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Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar

Faculty Biographies

Adam M. Back is a member of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC in Lexington, Ky., and practices with the firm's Bankruptcy & Financial Restructuring, Business Litigation, and Appellate practice groups. He is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, is recognized by *Kentucky Super Lawyers*, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, and Litigation-Bankruptcy, for which he was named the 2022 "Lawyer of the Year" in Lexington. Mr. Back serves as an officer for two non-profit entities and is on the planning committees for the ABI Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and the Judge Joe Lee Bankruptcy Institute. Mr. Back received his B.A. *cum laude* from Eastern Kentucky University and his J.D. in 2005 from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Michael B. Baker is a solo practitioner with The Baker Firm, PLLC in Fort Mitchell, Ky., and has represented a variety of debtors and creditors in chapter 7, 11 and 13 in the areas of bankruptcy and civil litigation. He also routinely represents chapter 7 trustees. Mr. Baker received his J.D. *cum laude* in 2007 from Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law.

Hon. Beth A. Buchanan is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Cincinnati, appointed on May 10, 2011. Prior to her appointment, she was a member of Frost Brown Todd LLC in its Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice Group, where she practiced exclusively in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency law, representing debtors, creditors' committees, secured lenders and unsecured creditors in numerous complex chapter 7, 11 and 15 bankruptcy proceedings. Prior to obtaining her law degree, Judge Buchanan worked in banking for over eight years with two major financial institutions. She is a member of ABI, the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association's Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the Thomas F. Waldron American Bankruptcy Law Forum, and she is the chairperson of the Local Bankruptcy Rules Standing Committee for the Southern District of Ohio. She also served on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel from 2018-20. Judge Buchanan received her B.S.B.A. in 1986 from The Ohio State University and her J.D. *summa cum laude* in 1997 from the University of Dayton School of Law.

J. Michael Debbeler is a partner with the Cincinnati law firm of Graydon Head & Ritchey LLP and chairs the firm's Executive Committee. He practices in the areas of bankruptcy, banking, commercial loan and real estate workouts. Mr. Debbeler serves on ABI's Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar advisory board and was is a former chair. He also is a member of ABI, ABLF, TACR (for which he served as past president) and the CBA Bankruptcy Committee (for which he is a former chair). Mr. Debbeler is a frequent lecturer on a wide variety of topics, including annual case law updates for many years for the CBA (real estate and bankruptcy), NKBA (bankruptcy) and SWOLTA (real estate). He was selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in Banking and Finance Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization, Litigation-Banking & Finance and Litigation-Bankruptcy from 2005-16. He also has been selected as *The Best Lawyers in America* "Lawyer of the Year" for his work in Litigation-Bankruptcy in 2013, Litigation-Banking and Finance in 2014 and Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law in 2015. Additionally, Mr. Debbeler has been named an *Ohio Super Lawyer* since 2004 for his work in Banking Law and Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law, and he was named a Cincinnati Leading Lawyer in 2013. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Deb-

beler received his B.A. *cum laude* from the University of Kentucky and his J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where he was a member of Order of the Barrister.

Patricia J. Friesinger is an attorney with Coolidge Wall Co., L.P.A. in Dayton, Ohio, and has more than 20 years of experience helping business and corporate clients preserve assets and overcome financial challenges. She handles complex business disputes, asset-protection, out-of-court debt restructurings, creditor/debtor rights and bankruptcy. Ms. Friesinger represents clients in the purchase and sale of distressed assets through Article 9 sales, foreclosures, receiverships and § 363 bankruptcy sales. She also handles traditional corporate matters (such as acquisitions, dispositions, recapitalizations and finance transactions) and complex financial restructuring, which she accomplishes through negotiation and litigation. In her practice, Ms. Friesinger represents chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, unsecured creditors' committees, secured and unsecured creditors in chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13, and debtors in chapters 7 and 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. She is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and in January 2019, she became a chapter 7 panel trustee. Mr. Friesinger is a member of ABI and the American Bar Association's Bankruptcy Court Structure and Insolvency Process Committee, Thomas F. Waldron American Bankruptcy Law Forum, Dayton Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association and the Inn of Court. She also is an advisory board member of ABI's Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar. Ms. Friesinger received her B.A. in 1997 from the University of Toledo and her J.D. in 2000 from the University of Toledo College of Law.

Eric W. Goering is partner with Goering & Goering, LLC in Cincinnati and has more than 20 years of experience in bankruptcy law. His practice concentrates in business and consumer bankruptcy, including loan workouts and commercial loan restructuring for the large business client. He handles an average of 100 cases per month as trustee and debtor's counsel. Mr. Goering was appointed in 2003 as a chapter 7 trustee in the Southern District of Ohio. He is a past president of the Cincinnati Bar Association, a member of the Judicial Liaison Committee, Bankruptcy Local Rules Committee and Volunteer Lawyers, and an executive committee member of ABI's Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar. He is also a frequent lecturer throughout the country regarding chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy issues. Mr. Goering received his B.A. in economics from Denison University in 1989 and his J.D. from Salmon P. Chase College of Law in 1992.

