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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, in *The Washburn Law Journal*, the *ABI Journal* and the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*, and is a contributing author to the Kansas Bar Association's *Bankruptcy Handbook* and to *Collier on Bankruptcy*. He is also co-editor of the Kansas Bar Association's *Family Law Handbook* chapter on bankruptcy and has 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.

Susan A. Berson is a partner with and co-founder of the Berson Law Group LLP in Overland Park, Kan., and has more than two decades of legal experience in financial, tax and regulatory matters. She focuses her practice on advising clients on the new tax laws and how they can be used to achieve financial, tax and business goals. Previously, Ms. Berson worked for the U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division, in Washington, D.C., where she was awarded the Outstanding Attorney Award from the Attorney General in 1996 for trying tax cases in her representation of the IRS. Since entering private practice in 1998, she has advised entrepreneurs and small business owners in various industries and professions, including other attorneys and financial service professionals, on diverse tax and business matters. She is also experienced in FinTech and virtual currency matters. For practitioners and their clients in the bankruptcy realm, prebankruptcy planning tax consequence analysis, indebtedness discharge, negotiating acceptable offers-in-compromise, pursuing administrative appeals, responding to subpoenas, guiding officers and directors of troubled businesses through tax-related fiduciary duties, and handling tax disputes are a few of the subjects that Ms. Berson handles concerning state and IRS tax claims. She is also a certified mediator and a FINRA arbitrator, and she has authored many articles and several books, including *Federal Tax Litigation* (Law Journal Press) which she is responsible for updating twice a year. Ms. Berson received her J.D. from the University of Nebraska College of Law and her LL.M. in Taxation from Georgetown University Law Center.

James M. Bicknell is a loan administrator in the Senior Lending Division of Community First National Bank in Overland Park, Kan., and since the late 1990s has specialized in reverse mortgages (HECMs). He focuses on the loan approval process and interpreting current regulations in regards to senior citizens. Mr. Bicknell has spent 42 years in the banking, finance and mortgage fields. He received his Bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University in 1973 and his graduate degree with an emphasis on accounting and business administration from Washburn University in 1975.

N. Larry Bork is an attorney with Goodell Stratton Edmonds & Palmer LLP in Topeka, Kan. He began doing student loan litigation since 1985 and represents many regional and national holders and guarantors of student loans. His student loan bankruptcy practice consists of the entire state of Kansas and all locations within the Western District of Missouri. Mr. Bork has been involved in well over 500 adversary proceedings involving student loan issues and has litigated more than 100 of them. Of those, approximately 20 resulted in published opinions. He also has argued student loan issues to the

Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Bork was an adjunct assistant professor at Washburn University, teaching civil procedure in the paralegal curriculum from 1986-89. He has long been AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been listed for several years in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers* in the fields of medical malpractice defense and personal injury litigation defense. In 2013 and 2018, he was selected as the Lawyer of the Year in Topeka for personal-injury litigation defense by that organization. Mr. Bork is admitted to practice in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. He has also appeared in state courts in Iowa *pro hac vice* on multiple occasions. In addition, he is admitted in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. He is a member of the Kansas, Nebraska and Topeka Bar Associations, the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel and the Defense Research Institute. Mr. Bork received his undergraduate degrees in biology, natural sciences and secondary education from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Neb., and his J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1983, where he served on the moot court board and authored "The Application of Federal Reserved Water Rights to Groundwater in the Western States," 16 *Creighton Law Review* 781 (1983).

Hon. Katherine A. Constantine is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Minnesota in St. Paul. Prior to her appointment to the bench in 2013, she was a partner in Dorsey & Whitney LLP's Finance and Restructuring Department, primarily practicing in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring law on behalf of various interests. A frequent lecturer on bankruptcy issues, Judge Constantine received her undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University in 1977 and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1980.

Crystanna Cox is an underwriting counsel with First American Title Insurance Company in Overland Park, Kan. Previously, she was an associate at the law firms of Lathrop & Gage LLP and Spencer Fane Britt & Browne LLP, where she practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, loan workouts, debt restructuring and foreclosure. Ms. Cox was honored with the Missouri & Kansas Rising Star award by *Super Lawyers* in 2012 and 2013. She is currently a member of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association's Standards for Title Examinations Committee and the Kansas Land Title Association's Education Committee. She is also currently an executive committee member of the First American Bankruptcy Corporate Underwriting Practice Group. Ms. Cox received her Bachelor's degree in financial management, with a minor in political science, from the University of Arkansas and her J.D. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Diana Spuhl Daugherty is the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, appointed on March 1, 2017. 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.

