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Faculty Biographies

Hon. Robert D. Berger was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Kansas City on Oct. 16, 2003. Prior to his appointment, Judge Berger practiced law as a bankruptcy and insolvency specialist representing debtors and creditors, and was among the first group of attorneys in Kansas and Missouri to be certified by the American Board of Certification in both consumer and business bankruptcy law. Judge Berger is a member of ABI and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and a founding member of the Kansas Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He has written numerous articles on bankruptcy issues, including chapter 13 tax matters, and is a contributing author to the Kansas Bar Association's *Journal* and *Bankruptcy Handbook* and to *Collier on Bankruptcy*. He is also co-editor of the Kansas Bar Association's *Family Law Handbook* chapter on bankruptcy, has been a contributor to the *Washburn Law Journal* and the *ABI Journal*, and has also served as a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy, insolvency and related tax issues. Judge Berger received his B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1983 and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law in 1986.

Jason L. Bush is a shareholder in the Kansas City, Mo., office of Polsinelli, P.C., where his practice includes complex commercial, bankruptcy, estate and trust, and construction litigation. He is a member of ABI and has authored articles concerning aspects of fraudulent transfer law under the Bankruptcy Code and the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act. Mr. Bush has spent more than 20 years representing clients from an array of industries and has been lead trial lawyer in jury, non-jury and arbitration cases. He has repeatedly been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in commercial litigation, and he has presented CLE seminars to attorneys on a variety of litigation topics. A Bright Flight and Curators Scholar recipient, Mr. Bush received his B.S.B.A. *cum laude* from the University of Missouri in 1994 with an emphasis in finance and banking and his J.D. from the University of Missouri School of Law in 1997.

Richard P. Carmody is a principal bankruptcy lawyer in the Birmingham, Ala., office of Adams and Reese LLP, where his bankruptcy practice focuses on representing secured lenders in the structuring and workout of lending transactions, including bankruptcy court litigation on a wide variety of issues. He also represents purchasers and sellers of distressed assets both inside and outside of bankruptcy. Mr. Carmody served as the first chair of the Alabama State Bar Section on Bankruptcy and Commercial Law and was a member of the Alabama Law Institute's Committees for Revision of the UCC (Articles 3, 4, 4A, 5 and 9). He is a founding member of ABI and served for six years as the first chair (and later co-chair) of ABI's Ethics Committee and later as committee newsletter editor. He also served as vice-chair of the ABI National Task Force on Ethics. In 2012, he was presented with ABI's Membership Service Award. In 1992, Mr. Carmody became the first lawyer in Alabama to be Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. In 1999, he was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, for which he is a director of its Foundation and member of its Pro Bono and Development Committees). He currently serves as the Inaugural Adams and Reese Senior Pro Bono Fellow and works with the National Appleseed Network of 17 social justice centers. Mr. Carmody received his B.A. in finance in 1964 from the University of Illinois and his J.D. in 1975 from Vanderbilt University School of Law.

Daniel J. Casamatta is the Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 13 in Kansas City, Mo., which includes the judicial districts in Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska. He was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2015. Mr. Casamatta has served as the Assistant U.S. Trustee in the Kansas City, Missouri office of the U.S. Trustee Program

(USTP) since 2008. Prior to that appointment, he served as Assistant U.S. Trustee in Grand Rapids, Mich., for 18 years, was an attorney advisor in the Cleveland USTP office for three years, and for periods of time was also the Acting Assistant U.S. Trustee in Indianapolis and the Acting Chief of the USTP's National Bankruptcy Training Institute, located in the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. Mr. Casamatta regularly speaks at the National Advocacy Center on a variety of topics and was the recipient of USTP's Director's Award for Exemplary Service (the USTP's second-highest award) in 2002. Before joining the USTP, he spent five years in private practice in Cleveland with an emphasis on bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Mr. Casamatta received his J.D. in 1982 from Case Western University School of Law.

Hon. Thad J. Collins is the Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Iowa in Cedar Rapids, appointed on March 29, 2010. Previously, he clerked for Hon. Michael J. Melloy as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Iowa and as Chief U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, and for Hon. David R. Hansen, U.S. Eighth Circuit Court Judge. He was also an associate with Leonard, Street and Deinard in Minneapolis and a partner with Pickens, Barnes & Abernathy in Cedar Rapids. Judge Collins is a member of the American, Iowa and Linn County Bar Associations, as well as the Dean Mason Ladd Inn of Court. He received his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1990.

Samuel K. Crocker is a U.S. Trustee for Regions 8 and 20 in Memphis, Tenn. Previously, he practiced law in Nashville, Tenn., for more than 25 years, primarily representing bankruptcy debtors, creditors and trustees. He had also served as a chapter 7 trustee in the Middle District of Tennessee and as a trustee in numerous chapter 11 cases. Mr. Crocker has argued cases before the Fifth, Sixth and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals. He is a former board member of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, which presents an annual seminar in Nashville on commercial law and bankruptcy issues, and a former board member and past president of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. An authority on bankruptcy and trustee-related matters, Mr. Crocker speaks at bankruptcy seminars and training programs around the country and writes articles for scholarly journals and other bankruptcy publications. He received his B.A. from Vanderbilt University and his J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Diana Daugherty is a chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. Previously, she clerked at the Missouri Court of Appeals for three years and held the position of staff attorney for John V. LaBarge, Jr., the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri from 1980-2017. Ms. Daugherty has served on the bankruptcy rules committee for the Eastern District of Missouri and was the 2008 recipient of the Missouri Bar's Roser Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy Practice. She received her J.D. from St. Louis University Law School in 1987.

