



AMERICAN  
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# 2021 Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Wendi Alper-Pressman** is a partner in the St. Louis, Mo., office of Lathrop GPM LLP, where her principal focus is on the representation of both borrowers and lenders in connection with construction financing, asset-based loan facilities and commercial real estate loans. Most recently, she has represented law firms in connection with negotiating and structuring of litigation finance transactions and prepared nonconsolidation opinions for special-purpose entities in securitized loan facilities. Ms. Alper-Pressman has represented developers, business owners, regional banks, national banks, community banks and finance companies in loan workouts and restructurings, forbearance agreements, foreclosures, bankruptcy proceedings, enforcement actions, lender liability and other litigation. Her bankruptcy experience ranges from the preparation of routine filings on behalf of unsecured creditors to the development and implementation of sophisticated strategies on behalf of secured creditors, equipment lessors, landlords and official unsecured creditors' committees, including retiree committees. She has represented purchasers of distressed assets both in and outside of bankruptcy proceedings, and has litigated dischargeability complaints, preferences and fraudulent conveyance actions, issues relating to the allowance of claims, validity of liens and executory contracts. Ms. Alper-Pressman is admitted to practice in Missouri and Illinois, and before the U.S. District Courts for the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois and the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri, and the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a member of ABI and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, and she was the Missouri Bar Association's Financial Services Committee's inaugural chair in 2015. In addition, she serves on the board of directors of the Risk management Association, for which she served as president in 2015. Ms. Alper-Pressman received her B.A. in 1982 from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. in 1985 from Washington University School of Law, where she served as associate editor of the *Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law*.

**Joyce Bradley Babin** is the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas in the Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Harrison and Central Divisions. Prior to her appointment, she was attorney in private practice in Little Rock, where she concentrated her practice primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Ms. Babin previously served as president of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) and in other leadership positions for the organization. She is a past-president of the Debtor/Creditor Bar Association of Central Arkansas and past-chair of the Arkansas Bar Association Debtor/Creditor Law Section. Ms. Babin is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and Arkansas Bar Foundation. She also is a member of the Overton Inn of Court, Arkansas Bar Association, Arkansas Bar Foundation, Pulaski County Bar Association and the Pulaski County Law Library Board. Ms. Babin served as editor of the two *Arkansas Bankruptcy Handbooks*, published by the Arkansas Bar Association. She has been recognized for numerous years by the Arkansas Bar Association as a Best of Continuing Legal Education presenter and has received special awards for planning and presenting continuing legal education programs for the Arkansas Bar Association. Ms. Babin is a former clerk to the late Hon. Robert F. Fussell, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge. She received her J.D. from the William H. Bowen School of Law, where she served as executive editor of the *UALR Law Journal*.

**January M. Bailey** is a partner at Prella Eron & Bailey in Wichita, Kan., where she focuses primarily on consumer bankruptcy cases. She obtained her first job after law school by talking about the movie *Office Space* and the red stapler that her future boss had on his desk; the job involved bankruptcy practice, and since that time, she has been actively involved in the local and state bankruptcy communities. Ms. Bailey currently serves on the District of Kansas Bankruptcy Bench

Bar Committee and as chair for the local (Wichita) bankruptcy practice committee, both of which she has done for the last five years. She was named a “Rising Star” in bankruptcy by *Super Lawyers* in 2019 and was selected to participate in NCBJ’s NextGen program in 2018. Ms. Bailey received her B.S. in business administration and B.A. in French from the University of Kansas, and her M.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

**J. Thomas Beckett** is a shareholder with Parsons Behle & Latimer in Salt Lake City and heads the firm’s bankruptcy practice group. He has represented a diverse roster of clients in chapter 11 cases, notably, in the Yellowstone Mountain Club bankruptcy, as lead counsel to the creditors’ committee, for which he obtained the equitable subordination of a \$370 million secured loan to enable unsecured creditors to be paid first. Formerly an associate at Milbank in New York City, Mr. Beckett’s work experience also includes a year on the staff of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights. He recently served as chairman of the board of directors of Clark Planetarium and currently serves on the Utah Supreme Court’s Ethics and Discipline Committee. He has maintained a whitewater river guide’s license and wilderness first responder certification for 40 years. Mr. Beckett received his B.A. from Brown University in 1979 and his M.B.A. in finance from New York University Stern School of Business Administration in 1986. He also was trained as a mediator at the Harvard Law School’s Program on Negotiation.

**Hon. Robert D. Berger** was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Kansas City on Oct. 16, 2003, and was reappointed on Oct. 16, 2017. 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 also is a chapter and section author for *Collier on Bankruptcy* and the *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*, and has authored articles for various publications, including *The Washburn Law Journal*, the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal* and the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*. In addition, he is 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. in history and political science from the University of Kansas in 1983 and his J.D. from Washburn University School of Law in 1986.