Hon. Dennis R. Dow is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters

7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases, and had been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law every year since 1995. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow is a member of the Missouri Bar, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and as ABI's Secretary. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, inducted in March 2013, and was selected in November 2014 to become a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference. He also is a member of the 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 Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and was appointed in October 2014 to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, for which he chairs its subcommittee on forms. 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*.

Devon J. Eggert is a partner and co-leader of the Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group at Freeborn & Peters LLP in Chicago. He has represented creditors' committees, debtors, and secured and unsecured creditors in chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court restructurings across the U.S. and abroad. His practice covers all aspects of complex chapter 11 cases, including obtaining "first day" relief for debtors, debtor-in-possession financing and cash-collateral issues, § 363 sale transactions, enforcement and relief from the automatic stay and related provisions, assumption and rejection of leases and contracts, and plan-confirmation disputes. In addition to his restructuring experience, Mr. Eggert has represented trustees and other parties in numerous liquidation cases. He also represents both trustees and defendants in preference, fraudulent conveyance and other complex bankruptcy litigation across the U.S. His industry experience includes health care, manufacturing, food service and processing, professional services, telecommunications, technology, printing and media, automotive and aviation, real estate and financial services, among others. Mr. Eggert has experience in cross-border insolvency proceedings, including advising the foreign representatives in the first chapter 15 cases filed in the District of Wyoming and the Eastern District of Wisconsin, and in structuring these types of complex proceedings on behalf of receivers, financial institutions and foreign representatives. His notable engagements include representing Deloitte, as receiver and foreign representative, in the chapter 15 proceeding involving CPI Plastics Ltd., an \$80 million manufacturing business in the U.S. and Canada, in its successful going-concern liquidation under Canada's Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act. Mr. Eggert received his B.S. from Clemson University and his J.D. *cum laude* from DePaul University College of Law, where he was executive editor of the *DePaul Business and Commercial Law Journal* and was a CALI award recipient in Commercial Paper and Copyright and Trademark Law.

Toby English is a loan administrator and founder of the Senior Lending Division of Community First National Bank in Overland Park, Kan., and has been in the mortgage business for 18 years. He specializes in reverse mortgages. Mr. English received his business degree from the University of Nebraska Lincoln.

Ronald Farmer is the vice president and co-founder of Credit & Homeownership Empowerment Services, Inc. (better known as CHES, Inc.) in Kansas City, Mo., a HUD-approved nonprofit provid-

ing housing, financial and credit education, counseling and coaching services to area LMI households. He is HUD-certified in reverse mortgage (HECM) counseling and has conducted more than 600 sessions since 2015. Mr. Farmer has a background in small business and presents nationally to housing and financial service nonprofits on diversifying income streams and maximizing outcomes through the effective use of technology. Locally, Mr. Farmer serves on the Money Smart KC Executive committee, he is a member of the Homeowners in Training initiative, and helps support and promote entrepreneurship opportunities within the Kansas City urban core. He is a graduate of the University of Central Missouri's Six-Sigma Certification program.

Hon. Brian T. Fenimore is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Aug. 31, 2017. Previously, he was a partner in the Kansas City, Mo., office of Lathrop & Gage LLP for more than 20 years and co-chaired its Banking & Creditors' Rights practice area, representing debtors, creditors and many other parties in interest. He also represented borrowers and lenders in problem loan matters, including loan enforcement, guarantor liability, workouts, reorganizations and bankruptcies throughout the U.S. Judge 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. Judge Fenimore received his B.S. *magna cum laude* in 1988 in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Michigan Law School, after which he clerked for Hon. Arthur B. Federman.

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.

Laura Uberti Hughes is senior counsel at Rabo AgriFinance LLC in St. Louis, where she advises on special-asset matters and corporate governance issues. Prior to joining Rabo AgriFinance, she was an attorney in the restructuring and insolvency group at Bryan Cave LLP. Ms. Hughes received her J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

Hon. Teresa J. James is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court in the District of Kansas in Kansas City, appointed on Jan. 16, 2014. Previously, she was in private practice in Wichita until she joined the Overland Park branch of Martin, Pringle, Oliver, Wallace & Bauer, LLP in 2003, where she was a partner and specialized in energy, oil and Gas, condemnation and complex litigation. Judge James previously served on the board of the Kansas Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education Commission, on the Bench-Bar Committee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, and on the Kansas Appleseed Foundation Board. She is a member of the Johnson County, Wichita and Kansas Bar Associations. She is also a Fellow of the Kansas Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation, president-elect of the Earl E. O'Connor Inn of Court, and a member of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. Judge James received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas in 1981 and her J.D. from the University of Kansas in 1984.