Jennifer A. Donnelly is counsel in the Kansas City, Mo., office of Bryan Cave LLP and has been involved in the prosecution and defense of complex contractual disputes between large companies, a number of which have involved allegations of fraud and misrepresentation. She also represents several national banks and a number of real estate investment entities in various litigation matters, including the prosecution of commercial foreclosures, obtaining the court appointment and directing the work of real estate receivers, the defense of residential and commercial wrongful foreclosure claims, and the defense of statutory claims under the Truth in Lending Act, the Fair Credit Reporting

Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and various state consumer protection acts. She is currently counsel to a national lender in a class action involving the Missouri Second Mortgage Loan Act. Over the past several years, Ms. Donnelly has worked with clients to obtain dismissals of residential wrongful foreclosure claims and has obtained several summary judgment victories in judicial foreclosure actions that have resulted in the favorable disposition of borrower claims against banks. She frequently argues before state courts and has trial experience in real estate litigation. She also counsels national banks on their residential foreclosure practices. Ms. Donnelly received her B.A. in 1995 from William Jewell College and her J.D. in 1998 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she served as literary editor on the editorial board of the *UMKC Law Review* and served on the editorial staff of *The Urban Lawyer*.

Daniel F. Dooley, CTP is a principal and CEO at MorrisAnderson in Chicago, where he manages the firm's distressed business consulting practice. He is an accomplished crisis manager, business operator and debt restructurer. Mr. Dooley has successfully managed numerous projects for middle-market companies and assumed dozens of interim management positions as CEO, CRO and CFO for client companies nationwide. During his career, he has negotiated numerous transactions involving debt restructuring, supplier accommodations and business sales. Mr. Dooley is experienced in the development and implementation of cost-reduction and restructuring plans, as well as restructuring negotiations between companies and their creditors. He educates company ownership and management on realistic business plans, implementation of cost and liquidity improvements and effective end-game strategies for clients. He also collaborates with management on issues related to turnaround, restructuring plans and business sales, and he specializes in the automotive, aerospace, capital equipment, metals, health care, transportation, food, distribution, oil and gas and real estate industries. Prior to joining Morris Anderson in 1997, Mr. Dooley served as an executive with several Fortune 500 manufacturers in both general-management and financial-management capacities, including Illinois Tool Works, an industrial manufacturer, and Allied Signal, an automotive electronics and aerospace manufacturer. In 2011, he was honored with the Turnaround Management Association's "Turnaround of the Year - Small Company" award for Analytics, Inc., an independent research laboratory in St. Louis, Mo. He has also served on boards of directors and been a key advisor to corporations and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Dooley is a former board member and vice president of the International Turnaround Management Association, and a contributing author to *The Chief Restructuring Officer's Guide to Bankruptcy: Views from Leading Insolvency Professionals* (ABI 2013). He received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. in finance at the Carlson School of Management from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Hon. Dennis R. Dow is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters 7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases, and had been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law every year since 1995. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow is a *pro tem* member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. He also serves on the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and chairs its subcommittee on forms. Judge Dow is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, inducted in March 2013, and was selected

in November 2014 to become a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and serves as a member of the faculty of the Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Institute. Judge Dow is a member of the Missouri and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Associations, and serves as ABI's Secretary. He received his B.A. with honors from the University of Wyoming and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law, where he was notes editor of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

Wendee Elliott-Clement is a senior attorney at Southlaw, P.C. in Overland Park, Kan., where she represents mainly mortgage and personal property creditors in chapter 7, 13 and 11 cases. She is licensed in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa and is federally licensed in Nebraska. In addition, she has served on the Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Advisory Committee and was a member of the Kansas Bankruptcy Bench Bar Committee. Ms. Elliott-Clement is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, Iowa Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association, Topeka Area Bankruptcy Counsel, Association of Women Lawyers and the American Bankruptcy Bar Association. Prior to joining Southlaw in 2008, she was a law clerk for the Jackson County Missouri Circuit Court for Judge David Shinn and Judge Sandra Midkiff, then practiced at a mid-sized litigation firm in Kansas City, where she specialized in banking law, general insurance litigation and employment law. Ms. Elliott-Clement received her B.S. from Vanderbilt University in 1997 and her J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law in 2000.

Lisa A. Epps is a partner with Spencer Fane LLP in Kansas City, Mo., where she guides business owners in transactions, opportunities and legal issues that can arise throughout the life of their businesses. She specializes in corporate law, commercial and contract law, sales and acquisitions, business workouts, restructuring, creditors' rights, cybersecurity and data breaches. She also helps lenders in loan structuring, negotiating and drafting transaction documents, and regulatory compliance. Ms. Epps has represented debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bond trustees, bondholders, investors, bankruptcy trustees, and creditors' and equity-holders' committees in complex corporate restructuring, workout and bankruptcy planning, negotiation and litigation both locally, regionally and nationally. She is skilled in complex business issues, has represented large corporations in chapter 11 restructuring and brought multiple companies out of bankruptcy. Ms. Epps is an advisory board member of the ABI/UMKC Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute, founder and co-chair of IWIRC's Midwest Network, and a member of the Bench Bar Committees for the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Kansas and the Western District of Missouri, ABI, the Kansas City Bankruptcy and Kansas Bar Associations, the Central Exchange and the Association of Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City. She has also been featured in *Best Lawyers – Women in the Law* 2016 for Bankruptcy and Creditor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, received the *Missouri Lawyers Weekly* 2015 Women's Justice Award – Business Practitioner, and listed in *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* for 2012-15, *Kansas City Business Journal* Best of the Bar from 2010-15, and *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law from 2012-17. Ms. Epps is admitted to practice in Missouri and Kansas, and before the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas, the Western District of Missouri and the Eastern District of Missouri, and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Eighth and Tenth Circuits. She received her B.A. in 1991 *magna cum laude* from The American University and her J.D. in 1997 from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Dana M. Estes is a staff attorney for Richard V. Fink, the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City. She has been with the trustee's office since 2004. Ms. Estes has represented the trustee before the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Eighth Circuit and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is licensed to practice law in Missouri and Kansas, is a member of the Missouri Bar Association and is the president-elect of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association. Ms. Estes has been a panelist and speaker at local and national seminars on a variety of chapter 13 topics. She received her undergraduate degree from William Jewell College and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law.