**Hon. Paul W. Bonapfel** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed in 2002. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law in Atlanta with Lamberth, Bonapfel, Cifelli & Stokes, P.A., now known as Lamberth, Cifelli, Ellis & Nason, P.A. As an attorney, Judge Bonapfel represented all types of parties in bankruptcy cases, including consumer and business debtors in liquidation cases, business debtors in reorganization cases, chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy trustees, creditors’ committees, and creditors in both consumer and business cases. Judge Bonapfel is a co-author of *Chapter 13 Practice and Procedure* (Thomson Reuters). A Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, he has served as chairperson of the Bankruptcy Sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Bar Association and was a director and president of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, which presents an annual seminar on bankruptcy law and procedure. In addition, he teaches a course at Mercer Law School in Macon, Ga., on consumer bankruptcy practice. Judge Bonapfel received his B.A. *cum laude* from Florida State University in 1972 and his

J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1975, where he was a notes editor of the *Georgia Law Review*. Following law school, he clerked for U.S. District Judge Wilbur D. Owens, Jr., in Macon.

**Veronica D. Brown-Moseley** is a shareholder at the Boleman Law Firm, P.C. in Richmond, Va., and represents consumers in chapter 7 and chapter 13 bankruptcy cases in the firms' Richmond, Hampton and Virginia Beach offices. She serves as the president of the Hill-Tucker Bar Association, one of the oldest historically African-American bar associations in Virginia. Ms. Brown-Moseley is a past co-chair of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation's Virginia chapter. She also is a co-founder and serves as vice president of Brighter Tomorrows Begin Today, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting individuals in achieving their academic and professional goals. Ms. Brown-Moseley is a frequent writer and speaker on consumer bankruptcy-related issues. She received her B.A. in political science from Virginia Commonwealth University and her J.D. from the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law.

**Michael J. Bujold** is the associate general counsel for General and Administrative Law in the Executive Office for U.S. Trustees at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He also currently serves as the acting assistant U.S. Trustee (AUST) for the U.S. Trustee Program's Houston field office. As associate general counsel, Mr. Bujold provides leadership and guidance on complex administrative issues to both EOUST senior leadership and to U.S. Trustee field offices, oversees all aspects of the USTP Ethics Program, assists the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) in its implementation of policy initiatives. He also manages a broad range of administrative and general law matters on the USTP's behalf, such as those related to the Privacy Act, the Freedom of Information Act, the Federal Tort Claims Act, the Administrative Procedures Act, the Equal Access to Justice Act and the Department's Touhy regulations. In addition, he supervises a team of OGC trial attorneys and received an Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service. As Acting AUST, Mr. Bujold manages the administrative and legal operations of the USTP's Houston field office, including supervision of personnel, the implementation of USTP policies and priorities and enforcement strategies to combat fraud and abuse in the bankruptcy system, and the supervision of private trustees. Prior to becoming associate general counsel, he served as a trial attorney in OGC and focused on chapter 11 proceedings. Before joining OGC in 2014, he served as a trial attorney in the U.S. Trustee's Riverside field office and clerked for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Mr. Bujold has lectured on bankruptcy retention and compensation, chapter 11 creditor committees and USTP case oversight. He is an active ABI member and a published author in the *ABI Journal*. Mr. Bujold received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

**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 chairs the U.S. Trustee Program's nine-member

SBRA Working Group, which assisted in implementing the SBRA for the Program and which advises local USTP offices about policies and procedures to follow in SBRA cases. In 2018, he was given the USTP Director's Award for Distinguished Service (the Program's highest award). 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. Ashely M. Chan** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Prior to taking the bench, she was a shareholder at Hanglely Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller and concentrated her practice in the areas of bankruptcy and corporate restructuring. From 1996-97, Judge Chan clerked for Hon. Gloria M. Burns of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. Before joining HASPS, she was an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in its business and finance section, where she focused on bankruptcy, corporate restructuring and corporate finance. Judge Chan has received numerous recognitions, including being selected as a Leader in Bankruptcy/Restructuring by *Chambers USA*, being listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights, and being listed as a Pennsylvania Lawyer on the Fast Track by *The Legal Intelligencer* and *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*. She also served as chair of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference and president-elect and board member of the Homeless Advocacy Project. Judge Chan received her J.D. in 1996 from Rutgers School of Law – Camden, where she received Tax Honors with Distinction and the Rutgers Pro Bono Publico Award.

**Hon. Bonnie L. Clair** is a Bankruptcy Judge in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. Prior to her appointment in 2020, she spent many years in private practice at Summers Compton Wells LLC representing both creditors and debtors in bankruptcy, commercial, and consumer finance matters; she previously had piloted the field attorney program at Norwest Financial, Inc. (now Wells Fargo Financial, Inc.) and served in the U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program as an attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in St. Louis, Mo., and Little Rock, Ark. She also served as a member of the Region X Committee for the Missouri Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel and the Missouri Bar's Fee Dispute Resolution Committee panel. Judge Clair appeared on "Jeopardy!" in 2006 and "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" in 2002. She received her undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1990 and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1993, where she was an articles editor for the *Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law* (now the *Journal of Law and Policy*), a national competitor in the New York City Bar Moot Court competition and a law clerk for the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri.