Eric L. Johnson is a partner at Spencer Fane LLP in Kansas City, Mo., and the co-practice group leader for its Banking and Financial Services Group. His practice involves representation of secured creditors, trustees and other interested parties in insolvency-related matters. Mr. Johnson is a frequent speaker on insolvency-related topics, serves as the Education Director for ABI's Secured Credit Committee and is a member of the ABI/UMKC Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute advisory board as well as ABI's Midwest Regional Endowment Committee. In addition, he chairs the Missouri Bar's Business/Corporate Division and is the president-elect and an executive committee member for the Kansas Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Insolvency Section. Mr. Johnson has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and the *Kansas City Business Journal's* "Best of the Bar," and is listed as a *Missouri* and *Kansas Super Lawyers*. He is also Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Mr. Johnson received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Brent King, CTP is a managing director with GlassRatner LLP's Advisory & Capital Group in Lenexa, Kan., and is an executive management and financial advisory professional with more than 20 years of experience in distressed management and advisory services and 30 years of experience as a corporate executive leader. Prior to joining GlassRatner in 2017, he served as the founder and principal professional of Prairie Advisors, a middle-market corporate advisory firm that placed him in multiple interim-management and advisory roles. Mr. King has served as the C-level executive or senior advisor to many public and private corporations. He has experience leading distressed business, operating complex start-ups and advising insolvent businesses, and his roles have included CRO of public and private corporations in chapter 11, advisor to corporations for strategic planning in pre-bankruptcy periods, forensic investigator of financial fraud, receiver of distressed real estate developments, executor/CEO of a distressed real estate holding venture, director of patent-infringement defense, valuation advisor to buyers and sellers of corporate assets, liquidator of insolvent manufacturing facilities, and M&A advisor to agricultural equipment and automobile dealerships. Mr. King has worked with corporations operating in a broad range of industry sectors, including biodiesel production, ethanol production, metal manufacturing, plastic injection, molding, agricultural grain production, automobile dealerships, agriculture equipment dealerships, truck-based logistics, truck body manufacturing, livestock equipment distribution, and livestock and dairy production. He is a member of TMA and ABI. Mr. King received his B.F.A. from Western Illinois University and his M.F.A. from Northwestern University.

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.

Michelle M. Masoner is a partner with Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP in Kansas City, Mo., and practices primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights. She represents creditors and debtors in complex restructurings and chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcies, as well as related civil litigations and appeals. Ms. Masoner has represented secured and unsecured lenders, special servicers of securitized commercial mortgages, indenture trustees, unsecured creditors, landlords, investors and debtors. In addition, she has represented a number of commercial and lending clients in real estate and commercial litigation cases in both state and federal courts in a number of other jurisdictions. Ms. Masoner received her B.S.J. in 1990 from the University of Kansas, her M.S.J. from Northwestern University in 1991 and her J.D. in 1997 from the University of Texas.

Mira Mdivani practices business immigration law with the Mdivani Corporate Immigration Law Firm in Overland Park, Kan. She serves as immigration law counsel to U.S. and multinational corporations, providing advice, representation, immigration compliance audits and training. Ms. Mdivani represents employers in the IT, engineering, food processing, manufacturing, health, insurance and banking industries, working closely with in-house counsel and HR professionals to ensure corporate immigration compliance and availability of visas for international personnel. Ms. Mdivani teaches corporate immigration law as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law, and the I-9 auditor and business global mobility courses for the Corporate Immigration Compliance Institute. She has chaired and served as president of the Missouri Bar Immigration Law Committee and the Kansas Bar Association Immigration Law Section. Ms. Mdivani's professional work and leadership have been recognized by numerous awards, including The Kansas Women Lawyers Association's Carol Foreman Medal of Civility, the Missouri Bar Association's President Award, Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City President Award, Business Practitioner of the Year by Missouri Lawyers Media, Best of the Bar by the *Kansas City Business Journal*, Robert L. Gernon Award for Excellence in Continuous Legal Education, and pro bono recognition from the UMKC Law Foundation, the Kansas Bar Association and the American Immigration Lawyers Association. In addition, she is president-elect of the Kansas Bar Association. Ms. Mdivani received her J.D. in 1999 from the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law.