Karie L. Fahrenholz is a staff attorney for W.H. Griffin, Kansas Trustee. Previously, she was with the office of Richard V. Fink, trustee for the Western District of Missouri, where she worked as a case analyst, associate attorney and manager of its Legal Department from 2003-13. During her tenure there, she argued cases in front of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel as well as the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Fahrenholz received her B.S. in 1999 in secondary education from the University of Nebraska, her J.D. in 2002 from the University of Nebraska School of Law and her LL.M. in taxation from the University of Missouri - Kansas City in 2003.

Hon. Brian T. Fenimore is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed in 2017. Previously, he was a partner in the Kansas City, Mo., office of Lathrop & Gage LLP and co-chaired its Banking & Creditors' Rights practice area, representing borrowers and lenders in structuring, negotiating and documenting loan originations and workout, restructuring, deed-in-lieu and voluntary surrender transactions. He also represented borrowers and lenders in problem loan matters, including loan enforcement, guarantor liability, workouts, reorganizations and bankruptcies throughout the U.S. Mr. Fenimore's clients included secured and unsecured creditors, debtors, committees, landlords, tenants, trustees, servicers of mortgage-backed securities, asset-buyers and other parties in interest in all aspects of chapter 11 reorganization. He focused on use of cash collateral, debtor-in-possession financing, automatic stay relief, adequate protection, asset sales and acquisitions, contract assumption and rejection, claim allowance, dischargeability, preferences and fraudulent conveyances, and plan confirmation and cramdown litigation. Mr. Fenimore is admitted to practice in Kansas and Missouri, and before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri and the District of Kansas, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas and the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 2003, among other listings. He is also a frequent speaker and ABI member. Mr. Fenimore received his B.S. *magna cum laude* in 1988 from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Michigan Law School.

Richard V. Fink is the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City and is a frequent speaker on topics related to chapter 13 law and administration. He is licensed in the state of Missouri and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Fink received his B.A. from Baker University and his J.D. from the University of Missouri - Kansas City.

Rachel Lynn Foley is the founder of Foley Law in Independence, Mo., and handles consumer chapter 7s and 13s in both Kansas and Missouri. She is a frequent presenter on the implementation of

technology in the field of bankruptcy and out-of-the-box thinking for bankruptcy representation. Ms. Foley is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. She previously worked in the health care field for 20 years. Ms. Foley received the inaugural K. Colleen Nunnally Award by the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, is a member of the Missouri Bar Association Pro Bono Hall of Fame and is a frequent honoree of the Best of The Kansas City Bar Award. She received her undergraduate degree in the sciences and medicine from Creighton University and her J.D. from Creighton School of Law.

Shelley L. Forrest is an associate with Boul & Associates, P.C. in Columbia, Mo., where she primarily represents consumer debtors in chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases. Before entering private practice, she was an assistant attorney general with the Missouri Attorney General's office, where she represented state entities in bankruptcy proceedings. Ms. Forrest is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, Boone County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Creditor-Debtor Rights Committee and ABI. She is also a member of the Attorney Advisory Group for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri and a member of the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) Advisory Board. Ms. Forrest helped establish the CARE program in the Central Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri, where she continues to coordinate presentations with law students from the University of Missouri School of Law. Ms. Forrest received her B.A. in political science with honors and her B.A. in English from the University of Missouri at Columbia and her J.D. from the University of Missouri School of Law in Columbia in 1997.

David Going is a partner in Armstrong Teasdale LLP's financing restructuring practice group in St. Louis, Mo., and has practiced in the fields of commercial litigation, financial restructuring and business bankruptcy for more than 30 years. He represents distressed businesses, lenders, creditors' committees, asset-purchasers and unsecured creditors in restructurings, workouts and formal insolvency proceedings. Mr. Going is a Fellow in the 21st Class of the American College of Bankruptcy and served as a member of the Eighth Circuit's Admissions Council from 2011-15. He speaks regularly to professional and trade groups regarding insolvency and bankruptcy issues. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the Washington University School of Law, where he co-teaches a course on chapter 11 reorganizations. Mr. Going has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyers* and *Super Lawyers Business Edition*. He received his B.A. in management sciences and accounting from Duke University in 1980 and his J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis in 1983.

Jeana L. Goosmann is the CEO, founder and managing partner of the Goosmann Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa. She guides CEOs through their most important legal matters and serves businesses and financial institutions in highly sophisticated financing transactions, as well as in connection with managing credit risk in and out of bankruptcy. She also helps out-of-state lawyers with transactions and litigation in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Ms. Goosmann received her undergraduate degree with highest distinction from the University of Nebraska and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from Creighton University School of Law, where she was an editor of its law review, and she completed the Tuck Education Program at Dartmouth University for Chief Executive Officers in 2016.

William H. Griffin is a chapter 13 trustee for the District of Kansas in Fairview, appointed in 1990. He served in Kansas in both Topeka and Kansas City until 1998, and now serves in Roeland Park, Kan. He has served as a panelist for the NACTT, Kansas Bar Association and Kansas City Metro Bar

Association, and has sponsored brown bag lunches for the local bar on current topics in chapter 13. Prior to that, Mr. Griffin was primarily a debtor's attorney involved in chapter 7, 12 and 13 bankruptcies and periodically represented creditors. He received his undergraduate degree in business and psychology from Trinity University in San Antonio in 1969 and his J.D. from Washburn University in 1973.