**Katharine B. Clark** is an attorney with Thompson Coburn LLP in Dallas and represents clients before bankruptcy courts, federal and state trial courts, arbitration panels and appellate courts nationwide. She routinely handles bankruptcy and insolvency litigation, including the representation of debtors, banks, court-appointed fiduciaries and creditors in chapter 11, 7, 15 and 13 bankruptcies. Ms. Clark has broad commercial litigation experience related to troubled and insolvent businesses. Her experience includes representing companies, fiduciaries, lenders, secured and unsecured creditors, and constituencies from every segment of the capital structure in federal and state court reorganization, liquidation and litigation proceedings. She has helped clients navigate insolvency

matters involving billions of dollars in liabilities. In 2017, Ms. Clark was part of a team that received the Turnaround of the Year Award (Large Company) from the Turnaround Management Association for her work on the first successful bankruptcy reorganization of a life-settlement company. She also has experience in bankruptcy and litigation matters involving the real estate and energy industries, and she has litigated actions related to fraud that leads to bankruptcy or other displacement of management or control, including fraudulent-transfer litigation and state and federal court receivers. Ms. Clark received her undergraduate degree from Austin College and her J.D. from SMU Dedman School of Law.

**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 ABI, the Missouri Bar and the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. 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 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. 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, then appointed in 2018 to chair the committee. 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*.

**Vickie L. Driver** is a director in the Crowe & Dunlevy's Dallas office and is a member of its Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights, Corporate & Securities, Healthcare and Indian Law & Gaming Practice Groups. Her practice concentrates on bankruptcy and insolvency matters, distressed-asset transactions, chapter 11 reorganization proceedings and Native American economic development. Ms. Driver has successfully represented restaurants, health care facilities and Native American Nations in several chapter 11 reorganization and liquidation matters. She sits on the board of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, is a co-founder and the inaugural president of the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers, and is former chair of the Dallas Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section. Ms. Driver is a frequent speaker and author on bankruptcy issues and has been recognized as a top rated bankruptcy attorney by *Super Lawyers* since 2014. Ms. Driver received her J.D. from Baylor Law School, where she was a Dean's List scholarship recipient, a member of the Order of the Barristers and a participant in the *Baylor Law Review*.

**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 25 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.

**Jeffrey S. Fraser** is a partner at Albertelli Law in Lake Worth, Fla., and focuses his representation on secured creditors and ensuring that their interests are protected in chapters 7, 11 and 13. He handles contested litigation, including valuation hearings, adversary proceedings, sanction hearings, and any and all other disputed matters in bankruptcy court. As partner over his firm's national bankruptcy department, Mr. Fraser works closely with each state's managing attorneys as it relates to training, legal strategy, and all facets of the firm's bankruptcy practice. He is an active participant in the Southern District of Florida's bankruptcy bar and was the 2019 chair of the Local Rule Committee and an inaugural member the district's Lawyer Advisory Committee (LAC), serving as the committee's chair in 2020 and 2021. Through these roles, he has worked closely with South Florida bankruptcy judges and lawyers in reviewing local practices and rules; participating as a panelist for various district programs; assisting with the drafting of the district's Model Chapter 13 Plan and Mortgage Modification Mediation procedures and guidelines; and addressing other matters or concerns for the South Florida bankruptcy community. Mr. Fraser is a past president of the Jamaican-American Bar Association and has helped the organization create mentorship relationships with local law students. He also served as a panelist at a commercial law seminar in Kingston, Jamaica, discussing the 2014 Jamaican Insolvency Act, and he has organized foreclosure and bankruptcy workshops, spoken on numerous CLE panels, and guest-appeared on South Florida radio. Mr. Fraser was selected by *Super Lawyers* as one of its "Florida Rising Stars" for 2019, 2020 and 2021. In addition, he was named a 2017 Blackshear Fellow by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) and a 2020 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree, and he has published articles on consumer bankruptcy issues in the *American Legal & Finance Network* and *Default Servicing News*. Mr. Fraser has the highest rating by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his B.A. in 2007 from the University of Miami and his J.D. in 2010 from the University of Miami School of Law.

**Hon. Mary P. Gorman** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois in Springfield, appointed in September 2005 by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She served as Chief Judge from January 2013 until August 2019. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was in private practice, concentrating in bankruptcy and commercial transactions and litigation. Judge Gorman is a past president of the Winnebago County Bar Association and has been active on the Illinois State Bar Association's Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and the Commercial, Banking, and Bankruptcy Section Council. She is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, and the Illinois State, Winnebago County, and Sangamon County Bar Associations. From 1999-2003, Judge Gorman was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Northern Illinois University College of Law. She has served on the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts' Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group and on the Administrative Office's Budget and Finance Advisory Council. She currently serves as one of the five bankruptcy judge representatives on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and previously served as a liaison to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and the Judicial Conference

Budget Committee's Economic Subcommittee. She also is a member of the task force created by the Bankruptcy Committee to review current policies, rules, and regulations regarding unclaimed funds. Judge Gorman graduated with honors from Rosary College (now Dominican University) and attended the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She graduated with high honors from the University of Illinois College of Law, where she served as a member of its law review and the Order of the Coif.

