in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and a member of its Banking, Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights Practice Group. He has represented banks, other financial institutions, creditors and title insurance companies in bankruptcy proceedings in Texas and Michigan since 1984. Mr. Lerner's experience includes the enforcement of secured creditors' rights and financing of debtors' operations. He also is experienced in the representation of debtors-in-possession, trustees, landlords, purchasers and other secured parties in both bankruptcy and out-of-court proceedings. Mr. Lerner is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan (Creditor Rights and Real Property Sections) and the New York Bar Association, and he is a member of the Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Association, the American Law Firm Association's Bankruptcy Practice Group, ABI, the Federal Bar Association (for which he serves as Bankruptcy co-chair) and the Walter Shapero Bankruptcy Symposium Organization (for which he serves as trustee). He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law from 2015-2020 and as a Top Lawyer in Banking and Creditors'/Debtors' Rights in *Dbusiness* magazine for 2018. Mr. Lerner attended Hebrew University and received his B.A. and B.S. *cum laude* from the University of Cincinnati in 1980, and his J.D. in 1983 from Syracuse University College of Law.

Wendy Turner Lewis is a chapter 7 trustee for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit and a solo practitioner with the Law Offices of Wendy Turner Lewis PLLC, where her current legal practice consists primarily of chapter 7 proceedings in the representation of both debtors and creditors. Previously, she clerked with the Wayne County Circuit Court in Detroit, then was a staff attorney with the UAW Ford Legal Services, practicing primarily bankruptcy law and representing debtors in chapter 7 and 13 cases. Ms. Lewis later joined the firm Lewis & Munday, P.C. (formally known as Lewis, White and Clay, P.C.) as a staff attorney in its litigation department, where she was primarily responsible for the firm's bankruptcy practice, which included the representation of many creditors, including General Motors Corp., General Motors Acceptance Corp., The City of Detroit and American Investment Bank. Ms. Lewis is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, Wolverine Bar Association, National Bar Association, ABI and the Consumer Bar Association. She received her B.A. in 1982 from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and her J.D. in 1985 from Howard University School of Law.

Thomas R. Morris is a member of Silverman & Morris, P.L.L.C. in Farmington Hills, Mich., where he focuses his practice on commercial and consumer bankruptcy, commercial litigation, workouts, bankruptcy litigation, commercial law, creditors' rights and international transactions. He previously was with Shefferly, Silverman & Morris and Schluskel, Lifton, Simon, Rands, Galvin & Jackier. Mr. Morris is AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell is a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Debtors' and Creditors' Rights Section. He is admitted to practice in Michigan and before the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Morris received his B.A. in international relations in 1982 from James Madison College of Michigan State University and his J.D. in 1986 from the University of Michigan Law School.

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

Hon. Maria L. Oxholm is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed Aug. 18, 2016. She was previously a judge in the Third Circuit Court's Family Division in Michigan from 2002 until her appointment in 2016. Judge Oxholm Oxholm worked as an attorney for the Immigration Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. She then worked as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor for 10 years before becoming a judge. From 1999-2002, she was on the bench of the 36th District Court.

Charissa Potts is a practitioner with consumer bankruptcy-focused firm Freedom Law, PC in Grosse Pointe Park, Mich., which she formed in 2014. She served on the Sixth Circuit Merit Selection Panel, and currently serves on the board and as a volunteer attorney for Access to Bankruptcy Court, a nonprofit providing pro bono legal services to indigent bankruptcy filers; on the planning committee for the ABI's Shapero Cup Regional Moot Court Competition; and as bankruptcy committee co-chair for her local chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Ms. Potts spoke at the annual Michigan Judges Conference in May 2019, presenting on the interplay of bankruptcy and state court proceedings. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, Federal Bar Association, Consumer Bar Association and Lakeshore Bar Association. Ms. Potts received her B.A. in philosophy and political science with honors in 2003 from Wayne State University, and her J.D. in 2006 from Wayne State University Law School. She interned for Federal Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen of the Eastern District of Michigan.

Hon. Mark A. Randon is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed in 2014. Previously, Judge Randon served as a Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and was appointed to the 36th District Court, where he served from 2001-09. He also worked as a labor and employment attorney for Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn; Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone; United Technologies Automotive; and the Detroit Board of Education. He currently teaches a bankruptcy law course at the University of Detroit Law School and Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. Judge Randon received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1989 and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School in 1992.