Adam Miller has been a trial attorney with the U.S. Trustee's office in Kansas City, Mo., since 2007. Since 2010, he has also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Missouri. During his tenure with the Department of Justice, he has been detailed to the Office of General Counsel for the Executive Office of U.S. Trustees, where he worked (and continues to work) on nationwide consumer bankruptcy matters, and served as the program's banking and bonding counsel, responsible for advising senior leadership on depository regulations and collateralization practices affecting more than \$3 billion in bankruptcy estate funds. Prior to joining the UST Program, Mr. Miller practiced bankruptcy law with a large consumer debtor's firm in Oklahoma City and clerked for Hon. Yvonne Kauger, Associate Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court. Currently, he also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Law, where he teaches classes in banking law and consumer finance. He is a member of the bar of the states of Oklahoma and Missouri and of numerous federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and is a past recipient of the *Missouri Lawyer's Weekly* "Up and Coming" Award. Mr. Miller received his J.D. *summa cum laude* at the Oklahoma City University School of Law and his LL.M. from the Morin Center for Banking and Finance Law at Boston University.

Trey A. Monsour is a shareholder in the Houston and Dallas offices of Polsinelli PC. He is experienced in insolvency, restructuring, commercial bankruptcy and workouts, and he counsels debtors, committees, indenture trustees, lenders, private equity, landlords, working-interest and royalty owners, strategic and financial buyers, and equity-holders. Mr. Monsour has been actively involved in cases in the retail, restaurant, supplier, manufacturing, health care and energy sectors. He has served as national restructuring counsel for a Global Fortune 100 Corporation, and he regularly serves as a court-appointed mediator for bankruptcy disputes. His additional experience includes serving two consecutive years as course director of the State Bar of Texas Advance Business Bankruptcy Course and six consecutive years on the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center, he is soon to be appointed to the William P. Hobby School of Public Affairs at the University of Houston, and he was in *US News and World Report's* Best Lawyers in America list for bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation for six consecutive years. Mr. Monsour is a contributing author to *Inside the Minds: Creditor Rights in Chapter 11 Cases* (Aspatore 2010). He received his B.B.A. in 1985 from the University of Texas at Austin and his J.D. in 1989 from the University of Houston Law Center.

Navin Nagrani is an executive vice president and principal of Hilco Global in Northbrook, Ill., where he has served as a central dealmaker in many of Hilco's largest principal and advisory-related transactions for more than 15 years. His primary responsibilities include leading several key strategic initiatives for the firm, including shaping the real estate business-development strategy and execution, as well as overseeing deal origination, deal qualification and transaction structuring. Mr. Nagrani is on the executive board of directors for the Real Estate Investment Association (REIA), where he previously served a term as president. He also is director of Strategy for the Young Real Estate Professionals Association and sits on the National Board of Trustees for the Turnaround Management Association (TMA). In addition, he is an active member of the Restaurant Leadership Advisory Council. A published author of articles, Mr. Nagrani frequently speaks at industry events on the topics of restructuring and real estate. He is sought-after in the real estate industry, having been named to the prestigious "40 Under 40" list of top executive leaders by both M&A Advisors and, more recently, the Commercial Finance Association. He is also an award-winning TMA member. Prior to joining Hilco, Mr. Nagrani was a strategic consultant for Hewitt Associates, where he worked on merger & acquisition assignments covering the financial services industry. Before Hewitt Associates, he was a junior

economist for the Federal Reserve Bank. Mr. Nagrani is a graduate of Loyola University in Chicago and is a licensed real estate broker in the State of Illinois.

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.

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 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 and co-chair of ABI's Midwest Bankruptcy Institute. She received her J.D. with honors in 2000 from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law.