**Hon. Michelle M. Harner** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maryland in Baltimore, appointed in 2017. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was the Francis King Carey Professor of Law and the Director of the Business Law Program at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where she taught courses in bankruptcy and creditors' rights, business associations, business planning, corporate finance and the legal profession. Judge Harner lectured frequently during her academic career on various topics involving corporate governance, financially distressed entities, risk management and related legal issues. Her academic scholarship is widely published, with her publications appearing in, among others, the *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *Notre Dame Law Review*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *Fordham Law Review* (reprinted in *Corporate Practice Commentator*), *Washington & Lee Law Review*, *William & Mary Law Review*, *University of Illinois Law Review*, *Arizona Law Review* (reprinted in *Corporate Practice Commentator*) and *Florida Law Review*. Judge Harner has served as the Associate Reporter to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Reporter to the ABI Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11, and most recently chaired the Dodd-Frank Study Working Group for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. She also served as the Robert M. Zinman ABI Resident Scholar for the fall of 2015. Judge Harner is an elected conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, an elected Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and an elected member of the American Law Institute. She previously was in private practice in the business restructuring, insolvency, bankruptcy and related transactional fields, most recently as a partner at the Chicago office of the international law firm Jones Day. Judge Harner received her B.A. *cum laude* from Boston College in 1992 and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1995.

**Rebecca Howlett** is director of Attorney Well-Being with The Legal Burnout Solution in Kansas City, Kan., and is an attorney, legal educator and certified contemplative practices teacher committed to promoting well-being in the legal field and beyond. Her attorney-wellness advocacy began after struggling with depression, anxiety and burnout as a law student and practicing attorney. In the spring of 2020, she co-founded legalburnout.com to help legal advocates effectively manage stress, cultivate healthy work environments, and prevent burnout. Ms. Howlett has led live meditations for more than 500 attorneys in the U.S. and Canada. Her legal experience and expertise emphasizes aware communication and relationship-building, including delivering educational seminars and trainings regarding cultural competency and implicit bias. She has worked in national nonprofits, in "Big Law," as outside counsel to an Indian tribal government and as a solo practitioner. Ms. Howlett began studying to become a meditation instructor in April 2019. Throughout her training, she volunteered as a meditation liaison, leading weekly guided mindfulness exercises for law students and attorneys. After a year and a half, she received her instructor certification after completing a total of 550 hours of training and study. Ms. Howlett is formally certified to teach a variety of contemplative practices, including mindfulness meditation, breathwork, qigong and many other evidence-based techniques. She received her B.A. and B.S. with distinction in English and Journalism from the University of

Kansas in 2011 and her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law, where she also received her Tribal Lawyer Certificate.

**Jerry L. Jensen** is the Assistant U.S. Trustee for the District of Nebraska, Region 13 in Omaha. He has been with the U.S. Trustee Program since 1989. Mr. Jensen was appointed as Assistant U.S. Trustee in the Omaha, Neb., office in 2019 and was a trial attorney in the Omaha office prior to that. He also served as the Acting Assistant U.S. Trustee in Little Rock, Ark., in 2020. Before joining the U.S. Trustee Program, Mr. Jensen clerked for Hon. William Edmonds in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Iowa. He received his J.D. in 1987 from Creighton University School of Law and his LL.M in 1988 from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

**Hon. Clifton R. Jessup, Jr.** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Alabama in Decatur, appointed on March 2, 2015. He was formerly a principal shareholder in the Dallas office of the international law firm of Greenburg Traurig, LLP where he concentrated his practice in business reorganization and bankruptcy. During his more than 35 years of bankruptcy-related practice before taking the bench, Judge Jessup represented secured creditors, unsecured creditors, committees, equity-holders, debtors and trustees in federal bankruptcy cases in more than 37 states and Puerto Rico. He also represented purchasers of assets in bankruptcy cases, and served as examiner and mediator in many cases. In 2001, Judge Jessup was selected as the liquidating trustee under the confirmed chapter 11 plan in the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, the largest nonprofit bankruptcy cases filed to date. The cases involved more than 13,000 investors and claims in excess of \$600 million. In 2009, he represented the Opus West Corp. in a chapter 11 case involving more than 50 commercial real estate properties in California and Texas with claims in excess of \$1.2 billion. Judge Jessup is a member of the Advisory Committee to ABI's Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11 and of the Texas State Bar. He received his J.D. in 1978 from the University of Michigan.

**Jason Kathman** is a partner with Spencer Fane LLP in Plano, Texas, and Dallas and represents clients in bankruptcy proceedings and litigation in a wide variety of industries, with a focus in hospitality, manufacturing, restaurant, and oil and gas industries. Currently the chair of the Bankruptcy Section for the Dallas Bar Association, his practice centers primarily on business bankruptcies, reorganizations and restructurings. Mr. Kathman handles the full spectrum of bankruptcy litigation matters, including preference, fraudulent transfer, discharge, dischargeability and other state law-based actions, and represents creditors and lenders. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Kathman externed for Hon. Harlin D. Hale, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, and Hon. Jerry S. Buchmeyer, a Senior U.S. District Judge. He is a member of the John C. Ford American Inn of Court. Mr. Kathman received his B.B.A. in 2005 from Texas Tech University and his J.D. in 2009 from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

**Richardo I. Kilpatrick** is the managing partner of Kilpatrick & Associates, PC in Auburn Hills, Mich., and specializes in creditors' rights and insolvency law while focusing on corporate, consumer and commercial litigation and bankruptcy, real property remedies for creditors, real property transactions and general corporate counseling. He is a past president of the ABI and has served on the board of directors for the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Kilpatrick is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was inducted as a Fellow into the

American College of Bankruptcy in March 1999 and appointed to its board of directors in July 2001. In October 2008, Mr. Kilpatrick was invited to be a conferee at the National Bankruptcy Conference. As a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference, he worked with Hon. Thomas Small on the NBC's Small Business Proposal, a portion of which was incorporated into the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019. Mr. Kilpatrick also served as a member of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules from August 2011-17, where he worked to directly craft, tweak, update and change bankruptcy rules in an ongoing effort to improve the practice of bankruptcy for all involved. He is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Mr. Kilpatrick received his B.A. in economics in 1973 from Harvard University and his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Michigan Law School.