Hon. John E. Hoffman, Jr. is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Columbus, initially appointed in 2000 and named Chief Judge in October 2021. Previously, he was a partner in the Columbus office of Arter & Hadden LLP, where he practiced primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and commercial litigation, focusing on the representation of chapter 11 debtors and creditors' committees. He joined Arter & Hadden in 1989 after completing a judicial clerkship with Hon. R. Guy Cole, Jr., formerly a bankruptcy judge and now Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Chief Judge Hoffman has been involved in several national and local organizations dedicated to improving the administration of the bankruptcy system and the practice of law in the bankruptcy courts. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, and he has served the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges as a member and chair of its Endowment for Education, as a member and chair of its Education Committee, and as a member of its Board of Governors. Chief Judge Hoffman is actively involved with The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law as both an adjunct professor of business bankruptcy and a member of its National Council. He is the 2015 recipient of its William K. Thomas Distinguished

Jurist Award and the 2016 recipient of its Public Interest Law Foundation's Excellence in Public Service Award. Chief Judge Hoffman also has worked to make legal services available to those who cannot afford them, having served on the Board of Trustees for The Legal Aid Society of Columbus from 1995–2000. He received the Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service by a judge from the Columbus Bar Association and Columbus Bar Foundation in 2012, and in 2015 he was presented with the Ohio State Bar Association's John and Ginny Elam Pro Bono Award, which is given in recognition of "exceptional volunteer service by a lawyer that advances the common good of the people of Ohio." Judge Hoffman received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Wheeling Jesuit University in 1980 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1983.

Hon. Guy R. Humphrey is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Dayton, appointed in 2007. Prior to his appointment, he practiced in the areas of debtor/creditor law, bankruptcy representation, receivership and litigation, representing a broad spectrum of clients, including individual debtors, business debtors, secured creditors, unsecured creditors, committees, and purchasers of assets from financial institutions and bankruptcy estates. That representation spanned many industries, including manufacturing, real estate, lodging, retail, construction, restaurant and food service, transportation, utilities, financial institutions, and equipment sales and leasing. Judge Humphrey is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, the Thomas F. Waldron American Bankruptcy Law Forum, the American Bar Association, the Dayton Bar Association (Foundation Fellow) and the Federal Bar Association, and he served on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit from 2013-18. In addition, he has served as a member of the Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee, the Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Conference Committee (Chair 2015-19) and the Complex Chapter 11 Procedures working group for the district. Both as a practitioner and as a judge, Judge Humphrey has been a presenter at numerous legal education seminars and conferences and has served as a mediator for many contested matters and proceedings. He also has enjoyed hosting many legal externs in his chambers and serving as a judge for the high school Robert N. Farquhar District Mock Trial Competition. Judge Humphrey received his undergraduate degree from Kent State University and his J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Prof. Christopher Muzzo is director of the Small Business and Nonprofit Law Clinic at Northern Kentucky University's Salmon P. Chase College of Law in Highland Heights, Ky. He is a lawyer, entrepreneur and educator. Prof. Muzzo's law practice, including as a partner in The Furnier Muzzo Group, has focused in commercial litigation, including product-liability defense and trade secrets, as well as transactional matters, such as secured transactions, debt restructuring and corporate transactions. As an entrepreneur, he has been involved in enterprises involving legal technology and work-life balance. As an educator, he has taught law and technology-related courses at Salmon P. Chase College of Law. Prof. Muzzo received his B.A. from Northwestern University and his J.D. from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

Hon. Mina Nami Khorrami is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Columbus and was appointed on Sept. 10, 2021, by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She began her career in St. Louis, Mo., where she practiced bankruptcy law and litigation as an associate with the firms of Vogler & Associates and then with Compton, Wells & Hamburg. While she practiced in St. Louis, she successfully argued a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. In 1991, Judge Nami Khorrami relocated to Columbus to open her own firm. Her practice

focused on more complex chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, including arguing before the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She also handled general civil litigation, foreclosure defense, and issues relevant to small businesses. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she also served as a chapter 7 panel trustee. Judge Nami Khorrami has served on numerous committees of the Columbus Bankruptcy Bar and was a frequent speaker at CLE programs. She has long been committed to bankruptcy *pro bono* service in the Columbus community, and in 2013 she received the Columbus Bar Association and Foundation Award for her involvement in the implementation of the chapter 7 bankruptcy *pro bono* project in Columbus. Judge Nami Khorrami also served as vice-chair of the court's Attorney Advisory Committee and as co-chair of its Consumer/Small Business subcommittee. She is a past co-chair of the Columbus chapter of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and a past co-chair of the Bankruptcy Law Institute's (BLI's) Planning Committee. She also served on the board of trustees for the Credit Education Coalition (CEC) and was a member of the Chapter 13 Liaison Committee. Judge Nami Khorrami received her B.S. in business administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and her J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law.