Braden Perry is a partner with Kennyhertz Perry LLC in Kansas City, Mo., and is experienced in advising clients in federal inquiries and investigations, particularly in enforcement matters involving novel or emerging issues. He couples his technical knowledge and experience defending clients in front of federal agencies with a broad-based understanding of compliance from an institutional and regulatory perspective. Mr. Perry counsels clients in virtual currency and blockchain regulation and developments, and has been often sought for speaking engagements and sourced for media. He has trained the Nebraska and Kansas Attorneys General's Offices on regulatory and legal aspects of virtual currency and blockchain, and presented the emerging technology of blockchain at the Conference of Western Attorneys General. *Law360*, *Institutional Investor*, *Minyanville* and *Money* are among some of the media outlets that have sought his virtual currency expertise. Mr. Perry is admitted to practice law in Kansas and Missouri and has held the Series 7, 24, and 66 licenses with FINRA. He also serves as a National Futures Association and FINRA arbitrator. Mr. Perry received his B.S. in

journalism from Kansas State University and his J.D. in 2002 from the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was a member of the *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy*.

Deborah L. Petersen is a member of Petersen Law, PLLC in Council Bluffs, Iowa, where her practice is primarily centered around real estate, business, estate planning, trust administration and probate matters. She is a member of many professional associations and has served several roles in the Iowa State Bar Association, including chair of Scope & Correlation, past chair of the Ways and Means Committee, past council chair of the Real Estate Section, and member of the Title Standards Committee and the Foundation Board. Ms. Petersen is a member of the Iowa Supreme Court Attorney Grievance Commission. She has also served on the Iowa Finance Authority's Title Guaranty Board and presently serves as a chapter 7 panel trustee in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa. In addition, she is also active in many other organizations and is a certified Farm Transition Coordinator. Ms. Petersen received her her B.S.B.A. in 1981 and her J.D. in 1984 from Creighton University.

David L. Pollack is senior counsel in the Real Estate Department of the Philadelphia office of Ballard Spahr LLP and is the former chair of the firm's Bankruptcy, Reorganization and Capital Recovery and Leasing Practice Groups. He focuses his practice on matters relating to shopping centers with particular emphasis in the areas of the national representation of landlords in retail bankruptcy matters, representation of tenant interests in landlord bankruptcies and commercial leasing. Mr. Pollack frequently lectures to professional groups on real estate, bankruptcy and commercial leasing issues. He is a former member of the Advisory Committee of the Georgetown University Law Center/ABI: Bankruptcy Views from the Bench Program, emeritus of the International Council of Shopping Centers' Law Conference Committee (having served as chair of the 2011 Conference) and chair of ICSC's Bankruptcy Task Force. He has been recognized as a Pennsylvania *Super Lawyer* for 2004-18, is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2008-18, is listed in *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers – Real Estate* for 2013-17 and has been regularly named by *The Deal* as one of the most active bankruptcy practitioners in the country. Mr. Pollack has served as a consultant to the Committee on Executory Contracts and Leases of ABI's Commission to Study Chapter 11 Reform, and he is a fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He is a graduate of Trinity College and the Law School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Paul A. Randolph is the Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 8 (Kentucky and Tennessee), appointed in April 2018, and serves as the Assistant U.S. Trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, a position he has held since 2004. Previously, he practiced law in Arizona with the U.S. Trustee's office and with two Arizona law firms. Mr. Randolph's work with the U.S. Trustee's Office includes numerous high-profile cases and various national projects and committees. Active in a variety of civic and charitable endeavors, he has received a U.S. Department of Justice Award for Community Service and served on the executive board of the Mound City Bar Association in St. Louis, for which he received an Outstanding Executive Board Member award. Mr. Randolph was chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Arizona Bar, and he is a member of ABI, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and the National Bar Association, for which he was designated a Distinguished Attorney of Region VII. He has lectured at the National Bankruptcy Institute in Columbia, S.C., and at numerous seminars. Mr. Randolph received his B.S. with honors in 1984 from Lindenwood University and his J.D. in 1987 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport is the Garman Turner Gordon Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an Affiliate Professor of Business Law and Ethics in the Lee Business School at UNLV. Previously, she clerked for Hon. Joseph T. Sneed III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit following law school, then practiced primarily bankruptcy law with Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco from 1986-91. Her specialties are bankruptcy ethics, ethics in governance, law firm behavior, and the depiction of lawyers in popular culture. In 2001, Prof. Rapoport was elected to membership in the American Law Institute, and in 2002, she received a Distinguished Alumna Award from Rice University. She is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2009, the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel presented Prof. Rapoport with the Public Service Counsel Award at the 4th Annual Counsel of the Year Awards. In 2017, she received the Commercial Law League of America's Lawrence P. King Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy, and in 2018, she was one of the recipients of the NAACP Legacy Builder Awards (Las Vegas Branch #1111). Prof. Rapoport received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Rice University in 1982 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1985.