**Kevin A. Krakora, CTP** is a managing director with Getzler Henrich & Associates LLC in Chicago and has more than 28 years of experience in corporate turnarounds, strategic consulting, financial and operational restructurings, and debtor bankruptcy situations. He has experience advising both companies and senior lenders in complex debt restructurings, financings and workouts. Mr. Krakora specializes in advising and working with underperforming companies to develop and implement business-transformation strategies, operational/financial improvements and turnaround plans. He has worked with financially distressed companies to address liquidity issues, improve working capital, develop cost-containment programs, implement process improvements and improve profitability. He has led numerous § 363 sales processes in chapter 11 cases, as well as business and asset sales in out-of-court situations. Mr. Krakora advises boards of directors and executive management teams regarding strategic alternatives and performance-improvement plans, assisting both in their development and implementation. He has led negotiations with senior lenders, junior lenders, equityholders and acquisition partners, as well as key customers, suppliers and vendors on behalf of his clients. He also has served as a CRO and independent director. Mr. Krakora has substantial experience in numerous industries, including airline, automotive, furniture, health care, industrial/manufacturing, oil & gas, and security/alarm, among others. He has also advised numerous companies in confidential engagements involving refinancings and out-of-court debt restructurings, recapitalizations and divestitures. Mr. Krakora has advised the unsecured creditors' committee in several high-profile bankruptcies, including AMR Corp. (American Airlines), North American Petroleum Corp. USA, Pappas Telecasting Companies and UAL Corp. (United Airlines). He recently served as president and chair of TMA Global and is a frequent speaker on restructurings and distressed M&A. Mr. Krakora received his B.A. in economics from DePauw University and his M.B.A. in finance from the University of Illinois.

**Hon. Christopher M. López** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, sworn in on Aug. 14, 2019. He was previously counsel in the Business, Finance and Restructuring Department of Weil, Gotshal & Manges and had been involved in a number of significant chapter 11 cases in Houston and across the country. Judge López is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Houston Bar Association. He is also a member of the Honorable Arthur L. Moller/David B. Foltz, Jr. American Inn of Court and has studied cross-border and banking issues in Mexico. Judge López is a member of the board of directors of the Hispanic Bar Association of Houston. He received his B.A. in psychology in 1996 from the University of Houston, his M.A. in theology in 1999 from Yale University and his J.D. in 2003 from the University of Texas School of Law, where he was a member of the *Texas International Law Journal* and elected permanent class president for the class of 2003.

**Hon. Terrence L. Michael** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma in Tulsa and a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit. He has authored more than 170 published opinions, as well as articles in the *Tulsa Law Review*, *Texas Tech Law Review* and *Creighton Law Review*. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Michael joined the firm of Baird, Holm, McEachen, Pedersen, Hamann & Strasheim in Omaha, Neb., where he was a member of the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. His practice included all types of bankruptcy matters and general civil litigation. While at Baird, Holm, Judge Michael chaired the Bankruptcy Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association and was a member of the local rules committee responsible for drafting local rules in chapter 12 cases. He also authored and presented numerous papers at various continuing legal education seminars. Judge Michael has taught courses for the American Banker's Association School of Agri-Finance and Metro Technical Community College. On June 9, 1997, he began his career as a bankruptcy judge, and on June 7, 2000, he was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit, a position he still holds. As a member of the BAP, Judge Michael chaired the committee charged with revising the local rules of that court. He has authored more than 170 opinions, is an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* and an adjunct professor of law at the University of Tulsa, and has served as a speaker at various seminars presented by the Federal Judicial Center, the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, the Tenth Circuit Judicial Conference, ABI, the Nebraska State Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Tulsa County Bar Association, the West Texas Bar Association and the Southwest Regional Turnaround Management Association. Judge Michael is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, having served on various committees and the Board of Governors. He received the President's Award for Distinguished Service to the Conference in 2018. Judge Michael is an emeritus member of the Council Oak/Johnson-Sontag American Inn of Court, which awarded him the John A. Athens Leadership Award in 2004, and the Nebraska State Bar Association. He was part of a multi-state select choir, which sang in Carnegie Hall in 1999, and recorded his first studio album in collaboration with Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame member and Grammy winner David Teegarden in 2018. Judge Michael received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in history from Doane College in 1980 and his J.D. from the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law in 1983.