Hon. C. Kathryn Preston is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Columbus. After law school, she clerked for Hon. Alexander L. Paskay in Tampa, Fla., and later for Hon. Donald E. Calhoun, Jr. In between clerkships, she practiced law with the boutique bankruptcy firm of Stichter & Riedel, PA in Tampa. After clerking for Judge Calhoun, she joined the legal department of a large regional bank, where she had a general business practice, including bankruptcy and loan workouts. During her tenure at the bank, she also took a segue into the business arena, when she supervised management of the bank's troubled commercial loan portfolio. On Jan. 1, 2012, Judge Preston was appointed to the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel; she was reappointed in January 2015, and served as chief judge of the BAP from January 2015 to October 2017. She is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, The Florida Bar, Columbus Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Franklin County, ABI, and other bar associations and community organizations. Judge Preston received her B.A. from Stetson University and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law.

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

Jeffrey L. Sallee, CISSP, CISA is a member of Western & Southern Financial Group's Information Security team in Cincinnati, which he joined after retiring from Procter & Gamble. He also is an instructor at the University of the Columbians and co-chairs the Kentucky Bar Association's Law Practice Committee. Mr. Sallee's certifications include Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). He is an alumnus of the Defense Language Institute, received three undergraduate degrees from Purdue University, and received his J.D. from Chase College of Law.

Hon. Gregory R. Schaaf is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky in Lexington, initially appointed on Oct. 1, 2012, and named Chief Judge on Oct. 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, he practiced in the areas of commercial reorganizations, including bankruptcies and workouts, and commercial transactions, including energy-related matters. He represented debtors, creditors' committees, trustees and individual creditors. Judge Schaaf is a CPA and worked as a solicitor in London from 1997-99, handling corporate matters and real estate transactions for English, Russian and American clients. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Judge Schaaf received his B.B. in accounting and his B.S. in law enforcement administration from Western Illinois University in 1984 with high honors, and his J.D. in 1991 from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and participated in its national moot court team and on its moot court board, as well as on the school's *Journal of Mineral Law and Policy*.

Matthew T. Schaeffer is Of Counsel with Bailey Cavaliere LLC in Columbus, Ohio, where his practice focuses primarily on corporate reorganization and workouts, debtor/creditor rights, bankruptcy, commercial litigation and commercial matters. He has experience representing chapter 11 debtors, financial institutions, trustees, and a variety of secured and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy proceedings, litigation and workouts. Mr. Schaeffer is a member of the independent panel of chapter 11 subchapter V bankruptcy trustees and the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the Southern District of Ohio. He also has experience representing businesses in a variety of nonbankruptcy matters. Mr. Schaeffer previously was with an Am Law 100 firm. He was named a "Rising Star" in the *Journal of Law & Politics*, recognized as "Top Lawyer" by *Columbus CEO Magazine* in 2016, and listed as a *Super Lawyer* in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023. Mr. Schaeffer has been a member of the Local Rules Committee, Pro Bono Project, Judicial Liaison Committee and Mediation Subcommittee of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio. He also is a member of the Columbus Bar Association's Bankruptcy Committee, Ohio State Bar Association, Champaign County Bar Association, Thomas F. Waldron American Bankruptcy Law Forum and the Columbus Bar Association's Military Assistance Task Force. Mr. Schaeffer received his B.A. in political science from Ohio State University and his J.D. cum laude from Capital University School of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Curia and served as managing editor of the *Capital University Law Review*.

Hon. Tracey N. Wise is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky in Lexington, appointed on March 31, 2010. She served as Chief Judge from Oct. 1, 2011, until Sept. 30, 2019. Judge Wise also was appointed to the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in 2016, and served as Chief Judge from Oct. 1, 2019, to Oct. 31, 2021. Prior to her appointment, she practiced in the areas of bankruptcy and debt restructuring, served on numerous court-appointed committees, chaired the Bankruptcy Sections of the Fayette County and Kentucky Bar Associations, served as a trustee of the Kentucky Bar Association Client's Security Fund, and was a member of the board of directors of the Lexington Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation. She also served on the executive board of the Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar from 2000-03, and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy (2001) and a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and she has served as the bankruptcy representative on various U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky and Sixth Circuit Committees. Judge Wise was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 1997-09 and in *Super Lawyers Kentucky* as a "Top 50 Lawyer" and "Top 25 Female Lawyer." She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in 1980

from Indiana University and her J.D. from Indiana University School of Law in 1983, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and served as note editor of the *Indiana Law Journal*.