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 served as a member of the Eighth Circuit Judicial Council. 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.

Brian L. Shaw is a partner in the Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy Department of Fox Rothschild LLP in Chicago and has 25 years of experience representing debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditor and equity committees, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, and plaintiffs and defendants in bankruptcy and creditor rights-related litigation. He was previously a member of Shaw Fishman Glantz & Towbin LLC. Mr. Shaw is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and formerly served as ABI's President, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Vice President-Membership. He is also a past chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee. Mr. Shaw previously served as a contributing editor of the *ABI Journal* and has authored and co-authored numerous articles in such publications as the *Norton Bankruptcy Law Letter*, *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, *Business Credit* and *Credit Today*, as well as for the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education, and he has spoken on a variety of bankruptcy-related topics at national and regional conferences. He also chaired ABI's inaugural Professional Development Program and regularly serves on

the faculty of ABI's Litigation Skills Symposium. Mr. Shaw is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Illinois, Central District of Illinois, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Western District of Michigan and Northern District of Indiana, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Seventh and Eighth Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court of the United States. He is also admitted to the Federal Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Shaw received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Paul D. Sinclair is counsel with Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gonard P.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and has more than 35 years of experience as a first chair trial lawyer in jury, non-jury and arbitration cases, and in the representation of secured and unsecured creditors. He has also represented business debtors, guarantors, committees of unsecured creditors and equity securityholders, receivers and liquidating trusts in commercial disputes, and business restructuring, workout and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Sinclair frequently has represented directors and officers in fiduciary-duty litigation and buyers and sellers of significant businesses in asset/business sales and acquisitions. With his experience in piercing the corporate veil, alter ego and successor liability, subordination, recharacterization, fraudulent transfers, preference matters and partnership disputes, he is actively involved in planning major corporate restructuring and high-net-worth individual asset-planning and protection. Mr. Sinclair received the Missouri Bar Association's Oliver Rasch Award in 1989 and has been listed since 2003 as one of the "Best of Bar" in the *Kansas City Business Journal*. In addition, he is recognized in *Missouri* and *Kansas Super Lawyers* and in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Sinclair has published numerous articles in the *ABI Journal* on Ponzi scheme clawback cases and serves as a member of the board of the *ABI Law Review*. He frequently lectures on legal topics and contributes to Missouri Bar publications, and he has served as an adjunct professor of real estate transactions at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Mr. Sinclair received his A.B. *magna cum laude* from Boston College and his J.D. from Georgetown 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 Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka, initially 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 Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and of the American Bar Association. 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.

Dane Stangler is Chief Policy Officer at Genome in Kansas City, Mo., which works with local leaders and governments to increase the success rate of startups and accelerate economic growth. He works with member ecosystems to measure, inform and advise on programs to catalyze change, drive

investment and improve the likelihood of success. Mr. Stangler has more than 12 years of experience working with entrepreneurs, policymakers, foundations and economic development organizations. He was previously the vice president for Research and Policy at the Kauffman Foundation, and he has written and published widely in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Huffington Post*, *Washington Monthly* and *Real Clear Markets, Inc.* In addition, he has been a key contributor to broadcast and print outlets, as well as an expert witness before the U.S. Senate on topics of entrepreneurship and economic growth. Mr. Stangler received his B.A. in English in 2001 from Truman State University and his J.D. in 2004 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School.

Bruce E. Strauss is a partner with Merrick Baker & Strauss, P.C. in Kansas City, Mo., where he represents creditors and debtors in bankruptcy proceedings and has served as a chapter 7 panel trustee since 1986 in the Western District of Missouri. He has practiced in commercial and bankruptcy matters in Kansas City since 1977 and was formerly a partner in the firm of Shockley Reid & Koger. Mr. Strauss is a frequent speaker regarding bankruptcy matters and has been appointed as a receiver in courts in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties. He has been named a *Super Lawyer* every year since 2007 and has been named as Best of the Bar by the *Kansas City Business Journal*. Mr. Strauss received his B.A. from Park College in 1970, his M.P.A. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1973 and his J.D. from its School of Law in 1977.

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 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.

Donald L. Swanson is a shareholder with Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. in Omaha, Neb., and has represented many committees (both official and ad hoc) in bankruptcy. He has also helped creditors maximize value and minimize loss in hundreds of cases. Mr. Swanson publishes a blog on bankruptcy and mediation topics at www.mediabankry.com and is admitted to practice in Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, the District of Nebraska and the District of South Dakota, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, he has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law

and Litigation – Bankruptcy from 2008-18, holds an AV-Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, has been featured in *Great Plains Super Lawyers* for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights and in *Super Lawyers* from 2009-17, and is a court-approved mediator in both the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts of Nebraska. Mr. Swanson received his A.A. from Grace University in 1976, his B.S. in political science from the University of Nebraska - Omaha in 1977, and his J.D. from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln in 1980, where he was an associate editor of the *Nebraska 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. He is ABI's immediate past president and sits on the 15-member expert panel for ABI's 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. 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), 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.

Julie A. Welch, CPA, PFS, CFP is a shareholder and director of Taxation with Meara Welch Browne, P.C. in Leawood, Kan. She has presented tax-planning seminars to various groups, has appeared on radio and television, and has been quoted in numerous publications on many tax issues. Ms. Welch is a member of the AICPA, MSCPA and FPA. She received the AICPA Sid Kess Award for Excellence in Continuing Education in 2015 and the UMKC Alumni Achievement Award for 1999. She also served on the AICPA's planning committee for the "Tax Planning Strategies for the High-Income Individual" conference, for which she is also a frequent speaker. Ms. Welch currently serves on the AICPA's Personal Financial Planning Executive Committee and the Kansas City Estate Planning Symposium Committee. She is also a co-columnist for the *Journal of Financial Planning* and a frequent columnist for *CPA Magazine*, and she co-authored and published *101 Tax Saving Ideas*, now in its Tenth Edition. Ms. Welch received her B.S. in accounting and business administration from William Jewell College and her M.S. in accounting with a taxation focus from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Mark J. Welch, CPA, CTP is a principal at MorrisAnderson in Pittsburgh and has more than 20 years of bankruptcy and restructuring experience, particularly in leadership roles and fiduciary positions with clients. He has held interim-management positions as a CFO, CRO, CEO and financial advisor with underperforming and bankrupt companies, and he has optimized recoveries in liquidations, receiverships and bankruptcy sales. Mr. Welch has specific expertise in environmental resolution,

bankruptcy, forensic accounting, cost-reduction, asset recovery, restructuring plans and liquidation. He has also testified in state and federal courts as an expert witness, prepared fraud cases for the government and testified in bankruptcy court. Mr. Welch's recent experience has spanned a wide variety of business sectors, including the automotive, aerospace, construction, plastics, heavy equipment, transportation and environmental remediation sectors. Prior to joining MorrisAnderson, he was the director of Internal Audit at Southern Air Transport, Inc., a mid-sized cargo air-transport airline. He also spent eight years with the Office of Inspector General for both the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. In that capacity, he specialized in fraud investigation, loss prevention, large bank assistance agreement transactions, liquidations, inventory audits, due-diligence reviews, information system audits and congressional inquiries. Mr. Welch is a member of both the American Institute of CPAs and the Turnaround Management Association. He received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Nicholas J. Zluticky is a partner with Stinson Leonard Street LLP in Kansas City, Mo., in the firm's Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Division, where he represents lenders in all aspects of debtor/creditor relationships. His experience includes the representation of secured and unsecured lenders in bankruptcy cases, as well as Kansas and Missouri foreclosures, collection actions against borrowers and guarantors, workouts, participation disputes and lender-liability defense. He also has experience representing clients in all aspects of bankruptcy matters, including debtors (*e.g.*, Interstate Bakeries Corp., Bistate Bistro Associates, L.P. and Gas-Mart USA, Inc.), liquidating trustees (*e.g.*, Blue Sun St. Joe Refining LLC), bankruptcy trustees (Social Networking Technology Inc.) and creditors' committees (*e.g.*, Blue Sun St. Joe Refining, LLC). Most recently, Mr. Zluticky was counsel for the debtors in the jointly administered bankruptcy case of *In re John Q. Hammons Fall 2006, LLC*. The debtors owned and operated 35 hotels throughout the country, more than 30 parcels of undeveloped real estate in 11 states, several commercial real estate properties throughout Missouri, the Federal Courthouse in Springfield, Mo., golf courses, real estate leased to restaurants, a minority interest in a casino, and the rights to the film *The Great American West*. Mr. Zluticky received his B.A. in political science in 2005 from the University of Kansas and his J.D. in 2008 with honors from Washburn University, where he was a staff member on the *Washburn Law Journal*.