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, where he served for nearly 30 years until his retirement on Feb. 18, 2015. He served as chief judge from 2002-09, and from 1997-2004 and 2008-11, he also served on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Sixth Circuit, serving as its chief judge from 2002-04. He recently joined the Ann Arbor, Mich., office of JAMS, the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Service, and has experience in the resolution of complex disputes in bankruptcy, business/commercial, class action/mass tort, employment and fraud/Ponzi schemes. Judge Rhodes served as an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan Law School and the University of Detroit Law School, and he is a Fellow of the American College of

Bankruptcy. He is also co-author of *The Ponzi Book: A Legal Resource for Unraveling Ponzi Schemes* and oversaw the City of Detroit's municipal bankruptcy case. On March 1, 2016, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed him to be the emergency manager for the Detroit Public Schools, serving until Dec. 31, 2016. Judge Rhodes has spoken at numerous conferences and seminars on bankruptcy law and practice. From 1994-96, he was an associate editor for the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*, and from 2005-09, he was ABI's Vice President-Research. On April 3, 2009, ABI awarded him its 2009 Distinguished Service Award. From 2002-04, Judge Rhodes was the chair of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Endowment for Education. *Crain's Detroit Business* honored him as one of its 2014 Newsmakers of the Year, and *Michigan Lawyers' Weekly* named him 2014 "Lawyer of the Year." In September 2015, the Commercial Law League of America awarded him the Lawrence P. King Award for Excellence in the Field of Bankruptcy. Goodwill Industries awarded him its Barbara R. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award, and Walsh College awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws. Judge Rhodes received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and his J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Michigan Law Review*.

Charles J. Schneider is a practitioner at his law practice of Charles J. Schneider, P.C. in Livonia, Mich., where he has worked exclusively in the field of consumer and small business bankruptcy since 1984. He manages an exclusive practice averaging 15 chapter 7 and 13 consumer bankruptcy cases per month, occasionally representing creditors. Mr. Schneider has been Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification since 1995. He has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan for 42 years and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts in the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Schneider is a member of the State Bar of Michigan; the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT); the Detroit, Livonia and Oakland County Bar Associations; the Consumer Bankruptcy Association; and ABI. He has participated as a contributor, speaker and panelist on ABI, NACTT, ICLE and One Path Practice Management Advisors panels regarding the representation of debtors. Mr. Schneider is a contributing author to the Michigan ICLE's *Handling Consumer and Small Business Bankruptcies*. He has a peer-review rating of AV-Preeminent in consumer bankruptcy by Martindale-Hubbell and a peer-review rating of 10.0 "superb" by AVVO.com. He also has been recognized as a *Michigan Super Lawyer* since 2011 by Thomson Reuters. Mr. Schneider received his B.A. with honors in history and political science and his J.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Hon. Phillip J. Shefferly is Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, initially appointed as bankruptcy judge in 2003 and as chief judge in 2009. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Shefferly worked in private practice, focusing on business reorganizations and chapter 11 cases. Judge Shefferly has trial and litigation experience in bankruptcy courts, federal courts and state courts, and he is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. He is also a frequent writer and speaker for ABI, the Federal Bar Association and the Consumer Bankruptcy Association. A Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, Judge Shefferly received his B.A. from the University of Michigan with high distinction and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School.

Brian J. Small is a shareholder with Thav Gross PC in Bingham Falls, Mich., and manages the firm's Bankruptcy Department, Consumer Financial Crisis Management Department and Estate Planning De-

partment. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy law, debt-resolution and debtor workout arrangements for consumers and businesses, as well as estate planning for wills and trusts. Mr. Small has been a frequent speaker at local and national seminars on bankruptcy and financial-crisis management over the past several years. He also is a co-host of the “Law and Reality” TV and radio show, which airs on TV20 in metro Detroit at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays, and co-host of “Law and Reality Live,” which airs as a radio show Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. on WPZR. Mr. Small is the current vice president of the Consumer Bankruptcy Association and is a member of the Hon. Steven W. Rhodes Consumer Bankruptcy Conference Advisory Board. Mr. Small is an active member of ABI, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, as well as the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. He recently co-authored an attorney practice manual on bankruptcy for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Mr. Small received his B.A. in 1989 from the University of Michigan and his J.D. in 1992 from the University of Richmond School of Law.