Patricia E. Hamilton is a chapter 7 trustee and a partner with Stevens & Brand, L.L.P. in Topeka, Kan., where she practices in the areas of debtor and creditors' rights, commercial law and litigation, and bankruptcy matters. She is a member of the Kansas Bar Association and served as vice president of its Bankruptcy & Insolvency Section from 2003-04, and is a member of the Missouri and Topeka Bar Associations, the Topeka Area Bankruptcy Council, the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association (for which she served as president from 1996-2003), and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, for which she served on its Bankruptcy & Insolvency Committee from 1996-2004. She is also a member of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association, having served as president (2005-06), president-elect (2004-05) and secretary (2003-04). Ms. Hamilton was the KWAA Regional Representative for Johnson County from 2002-03, a member of the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas from 1998-2004, and a co-chair of the Program Committee for the Kansas Women Attorneys Association's 2009 Annual Conference. She previously clerked for the Shawnee County District Court from 1986-87 and for Hon. John T. Flannagan of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas from 1990-96. Ms. Hamilton is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and was named its 2018 Topeka Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law "Lawyer of the Year." She received her B.A. summa cum laude in 1983 from Washburn University and her J.D. cum laude in 1987 from Washburn University School of Law.

Stanton A. Hazlett is a disciplinary administrator in the Disciplinary Administrator's Office for the State of Kansas in Topeka, where he has been since 1986. From 1977-86, he was in private practice in Lawrence, Kan. Mr. Hazlett received his B.G.S. from the University of Kansas and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law.

William C. Heuer is a partner in the Bankruptcy, Workout and Restructuring Department of Westerman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein, LLP, in Uniondale, N.Y., and has experience acting on behalf of creditor clients and constituencies in bankruptcy and pre-bankruptcy litigation in matters relating to distressed or insolvent businesses. His experience spans a wide range of industries in bankruptcy cases under chapters 7, 9 and 11, and has also been retained in a number of international bankruptcy proceedings under chapter 15. He also has expertise in addressing jurisdictional issues in bankruptcy. Mr. Heuer has appellate experience as well and has been involved in a number of landmark bankruptcy appeals decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Wellness Int'l Network Ltd. v. Sharif*, *Law v. Siegel*, *Stern v. Marshall* and *Schwab v. Reilly*. He is a member of the editorial advisory board of the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice* and has authored numerous articles on bankruptcy law. He is also an adjunct professor of law in the LL.M. in Bankruptcy program at the St. John's University School of Law, where he teaches bankruptcy jurisdiction and bankruptcy procedure, and he is a member of the Bankruptcy Program Advisory Board at St. John's. Mr. Heuer is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy law and has had speaking engagements with ABI, the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, and the New York City Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee. He also devotes his time to *pro bono* matters, including *pro bono amicus* representations in matters before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2017, Mr. Heuer became a member of

the Bankruptcy Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and a member of its Pro Bono subcommittee. He is also a member of a committee advising the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York regarding its local rules, and is an elected member of the American Law Institute. Mr. Heuer received his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo and his J.D. in 1997 from St. John's University School of Law, where he was an articles editor and staff member of the *ABI Law Review*.

James R. Hobbs is a shareholder with Wyrsh Hobbs & Mirakian in Kansas City, Mo., and is a trial lawyer and educator. His legal expertise is primarily in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, criminal defense and commercial litigation. Mr. Hobbs is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, the American Board of Criminal Lawyers and the International Society of Barristers, and he is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a former president of the Western District of Missouri/Eastern District of Kansas Chapter of the American Board of Trial Attorneys, and he served as the Missouri State chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He has also served on the Missouri Appellate Commission and is currently a member of the Missouri Supreme Court Commission on Race and Ethnic Fairness. Mr. Hobbs is a past recipient of the Lon O. Hocker Memorial Trial Lawyer Award, bestowed by the Missouri Bar Foundation, and also serves as an adjunct professor at UMKC Law School. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Hobbs received his J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City Law School in 1981.

Dale Irwin is the founder of The Irwin Law Firm in Kansas City, Mo. He was previously a member of Slough Connealy Irwin & Madden LLC in Kansas City for 35 years, where his practice was devoted to consumer protection law. Mr. Irwin began his career at Legal of Western Missouri, where he worked from 1973-81 as a staff attorney, a member of the litigation unit and an associate director of the program. He has taught consumer law as an adjunct faculty member at the UMKC School of Law and has been a presenter at numerous consumer law conferences. Mr. Irwin is a founding member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates. He has received several awards for his representation of low-income consumers, including the Missouri Bar Association's Pro Bono Award, Legal Aid of Western Missouri's Coburn Award and the National Consumer Law Center's Vern Countryman Award. He was a "Midwest Voices" columnist with the *Kansas City Star* in 2004 and 2014, writing on consumer law topics. Mr. Irwin has handled a wide variety of consumer cases at the trial and appellate levels, including numerous consumer class actions. He has been actively involved in litigation and legislative efforts to stem the tide of high-cost credit and the financial devastation it visits on the poor. He also handles *pro bono* consumer cases as a member of Legal Aid's Voluntary Attorney Project (VAP), serves as a mentor for other VAP attorneys and sits on the VAP Advisory Board. Mr. Irwin received his undergraduate degree in political science and his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1973.