**James E. Millstein** is the co-chairman of Guggenheim Securities, LLC in New York, the investment banking and capital markets business of Guggenheim Partners, a global investment and advisory firm. Prior to joining Guggenheim in 2018, he was the founder and CEO at Millstein & Co. His representative engagements at Guggenheim include advice to Fannie Mae in connection with its potential recapitalization, to Knighthead Capital and Certares Management in connection with their acquisition of Hertz out of chapter 11, and to the Governor of the State of California in connection with PG&E's chapter 11. His representative engagements at Millstein & Co. include advice to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in connection with the management of its \$75 billion of institutional indebtedness, to US Airways in connection with its acquisition of American Airlines out of chapter 11, and advice to Caesars in connection with its financial restructuring in chapter 11. From 2009-11, Mr. Millstein was the CRO at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where he was responsible for oversight and management of the Department's largest investments in the financial sector and was the principal architect of AIG's restructuring and recapitalization. Prior to joining the Treasury, he served as managing director and global co-head of Corporate Restructuring at Lazard from 2000-08. Before joining Lazard, he was partner and head of the Corporate Restructuring practice at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. Mr. Millstein is a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School, where he

teaches a course on private capital, and an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University, where he has taught a course on the federal regulation of financial institutions. A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, he was a commissioner on ABI's Commission to Study Reform of Chapter 11. Mr. Millstein also serves on the Investment Committee of Mill Point Capital, a private-equity firm formerly affiliated with Millstein & Co. He received his B.A. in politics from Princeton University in 1978, his M.A. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979 and his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law in 1982, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

**Hon. Charles L. Nail** is the Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Dakota in Sioux Falls. In January 1984, he left the litigation department of the Minneapolis law firm of Stacker & Ravich to join the bankruptcy department of the Minneapolis law firm of Arnold & McDowell. While there, he also served as a chapter 7 trustee for the District of Minnesota. Judge Nail returned to South Dakota in November 1988 to become an Assistant U.S. Trustee, first for the District of South Dakota and later for both the Districts of North Dakota and South Dakota. In September 1995, he was appointed clerk of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Dakota, a position he held until August 2006, when he was sworn in as bankruptcy judge. In September 2010, Judge Nail was appointed to the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, and in January 2021, he was appointed Chief Judge of the BAP. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of South Dakota School of Law, and he co-authored "Truth or Consequences: The Dilemma of Asserting the Fifth Amendment Privilege Against Self-Incrimination in Bankruptcy Proceedings," an article appearing in the *Nebraska Law Review*. Judge Nail received his undergraduate degree in 1979 from the University of South Dakota and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1982 from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

**Hon. Cynthia A. Norton** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City. 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. Karen B. Owens** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington. Prior to her appointment, she was a director in the Bankruptcy and Insolvency group of Ashby & Geddes, P.A., where she maintained a diverse practice, representing corporate debtors, estate professionals, various secured and unsecured creditor constituencies, and other interested parties in reorganization and liquidation proceedings and bankruptcy-related litigation. Prior to joining Ashby & Geddes, Judge Owens started her career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom as a

corporate restructuring associate, and later went on to clerk for Hon. Brendan Linehan Shannon of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. She received her Bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University, where she was Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from American University's Washington College of Law, where she served as an associate managing editor for the *American University Law Review* and as legal intern to Hon. Stephen S. Mitchell of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Hon. Bianca M. Rucker** was appointed U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas in Fayetteville on April 26, 2021. Prior to her judicial appointment, she was a chapter 7 panel bankruptcy trustee and attorney representing creditors and debtors in consumer and business bankruptcy matters at Rucker Law PLLC, in Fayetteville. Before working as a trustee, Judge Rucker was a partner at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP (WLJ), where her practice focused on bankruptcy, commercial litigation and insurance defense. She also served as a staff attorney to Hon. Richard D. Taylor (2006-07) and Hon. Ben T. Barry (2007-11) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Judge Rucker has served as president of the Northwest Arkansas Debtor and Creditor Bar Association, and she is an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She received her B.A. in political science in 2003 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and her J.D. with honors in 2006 from the William H. Bowen School of Law.

**Thomas J. Salerno** is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights practice at Stinson LLP in Phoenix, where he represents distressed companies, acquirers and creditors in financial restructurings and bankruptcy proceedings, pre- and post-bankruptcy workouts, and corporate recapitalizations. He works with clients from an array of industries, including casinos, resort hotels, sports teams, real estate, high-tech manufacturing, electricity generation, agribusiness, construction, health care, airlines and franchised fast-food operations. Mr. Salerno has represented parties in insolvency proceedings in 30 states and five countries. He has been involved in restructurings in the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Switzerland, and the Czech and Slovak Republics. In addition, Mr. Salerno taught comparative international insolvency at the University of Salzburg and Gray's Inn School of Law in London, and is an adjunct professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, teaching bankruptcy litigation and advanced chapter 11 bankruptcy. He is also a regular guest lecturer at the Eller MBA Program for the University of Arizona. Mr. Salerno has served as an expert witness on U.S. insolvency law in litigation in Germany, and represented Coyote Hockey LLC, the owners of the Phoenix Coyotes of the National Hockey League (NHL), in historic bankruptcy proceedings that resulted in an unprecedented solution: the NHL purchasing one of its own teams for the first time in the league's 90-year history. He headed the U.S. delegation to the Czech Republic in advising the Czech Government in the historic revamping of its bankruptcy law, which took effect in January 2008, and he has also advised on revamping insolvency laws in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Mr. Salerno is a member of the UNCITRAL working group on its Insolvency Law Reform Project, completed in early 2007. He is a former ABI Board and Executive Committee member, a past director of the American Board of Certification, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and a member of the Plan Issues Advisory Subcommittee for ABI's landmark Bankruptcy Review Commission. Mr. Salerno received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Notre Dame Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*.