Hon. Jessica E. Price Smith is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland, appointed on Aug. 22, 2011. She is the first African American woman to be appointed to the Northern District of Ohio’s bankruptcy court. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Price Smith’s practice focused on commercial bankruptcy and corporate debt restructurings at Brouse McDowell, where she became the firm’s first African American partner. She received her undergraduate degree from Miami University and her J.D. from Ohio Northern University.

Julie B. Teicher is a shareholder with Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller P.C. in Southfield, Mich., and a member of the firm’s Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Debtor-Creditor Rights Practice Group and the its Financial Services and Real Property Litigation Group. She concentrates her practice on business-related insolvency and bankruptcy matters, handling cases in bankruptcy, district and state court proceedings. Her clients include debtors, creditors, receivers, purchasers and parties in interest in bankruptcy and receivership matters in both state and federal courts. Ms. Teicher is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and is included in its registry of preeminent women lawyers. She also has been recognized as a “Top Lawyer” by *DBusiness* magazine in the area of bankruptcy, recognized as a Michigan Leading Lawyer in the areas of Bankruptcy & Workout Law: Commercial and Creditors’ Rights/Commercial Collections Law, and named in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the practice areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation-Bankruptcy since 2010, and in 2018 in the practice area of Commercial Litigation. Ms. Teicher has been named the *Best Lawyers* Detroit Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law “Lawyer of the Year” for 2019, and she has been recognized in the Michigan edition of *Super Lawyers* in the practice areas of Business Bankruptcy, Business Litigation and Creditor/Debtor Rights. Ms. Teicher has been recognized by *Super Lawyers* as one of the Top Women Lawyers for Business Bankruptcy, and in 2019, she was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. She received her B.A. with honors in 1978 from James Madison College, Michigan State University and her J.D. in 1982 from the University of Detroit.

Tricia S. Terry is a founding partner of Marris & Terry, PLLC in Ann Arbor, Mich., established 1999. She has focused primarily on chapter 13 practice in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan since 2001. The firm’s practice involves a heavy mix of bankruptcy, family law, probate and estate-planning issues and the interactions they have with each other. Ms. Terry is a member of the Washtenaw County Bar Association, the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees, ABI and the National

Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. She received her B.S. in criminal justice with honors from Eastern Michigan University and her J.D. *cum laude* in 1998 from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Andrew C. Thompson is an attorney with Poznak Dyer Kanar Schefsky Thompson PLC in Midland, Mich., where he focuses his practice on municipal law, business law and contracts, and real estate. He is admitted to the State Bars of Maryland and Michigan, and before the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Thompson is a member of the Midland County Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan's Public Corporation Section, the Northeastern Michigan Estate Planning Council and the Central Michigan University Research Corp., for which he is a Preferred Partner Service Provider. He received his B.S. in 2000 from Northern Michigan University and his J.D. in 2003 from The George Washington University Law School.

Hon. Thomas J. Tucker is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, appointed on March 21, 2003. He was reappointed to a second 14-year term on March 21, 2017, by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Following law school, Judge Tucker clerked for Hon. Albert J. Engel of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He then entered private practice for 20 years with the law firm of Cooper & Walinski, L.P.A. of Toledo, Ohio, where he focused on commercial litigation including bankruptcy, Uniform Commercial Code and contract disputes, and he served as a member of the firm's board of directors. Judge Tucker received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from the University of Toledo and his J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

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

Hon. Mary Ann Whipple is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in Toledo, serving her second term. She also served a term on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Before her appointment as a bankruptcy judge, she practiced law for 20 years as a commercial, bank-

ruptcy and employment litigator with Fuller & Henry Ltd. in Toledo. Judge Whipple is admitted to practice in Ohio and Michigan and before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Ohio and the Eastern District of Michigan. In addition, she has taught creditor/debtor law as a part-time faculty member at the University of Toledo College of Law. Judge Whipple received the 2008 Toledo Bar Association Community Service Award and the Toledo Women's Bar Association's Arabella Babb Mansfield Award in 2016, and is also a master in and past president of The Morrison R. Waite Chapter of the American Inns of Court Foundation. She received her A.B. in Russian studies from the University of Michigan in 1977 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1981.