Hon. Lee M. Jackwig is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Iowa in Des Moines. Prior to her appointment in 1986, she was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Iowa, an Iowa Deputy Industrial Commissioner and an Assistant Attorney General of Iowa. Judge Jackwig is a former member of ABI's Board of Directors, a former member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Board of Governors and a former chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Federal Bar Association. She served on the Committee on Automation and Technology of the Judicial Con-

ference of the U.S. from 1990-97. Judge Jackwig received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in the classics from Loyola University and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

Hon. Janice M. Karlin was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka in 2002 and is in her second five-year term on the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. She became Chief Judge of the Tenth Circuit BAP on Sept. 4, 2015. Before taking the bench, Judge Karlin served as an assistant U.S. attorney for 22 years, concentrating on civil litigation in the federal courts. She also served as an adjunct professor of trial practice at the University of Kansas. Judge Karlin chairs the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, is the court's liaison to the Bankruptcy Bench Bar Committee, and serves on the board of editors of the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*. She is also a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, the American and Kansas Bar Associations, and the Women Attorney Association of Topeka. Judge Karlin received her undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas and served as note and comment editor for the *Kansas University Law Review*.

Kay Standridge Kress is a corporate restructuring and bankruptcy partner in the Detroit office of Pepper Hamilton LLP, where she concentrates her practice in corporate restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy matters. She has more than 29 years of experience in representing debtors, creditors' committee, secured creditors, trustees and individual creditors and parties in interest, both as lead counsel and as co-counsel in out-of-court workouts and in bankruptcy courts in the Eastern District of Michigan, the Western District of Michigan, the District of Delaware, the Southern District of New York and in other bankruptcy court in the United States. She also has extensive experience representing secured creditors in federal receivership actions. Ms. Kress is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, is named in *The Best Lawyers in America*, and was selected for inclusion on the 2014 *Michigan Super Lawyers*, *Who's Who Legal: Insolvency & Restructuring* for 2014 and the Top Lawyers list in *DBusiness* magazine. She is currently chair of the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. Ms. Kress is former co-chair of the Programs and Publications Subcommittee, former chair of Secured Creditors Subcommittee and former editor-in chief of the e-newsletter of the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the ABA. She is a founding member of the Michigan Chapter of IWIRC, past chair of the Debtor/Creditor section of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, an ABI member, a board member of Matrix Human Services and a legal advisor to Omega Phi Alpha, National Service Sorority. Ms. Kress was the American Bar Association Business Law Advisor to the Uniform Law drafting committee for the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Bowling Green State University in 1978 her J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School in 1986, where she was a member of Order of the Coif.

Elizabeth M. Lally is a complex banking litigator with Goosmann Law Firm in Sioux City, Iowa, where her focus is on complex business and commercial litigation, debt restructuring and out-of-court workouts, chapter 7 liquidation, and chapter 12 and 11 reorganizations. She represents banks and other lenders as plaintiffs or defendants in civil litigation and in their capacity as creditors navigating the often difficult world of corporate insolvency and restructuring. She also is experienced in representing bankruptcy trustees and other creditors in suspected bankruptcy fraud investigations and

all resulting litigation. Ms. Lally received her B.A. *cum laude* in English from Bradley University in 1999 and her J.D. in 2005 from DePaul University College of Law.

Prof. David Lander is a professor of practice at St. Louis University Law School in St. Louis, Mo., where he teaches courses in lawyering process, bankruptcy, consumer finance and commercial transactions. He has written extensively on business bankruptcy, agricultural finance, consumer finance and consumer counseling. Prof. Lander was formerly a business bankruptcy attorney and was a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, the American College of Bankruptcy and the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. He received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.

Kathleen A. Laughlin is the standing chapter 13 trustee for the District of Nebraska in Omaha and has served since 1986. She administers all chapter 13 bankruptcies filed in the federal district of Nebraska. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Laughlin's legal experience included clerking for Hon. Timothy J. Mahoney of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska, founding her own law firm, and working at the Douglas County Attorney's Office and as the Legal Aid Society in Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to law school, she was a social worker. Her background also includes psychosocial and cancer genetic research at Creighton University School of Medicine and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. In addition, she was also a professor of social welfare, and a medical social worker and administrator for 10 years. Ms. Laughlin is a member of the Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas Bar Associations, the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and ABI. She received her B.S. from Duchesne College of the Sacred Heart and the University of Omaha, her Master's in social work in 1971 from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and her J.D. in 1982 from Creighton University School of Law.

Eric D. Madden is a partner with Reid Collins & Tsai LLP in Dallas, where his practice focuses on the representation of liquidating trustees, creditor committees and private-equity funds in complex bankruptcy and business litigation cases. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for bankruptcy litigation, is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and has been named a *Texas Super Lawyer* in business litigation. Mr. Madden is a former co-chair of ABI's Bankruptcy Litigation Committee and is a current co-chair of ABI's Bankruptcy Taxation Committee. He received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Kansas, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Coif, and served as editor-in-chief of the *Kansas Law Review*.

Kate Mahoney is chief of the Fraud and Corruption Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City, Mo., a position she has held since 2010. She joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City in 2003. Ms. Mahoney received her J.D. from the University of Texas Law School and worked at the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office from 1990-2003, serving in almost every unit in the office.

Patrick McInerney is a partner in Spencer Fane LLP's White Collar and Government Investigations practice group in Kansas City, Mo., and has more than two decades of experience as a trial lawyer, having first-chaired many high-profile and complex cases in federal and state courts. As a former state and federal prosecutor, last with the Organized Crime Strike Force Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri, his background prosecuting organized crime and public corrup-

tion enable him to counsel individuals and companies facing federal criminal or civil investigation. Mr. McInerney's experience includes cases involving allegations of business disputes, health care and tax fraud, commercial merchandising practices act violations, criminal trade secret violations, and general criminal violations and civil disputes. He provides representation to people and companies in the private and public sectors, in matters ranging from high-stakes civil and criminal litigation to government proceedings and internal investigations. Mr. McInerney designs and execute internal and parallel investigations, develops crisis-response protocols, and coordinates defense tactics and strategy. He also advises individuals in private and public leadership positions regarding regulatory and law enforcement response. Mr. McInerney is admitted to practice in Kansas and Missouri and is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas and the Western District of Missouri, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. He received his B.S. in 1987 from the University of Missouri - Kansas City and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law.