**Eric D. Schwartz** is a partner in the Wilmington, Del., office of Morris Nichols Arsht & Tunnell LLP and has more than 25 years of experience representing debtors and creditors in insolvency cases and out-of-court restructurings. Prior to his career as an attorney, he was an investment banker for several years. Mr. Schwartz's experience includes assisting clients with complex operational, corporate governance, financial, real estate, pension, intellectual property, tax, labor, purchase/sale and litigation issues. He also has experience in the use of state court proceedings as a restructuring or liquidation alternative, including experience with receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors, foreclosures, dissolutions and other alternative court proceedings. Mr. Schwartz's practice focuses on business restructurings, including representing distressed enterprises, advising fiduciaries and managers for distressed enterprises, distressed acquisitions and transactions, distressed financings, debtor and committee representations, representation of large secured and unsecured creditors and related litigation. He has appeared in federal and state courts throughout the U.S. on a range of bankruptcy and related issues. Mr. Schwartz is active internationally in the Insolvency/Bankruptcy Practice Group for TerraLex, a worldwide network of business lawyers, and served as a co-chair on ABI's International Committee. He also speaks before a variety of professional and business audiences on various restructuring and business topics. Mr. Schwartz has been recognized as a leading Delaware attorney by *Chambers USA*, *IFLR1000* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. He received his BSBA *cum laude* in 1984 from Georgetown University, his M.B.A. in 1989 from New York University and his J.D. in 1992 from Villanova University School of Law, where he worked on the *Villanova University Environmental Law Journal*.

**Cynthia Sharp** is CEO of The Sharper Lawyer in Philadelphia and works with motivated lawyers seeking to generate additional revenue for their law firms. She practiced law from 1982-2009, then embarked on a professional speaking and writing career. Ever since, she has served solo and small firm attorneys throughout North America. The crowning achievement of Ms. Sharp's life came when she became sober from alcohol on Sept. 23, 2009. Since then, she has devoted every single day to protecting her mental and physical health. Through this journey, she achieved a level of contentment, happiness and emotional stability that she previously did not know was possible. Because she could no longer tolerate the stress of a law practice, after almost 30 years as a practicing attorney Ms. Sharp sold her interest to her junior partner at the end of 2009. Since then, she has dedicated more than 10 years helping attorneys build sustainable and stable law firms. In 2019, Ms. Sharp was recognized as Trainer of the Year by the ABA's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division. In the spring of 2020, she co-founded legalburnout.com, with the mission of helping others in the legal field avoid burnout, depression, anxiety, and addiction. Ms. Sharp received her B.A. in philosophy from Ball State University, her J.D. in 1981 from Georgetown University Law Center and her LL.M. in taxation in 1982 from New York University School of Law.

**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, is a member of the Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference, and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Shodeen is an associate editor for the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. Prior to her appointment, she focused her practice on representing both debtors and creditors in workouts, bankruptcy and litigation in the state and federal courts. She also served as a chapter 7 panel trustee and chapter 12 standing trustee. Judge Shodeen received her J.D. in 1985 from Drake University.

**Hon. Sage M. Sigler** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed in March 2018. She succeeded Hon. Mary Grace Diehl, for whom she clerked after graduating from law school. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Sigler was a partner in Alston & Bird LLP's Bankruptcy Group. She is an active member of ABI, IWIRC, TMA and the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, and she is a volunteer presenter for the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program. Judge Sigler was an honoree in ABI's inaugural class of "40 Under 40" in 2017. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of Florida in 2001 and her J.D. in 2006 from Emory University School of Law, where she was a member of the executive board of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

**O.C. "Rusty" Sparks** is an attorney with Caddell Reynolds Law Firm in Little Rock, Ark., and has practiced bankruptcy and consumer law for nearly 20 years. He was admitted to practice in Arkansas in 1983. Mr. Sparks worked in the financial services (investment brokerage and insurance regulatory compliance) industry from 1982-2000. He is licensed in the U.S. Federal District Courts for the Eastern and Western Divisions of Arkansas, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Sparks has devoted his practice to assisting individuals and businesses in evaluating and utilizing the federal consumer protection laws and Bankruptcy Code, focusing on chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13. Over the past 10 years, he has had a heavy emphasis on small business reorganizations and creditor workouts. Mr. Sparks is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association, the Pulaski County Bar Association, the Debtor/Creditor Bar of Central Arkansas, the Bankruptcy Section of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association (ATLA) and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA). He has regularly lectured for the National Business Institute for CLE seminar programs targeting bankruptcy lawyers and paralegals, and he has been an approved presenter for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) program, on behalf of which he lectures to students and young adults at colleges and high schools throughout the state. Mr. Sparks has been a regular presenter at past Arkansas Bar Association Debtor-Creditor Law Institutes, both in central Arkansas and northwest Arkansas. He has also presented CLE topics for the Bankruptcy Section of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Assn., the Pulaski County Bar Association, and at the NACTT annual conference. Mr. Sparks received his B.A. in speech communications with a minor in political science from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark., in 1978, and his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