Lloyd E. Mueller is a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Kansas City, Mo. He previously clerked for Hon. Leif M. Clark of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas, was as a trial attorney for the Office of District Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, and was a special assistant U.S. attorney. Mr. Mueller received his J.D. from the University of Missouri - Columbia School of Law in 1986, having previously earned a Master of Divinity from the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo.

Andrew W. Muller is a partner in the Bankruptcy Division of Stinson Leonard Street LLP in Kansas City, Mo., and has represented banks and other lenders as creditors in bankruptcy cases and as plaintiffs or defendants in civil litigation. He has experience representing clients with loan issues and problem loans, including drafting workout agreements, filing suits when appropriate and defending against lender-liability lawsuits. He has also represented lenders in multiple types of lawsuits in addition to borrower disputes, including check-fraud cases, wrongful-foreclosure cases, and Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Reg. B, Truth in Lending, Regulation X, Fair Credit Reporting Act and Fair Debt Collection Practices Act cases. Mr. Muller cpreviously clerked for Hon. Gary A. Fenner. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in English and political science in 1999 from the University of Nebraska and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from Creighton University in 2002.

Hon. Cynthia A. Norton is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, sworn in on Feb. 1, 2013. Prior to her appointment, she was a founding partner of Grimes & Rebein, LC in Lenexa, Kan., where she focused on consumer and business bankruptcy, creditors' rights, commercial workouts and related fields. She also clerked for Hon. John E. Rees of the Kansas Court of Appeals and Hon. James A. Pusateri of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Topeka, Kan., and was previously an associate with Stinson, Mag & Fizzell, an associate and then partner with Lewis, Rice & Fingers, and Of Counsel with Levy & Craig. She has published an annual column reviewing Eighth Circuit bankruptcy cases of interest for *Norton's Bankruptcy Law Advisor* and has authored numerous articles, book chapters and seminar papers on bankruptcy-related topics, is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is a member of various bankruptcy organizations. She is the recipient of the Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award and the Robert L. Gernon Award for Outstanding Contribution to CLE. Judge Norton received her B.A. in French and art history Phi

Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from Kansas University and her J.D. from the Kansas University Law School, where she was associate editor of its law review.

Hon. Robert E. Nugent is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas in Wichita, initially appointed June 14, 2000, and he served as Chief Judge from 2002-16. He has also served on the U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Tenth Circuit since 2002. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Nugent was a partner in the Wichita firm of Morris, Laing, Evans, Brock & Kennedy, Chtd., where he practiced in the areas of commercial litigation, real estate and bankruptcy law. He was admitted to the Kansas and Federal Bars in 1980, was president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2014-15 and was secretary (2010-12) and a member of NCBJ's Board of Governors (2006-09). He currently serves on the Judicial Conference Committee on Space and Facilities and is a past member of the Committee on Federal and State Jurisdiction, as well as a former president of the Wichita Bar Association (1998-99). A frequent speaker for bankruptcy organizations and continuing legal education groups, Judge Nugent is a co-editor and chapter author of the *Kansas Bankruptcy Handbook, Third Edition* (Kansas Bar Association 2009) and a member of the board of editors of the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*. He received his B.A. in English and political science in 1977 with honors from the University of Kansas and his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1980.

Jill D. Olsen is a solo practitioner at The Olsen Law Firm, LLC in Kansas City, Mo., practicing primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, collections and commercial litigation. She represents both creditors and debtors and is also a chapter 7 panel trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri. Ms. Olsen is admitted to practice in Missouri, Kansas, the Western District of Missouri and the District of Kansas, as well as in the Eighth and Tenth Circuits. She was on the Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Committee for the District of Kansas and the Ac-Hoc Advisory Committee for the Western District of Missouri Bankruptcy Court. Ms. Olsen is a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Association of Women Lawyers, Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association, Topeka Area Bankruptcy Counsel, ABI, National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and the Turnaround Management Association, and she is chair of the Kansas City Women's Bankruptcy Association. She received her J.D. with honors in 2000 from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law.

Kenneth Pasquale is a member of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP in New York and has practiced for more than 25 years. He has a diverse litigation practice involving a variety of bankruptcy-related and complex commercial matters at both the trial and appellate levels, in which he frequently represents institutional creditors in reorganization proceedings. Mr. Pasquale is currently co-chair of ABI's Ethics & Professional Compensation Committee, a former co-chair of the Bankruptcy Litigation Committee and a faculty member for ABI's Litigation Skills Symposium. He is also a frequent author and lecturer on bankruptcy litigation and related topics, and has repeatedly been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor Rights. Mr. Pasquale also devotes significant time toward *pro bono* activities through his firm's Public Interest Project, and is a member of the board of directors of Justice in Motion, a nonprofit organization that seeks to protect migrant rights by ensuring justice across borders. He received his B.B.A. *magna cum laude*

from Pace University in 1986 and his J.D. *cum laude* in 1990 from Brooklyn Law School, where he was a member of the *Brooklyn Law Review* and the Moot Court Honor Society.

Jeffrey N. Pomerantz is a partner with Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP in Los Angeles, where his practice includes representing companies, creditors' committees and private-equity funds in complex in- and out-of-court financial restructurings and merger-and-acquisition transactions. He has particular expertise in restructurings in the restaurant and retail sectors, and is generally focused on middle-market companies with annual revenues ranging from \$50 million to \$300 million. Mr. Pomerantz also has an active creditors' committee practice, having represented more than 20 creditors' committees over the past several years. He is ABI's President and authored "The Bare Necessities of Critical Vendor Motions—It's a Jungle Out There," 13 *Journal of Bankruptcy Law & Practice* (2004), and he has lectured or been a panelist for ABI, the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, the Financial Lawyers Conference and the Credit Managers Association. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and was named a "Super Lawyer" in the field of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights from 2009-12 in *Los Angeles* magazine. Mr. Pomerantz received both his undergraduate degree Phi Beta Kappa and his J.D. from New York University, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Michael Rapp is a co-founder of Stecklein & Rapp in Kansas City, Mo., and is licensed to practice in Kansas and Missouri. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Wyandotte County Bar Association and the National Association of Consumer Advocates. Since graduating law school, Mr. Rapp has focused his practice exclusively on consumer law with a concentration on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), Federal Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) and Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). He regularly gives talks around the Kansas City area to community groups on the topics of debt and credit and blogs about FDCPA stories of interest, providing short, good-to-know tips for those interested in keeping their finger on the pulse of consumer protection law. Mr. Rapp received his J.D. from UMKC School of Law, where he served as a research administrator for *Friedman on Leases* and was awarded the Sanford B. Ladd Award for exceptional achievement in real estate law. Prior to attending law school, he was decorated and honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

Hon. Charles E. "Sketch" Rendlen, III is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, appointed to a 14-year term on May 23, 2006. He was also appointed as a *pro tem* member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in August 2010 and was appointed to the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council in January 2015. Judge Rendlen previously was in private practice as a litigator for 28 years and served as the firm's managing partner for 13 years. In June 2003, he was appointed by the Attorney General to serve as a U.S. Trustee for Region 13, which is comprised of Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Judge Rendlen graduated *magna cum laude* from William Jewell College in 1972 and received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1976.

William J. Rochelle, III is ABI's Editor-at-Large and resides in New York. Previously, he published for Bloomberg from 2007-15. Prior to his second career in journalism, Mr. Rochelle 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, he travels the country for ABI, speaking to bar groups and professional organizations on hot topics in the turnaround community and trends in consumer bankruptcies.

Mr. Rochelle earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Hon. Thomas L. Saladino is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska in Omaha, sworn in on Aug. 31, 2006, and named chief judge in 2008. He was appointed to the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in 2009. Previously, Judge Saladino was with the firm of Fitzgerald, Schorr, Barmettler & Brennan, P.C., L.L.O. in Omaha, where he specialized in real estate law, banking law, finance, bankruptcy and debtor/creditor relations. Until his judicial appointment, he had spent his entire legal career at the Fitzgerald, Schorr law firm. Judge Saladino has been a speaker at numerous seminars and training programs pertaining to commercial lending, commercial leasing, landlord/tenant law and bankruptcy law. Prior to his appointment, he was a member of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Omaha, Nebraska, and ABI, and a Fellow in the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. Judge Saladino received his B.B.A. from Creighton University and his J.D. magna cum laude in 1987 from Creighton University School of Law, where he served as editor of the *Creighton Law Review*.

Hon. Barry S. Schermer is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis and Cape Girardeau, Mo., and sits on the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and authored an article on negative amortization that was published in the *Bankruptcy Developments Journal*. He also authored a *Washington University Law Quarterly* article examining the effect of community interests in bankruptcy. Judge Schermer graduated from Washington University School of Law and was an adjunct professor of law there for more than 25 years.

G. Blaine Schwabe, III is counsel at GableGotwals in Oklahoma City and has more than four decades of legal experience in commercial litigation, bankruptcy and insolvency law, having guided numerous clients through difficult and complex civil litigation, business bankruptcy and receivership cases across a wide range of industries. His cases have included issues of reorganization, liquidation, exit financing, competing creditor claims, offset litigation, breach of fiduciary duty, statutory and court-appointed receivers, foreclosure actions, lien-enforcement actions, and other various complexities. Mr. Schwabe has also served as adjunct professor of law at the Oklahoma City University College of Law and as special lecturer in law at the University of Oklahoma College of Law. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy (Fellows Class 3; Board of Directors (2009-15); 10th Circuit Regent (2005-09) and has been listed in *Oklahoma Super Lawyers* since 2006. He has also been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1983, currently, in the practice areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Bet-the-Company Litigation and Commercial Litigation. Mr. Schwabe serves as a director and is a former chairman of the Bankruptcy and Reorganization Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, and he serves on the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. In addition to being a member of the bar in Oklahoma, of all Oklahoma federal district courts and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, he is licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and in the State of Maine. Mr. Schwabe received his B.B.A. in 1970 from the University of Oklahoma and his J.D. in 1974 from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and served as editor of the *Oklahoma Law Review*.

Hon. Anita L. Shodeen is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Iowa in Des Moines, appointed in 2009. She also serves on the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and teaches bankruptcy and debt collection as an adjunct professor at Drake University Law School. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Shodeen was in private practice in Des Moines, where she focused on bankruptcy, debtor/creditor and transactional issues. She served as a chapter 7 trustee and chapter 12 trustee for the Southern District of Iowa. Judge Shodeen has been appointed as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference, is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, and is a member of ABI, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the Federal Bar Association. She is currently serving as a member of the Executive Committee of the Federal Trial Judges of the ABA Judicial Division, and she actively participates in a number of CLE presentations on the topics of bankruptcy, insolvency and debtor/creditor rights. Judge Shodeen received her J.D. in 1985 from Drake University.

James L. Snyder is a U.S. Trustee for Region 12 in Des Moines, Iowa, covering the Southern District of Iowa and the Districts of North Dakota and South Dakota. He has been with the U.S. Trustee's Office for 25 years. Previously, Mr. Snyder was a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. He received his B.Sc. in criminology in 1982 from California State University at Fresno and his J.D. in 1985 from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

Hon. Dale L. Somers is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka, appointed in September 2003. He hears cases in Topeka, Kansas City and Wichita. Previously, he was in private practice for 32 years. Judge Somers was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in March 2010. He served as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Somers served on the Board of Governors for the Kansas Bar Association from 1988-98 and as president from 1995-96. He is a member of the American and Kansas Bar Associations and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Somers received his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University in 1968 and his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law in 1971.

Sharon Stolte is counsel with Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard P.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and has more than 25 years of experience in business law and business and commercial litigation. Her practice focuses on bankruptcy, chapter 11 debtor and creditor issues, as well as chapter 7 and chapter 13 consumer debtor matters. Ms. Stolte has represented creditors in all aspects of creditors' rights litigation, claim-objection litigation, collateral realization, mechanic's liens, collections, foreclosures and replevin litigation. She has also assisted financial institutions, lenders and large suppliers with consumer and commercial restructuring of troubled credits and other business matters. In addition to representing clients before both state and federal courts, she has served as national counsel for several Kansas City-based construction industry firms. Ms. Stolte has served as director of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar, vice chair of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association Commercial & Bankruptcy Law Committee, and as an officer for the Former Workout Professional Organization. She also currently serves as a member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, ABI, and the American and Johnson County Bar Associations, and she serves as a director of the Turnaround Management Association's Midwest Chapter. Ms. Stolte received her B.A. from the University of Colorado and her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis on March 17, 2003. She is the first African-American appointed to the bankruptcy bench in the Eighth Circuit and was appointed Chief Judge on Feb. 1, 2013. From 1991-93, she was a law clerk for Hon. James J. Barta in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and from 1993-98, she was an associate with Campbell & Coyne P.C. She later joined Ziercher & Hocker, P.C., eventually rising to partner, then Husch & Eppenberger, LLC as a result of a merger, where she practiced in its Insolvency Practice Group. In 1997, she was appointed to the panel of bankruptcy trustees for the Eastern District of Missouri and as chapter 7 trustee in 1999 for Family Company of America (d/b/a National Supermarkets). In 2000, the Missouri Supreme Court appointed her to its Regional Disciplinary Committee, and in 2001, she was appointed by then-Gov. Bob Holden as one of four commissioners for the St. Louis City Board of Election Commissioners. Judge Surratt-States also participated in Washington University's Mentoring Program for law students and supervises several interns from various law schools in her chambers. She is a member of the Missouri Bar, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Mound City Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Judge Surratt-States received her B.A. *cum laude* from Oklahoma City University in 1988 and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1991.

Marshall C. Turner is a partner with Husch Blackwell LLP in its Financial Services & Capital Markets group, where he represents clients with respect to all aspects of financial restructuring, especially in connection with distressed mergers and acquisitions. In addition, he is involved in all types of financial transactions, including representations of national lenders in asset-based lending, cash-flow financings, capital restructure and syndicated credits. Mr. Turner is a member of the Turnaround Management Association's Missouri Chapter and has sat on its board of directors since 2013, ABI, the American Bar Association, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Missouri Bar. In addition, the Association of Corporate Counsel named him Value Champion for 2017. Admitted to practice in New York and Missouri, Mr. Turner received his B.A. in 1994 in history and French from William Jewell College and his J.D. in 1999 with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Louis J. Wade is a shareholder with McDowell Rice Smith & Buchanan PC in Kansas City, Mo., where he practices primarily in the areas of creditors' rights, commercial litigation, bankruptcy and collection. He also provides advice and defenses for lawyers and collection agencies in cases alleging violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. Mr. Wade provides legal services to small, mid-sized and large businesses and individuals. Previously, he was an associate in a small firm, captive counsel to a national company, founder of his own firm, and partner in a large regional firm before joining McDowell Rice. His clients include automotive lenders and numerous manufacturers, lenders and collection agencies. Mr. Wade assists in dischargeability litigation, motions to lift stay, objections to confirmation, preference litigation, director and officer litigation, accounts receivable litigation for bankruptcy estates, and defense of contempt motions for discharge and stay violations; pursues collection of commercial accounts (*e.g.*, open-account sales of goods and services involving building supplies, agricultural products, computer services, auto parts, legal services and virtually any other product or service) and retail accounts (*e.g.*, credit cards and student loans). He also defends lawyers and collection agencies in state and federal court in cases alleging violations of FDCPA; defends lawyers in claims involving alleged ethical violations; defends companies in claims by the Attorney

General; pursues cases involving contract, real estate, construction and other disputes between businesses; enforces security interests, foreclosures, replevins and mechanic's liens; and seeks recovery under automobile dealer bonds. Mr. Wade is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Eighth and Tenth Circuits and the District of Columbia Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas and the Western District of Missouri, and the Missouri and Kansas Courts of Appeals. He received his B.A. in 1976 in economics and political science from the University of Iowa and his J.D. from the UMKC School of Law.

David A. Warfield is a partner in Financial Restructuring Practice Group of Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, Mo. He represents clients in connection with financial restructurings, asset liquidations, out-of-court workouts and bankruptcy cases. Mr. Warfield is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is currently the Eighth Circuit Regent on the American College of Bankruptcy's Board of Regents. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 1993, which in 2015 named him Lawyer of the Year for Litigation-Bankruptcy in St. Louis. Mr. Warfield received his J.D. from Washington University Law School in St. Louis in 1984.

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. He is ABI's president and sits on the 15-member expert panel for ABI's newly created Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. 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. He 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), has been an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* and currently serves as a contributing editor of the *Thomson Reuters Bankruptcy Law Letter*. Judge Wedoff is a frequent lecturer and has 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.

Abigail B. Willie is a law clerk to Hon. Charles E. "Sketch" Rendlen, III in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. Prior to clerking for Judge Rendlen upon his appointment to the bench in 2006, she clerked for Hon. Raymond W. Gruender of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and Hon. George P. Kazen of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. She also practiced corporate insolvency law for several years at Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. in Dallas, Ms. Willie regularly publishes and speaks on issues related to bankruptcy law. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1996 and her J.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 2000.