**Kristina M. Stanger** is an attorney and shareholder with Nyemaster Goode, P.C. in Des Moines, Iowa, the state's largest firm, and focuses her practice on creditors' rights and bankruptcy. Her experience spans such industries as retail, grocery, agriculture, health care, construction, transportation and manufacturing, and her practice areas include construction and real estate litigation, creditor rights and bankruptcy litigation, banks and financial institution litigation, and business and commercial litigation. She appears in both federal and state courts for secured and unsecured creditors in a variety of contexts. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Stanger is a combat-experienced Lieutenant Colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard and a 2017 AMEDD Iron Major. She served more than 20 years as an enlisted soldier, commander and planner for state, national and international operations, and now serves as one of the state of Iowa's highest-ranking females and is the Battalion Commander for the 109th Medical Battalion for the Iowa Army National Guard. Ms. Stanger has held a number of committee positions with the Iowa State Bar Association, is an author and speaker on bankruptcy and commercial law topics, and provides *pro bono* services on behalf of veterans and their families. She also was a member of the 2016 Next Generation Class for the National Conference of Bankruptcy

Judges (NCBJ), is a 2018 ABI “40 Under 40” honoree, and chairs IWIRC’s Midwest Network. Ms. Stanger is admitted to practice in all state, federal and bankruptcy courts in Iowa and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Following law school, she interned for Hon. Ronald E. Longstaff of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa and clerked for the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 2014. Ms. Stanger graduated with distinguished honors from the 185th Military Regional Training Institute’s Officer Candidate School in 2000, received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Central College the same year, and received her J.D. with high honors from Drake University in 2006, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif, worked on the *Drake Law Review* and was active in its moot court program.

**Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, initially appointed on March 17, 2003, and named Chief Judge on Feb. 1, 2013. She is the first African-American appointed to the bankruptcy bench in the Eighth Circuit. Judge Surratt-States began her legal career as law clerk to now-retired Bankruptcy Judge James J. Barta. In 1993, she was an associate at Campbell & Coyne, P.C., where her work focused on bankruptcy, commercial litigation and foreclosures. She then moved to Ziercher & Hocker, P.C. in 1998, where she became partner. The firm later merged with Husch Blackwell, where she was a partner in its insolvency practice group until her appointment to the bankruptcy court. In 1997, Judge Surratt-States was appointed to the Panel of Bankruptcy Trustees for the Eastern District of Missouri, and in 1999, she served as the chapter 7 trustee for Family Company of America, then the third-largest grocery store chain in St. Louis. Judge Surratt-States serves on the Board of Catholic Charities of St. Louis and is a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of St. Louis, an international association of professionals dedicated to serving their community. She also 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 (IWIRC). 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.

**Hon. Kimberley H. Tyson** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Colorado in Denver, initially appointed to the bench in May 2017. Previously she was a director of Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, PC, where her practice focused on bankruptcy and related litigation. She represented secured and unsecured creditors, creditors’ committees, trustees and purchasers in bankruptcies, as well as clients in contested foreclosure proceedings and lender-liability cases. She also pursued hidden or improperly transferred assets. In March 2011, she was appointed to the panel of chapter 7 trustees by the U.S. Trustee. Ms. Tyson is a former chair of the Colorado Bar Association’s Bankruptcy subcommittee and is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy issues, co-authors the bankruptcy chapter of the *Annual Survey of Colorado Law*, and has been named in *Colorado Super Lawyers*. She is an active member of ABI, having served on its Rocky Mountain Bankruptcy Conference advisory board since 2003. Ms. Tyson clerked for Hon. John K. Pearson of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas and Hon. Jerry G. Elliot of the Kansas Court of Appeals. She earned her B.A. at Smith College and her J.D. at the University of Kansas School of Law.

**Hon. Charles M. Walker** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville, appointed on July 27, 2016. Prior to taking the bench, he served as a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of the U. S. Trustee for 14 years. Before that, Judge Walker

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was in private practice with the law firms Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs, LLP and Bone McAllester Norton PLLC, concentrating in the areas of creditors' rights and commercial litigation. Judge Walker served eight years on active duty with the U.S. Air Force and continues to serve as a brigadier general in the Kentucky Air National Guard. He is an alumnus of Nashville's Young Leaders Council and a former director of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute and Family & Children's Service. He also was the first recipient of the Hon. Cornelius Blackshear Fellowship awarded by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in 2004. He is a director of the Turnaround Management Association's Tennessee Chapter, and he is a member of the ABI's Veterans and Servicemembers Affairs Task Force. In 2015, Judge Walker received the Major General Robert I. Gruber Excellence in Teaching Award, which is awarded by the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General School, recognizing the most exceptional reserve military law instructor. He received his Bachelor's degree in aviation management from Auburn University, his M.S. in human resources management from Troy University and his J.D. *cum laude* from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago.