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Faculty Biographies

Prof. Ayyoub Ajmi is director of Legal Innovation and Technology at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in Kansas City, Mo. He champions innovation and transformation at the intersection of law and technology. At UMKC, Prof. Ajmi has helped build and deploy such innovative and award-winning solutions as the library's Virtual Self-Help Clinic and the Kansas Protection Order Portal. In 2017, he founded CiviLaw.Tech, a consulting firm that provides organizations with the legal tech solutions they need to make a meaningful impact. Among his projects are the State of Nevada Interactive Self-Help Portal, a conversational AI-powered chatbot, a national Family Triage portal, and a DIY Expungement Tool in Missouri, among many other impactful solutions. Prof. Ajmi has been recognized by the American Bar Association and *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, among others, for his innovations and leadership in technology initiatives in law. He teaches legal technology competency skills, law practice systems and document automation courses. He received his B.A. in communication technologies from the University of Texas at Arlington, his Master's in library and information science from the University of North Texas and his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

Hon. Jay D. Befort is a District Court Judge for the Third Judicial District Court of Kansas (Div. 15) in Topeka, appointed in 2023. Prior to his judicial appointment, he served as general counsel and special assistant attorney general for the Kansas Department of Revenue, where he was responsible for the KDOR's litigation and legislative matters. From 1990-2009, Judge Befort had served as counsel for the Kansas Department of Revenue and was a special assistant attorney general for the State of Kansas, where he fulfilled the role as the senior tax enforcement and bankruptcy attorney representing the State of Kansas and the Department of Revenue in the practice of bankruptcy; tax litigation including assessment, enforcement and collection; Native American tax litigation; Section 1983 and damages cases; and administrative and appellate work. From 2009-2013, he served as the Assistant U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee for the District of Kansas and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas. He then represented the Kansas real estate commission and was named as the general counsel for the Kansas State Bank Commissioner. From 2005-2022, Mr. Befort served on the board of directors and has made presentations on bankruptcy and related taxation issues for the National Association of Attorneys General/States' Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys (NAAG/SABA). He has also made presentations before the the Litigation Committee of the Multi-State Tax Commission (MTC), the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the National Association of Consumer Credit Administrators, and before the U.S. and Canadian International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) conferences, in addition to presenting lectures on various bankruptcy, tax, tort claims litigation and employment law topics at bar associations in Wichita, Topeka and Kansas City and at the Kansas Bar Association. Judge Befort received his undergraduate degree in history from Fort Hays State University and his J.D. in 1991 from Washburn University School of Law.

Hon. Robert D. Berger is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Kansas City, appointed on Oct. 16, 2003, and 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 author for *Collier on Bankruptcy*, *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*, *Kansas Bankruptcy Handbook* and *Practitioner's Guide to Kansas Family Law*. Judge Berger is a frequent lecturer and he has authored articles for various publications, including

The Washburn Law Journal, the *ABI Journal* and the *Journal of the Kansas Bar Association*. He 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.

Emily E. Cantwell is a partner with Lathrop GPM and partner-in-charge of its St. Louis office. She is a commercial litigator who focuses her practice on financial services and real estate litigation, and she serves all types of clients, focusing on mid-market to Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Cantwell has been recognized as one of St. Louis' Most Influential Business Women. She is also a recipient of Missouri Lawyers Media's 2024 Women's Justice Award. Ms. Cantwell has handled multiple receiverships for clients, ranging from small commercial properties to expansive multi-unit residential buildings as well as cannabis-related entities, hotels and other related commercial properties. She also serves as counsel for both lending institutions and receivers, and she assists entities in navigating the employment law process, from the administrative level up to and including litigation. Ms. Cantwell has served as co-chair of the firm's Women's Initiative Network and on its Diversity and Inclusion Committee since 2019. Prior to joining Lathrop GPM, she was a congressional intern in the U.S. House of Representatives, a communications intern for a nonprofit organization, and a teaching assistant and faculty fellow at Saint Louis University and its School of Law. Ms. Cantwell is a board member of the Commercial Receivers Association and a member of the Missouri Bar and the Illinois State Bar Association. She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in 2007 from the University of Florida and her J.D. in 2010 from Saint Louis University School of Law, where she served on the *Saint Louis University Law Journal*.

Hon. Sarah A. Castle is a U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Circuit Court of Jackson County (Div. 1) in Kansas City, Mo., appointed on Oct. 20, 2020. At the time of her appointment, she had been serving as Associate Circuit Judge of Division 27, having been appointed to the bench on Jan. 29, 2020. Prior to her appointment, Judge Castle served as an assistant prosecutor in the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, and as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Judge Castle was a member of the Women's Wheelchair Basketball Team of Team USA from 2005-12. In 2008, she and her teammates won a gold medal at the Paralympics in China. In 2012, the team finished fourth at the Paralympics in London. In addition, Judge Castle, who is also a swimmer, won a silver medal in 2000 in the 100 meter breaststroke for Team USA at the Paralympics in Sydney, Australia. In 2004, she came in fourth in the 100 meter breaststroke at the Paralympics in Athens, Greece. Judge Castle received her J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in 2012.

Hon. Bonnie L. Clair is Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis. Prior to her initial 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.

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

Hon. Dennis R. Dow is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, having served on the bench from 2003-24. Prior to his appointment to 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. 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, and he had been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law every year since 1995. 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. Prior to his retirement from the bench, Judge Dow served as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. He also served a term as chair of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. Judge Dow has authored and co-authored several articles, including "ERISA-Related Claims in Bankruptcy," *Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (Nov/Dec 1993), "Rent to Own Agreements in Bankruptcy: Sales or Leases?," *ABI Law Review*, Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1994), and "Gramm-Leach-Bliley and the Bankruptcy/Collection Attorney," *Norton Bankruptcy Law Advisor* (Feb 2002). 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*.

Robert E. Eggmann is an attorney with Carmody MacDonald P.C. in St. Louis and practices in the fields of bankruptcy, restructuring, creditors' rights, commercial litigation and financial transactions. He has experience representing chapter 11 debtors and creditors' committees. Mr. Eggmann also serves as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Illinois and a Subchapter V trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois. Previously, he had co-founded Desai Eggmann Mason LLC in St. Louis in 2011 after having been a partner with the law firm of Lathrop & Gage LLP. Mr. Eggmann received his B.A. from St. Louis University in 1986 and his J.D. from St. Louis University School of Law in 1989.

Rachel L. Foley is the founder of Foley Law, PC in Independence, Mo. She specializes in consumer bankruptcy cases, particularly chapter 7 and chapter 13 filings, and represents clients in both Kansas and Missouri. Ms. Foley has a strong background in both law and health care. She is Board Certi-

fied in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and frequently presents on innovative approaches to bankruptcy law and technology's role in legal practice. Ms. Foley's professional recognition includes receiving the prestigious K. Colleen Nunnally Award from the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. She has also been inducted into the Missouri Bar Association Pro Bono Hall of Fame and is ranked among the Best of The Kansas City Bar Award honorees. Ms. Foley received her undergraduate degree in the sciences and medicine from Creighton University and her J.D. from Creighton School of Law.

Michael Fowler is Of Counsel with Prelle Eron & Bailey, P.A. in Wichita, Kan. A deaf attorney with 10 years of diverse legal experience, he specializes in business law, transactional work and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Fowler's career began in consumer bankruptcy before transitioning to an eight-year tenure as in-house counsel for an insurance company, where he played a pivotal role in the company's growth, facilitating expansion into more than 15 new state markets. In January 2024, he returned to private practice, where he applies his broad experience to business law and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Fowler is an active member of the Wichita Bar Association and the Wesley E. Brown Inn of Court. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas and the Kansas Supreme Court. Mr. Fowler received his B.B.A. in entrepreneurship in 2008 from Wichita State University and his J.D. in 2014 from Washburn School of Law.

Prof. Barbara Glesner Fines is the Rubey M. Hulen Professor of Law and Dean Emerita at the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Law in Kansas City, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1986. She served as executive associate dean from 2008-16 and as dean from 2017-23. Prof. Glesner Fines is a renowned expert on professional ethics, legal education and the professional identity formation of law students. She has authored numerous articles and books on these subjects and is a fellow in the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership. Prof. Glesner Fines currently teaches professional responsibility, client interviewing and family violence. She received her undergraduate degree in 1980 from Grand Valley State University, her J.D. *cum laude* in 1983 from the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Law, where she was assistant managing editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*, and her LL.M. in 1986 from Yale University Law School, where she was senior editor of the *Yale Journal of International Law*.

Karim A. Guirguis, PMP, CAE is chief operating officer of the American Bankruptcy Institute in Alexandria, Va., the nation's largest association of bankruptcy professionals, comprised of 11,000 members in multidisciplinary roles, including attorneys, bankers, judges, lenders, turnaround specialists and others. Mr. Guirguis provides vision and leadership in transforming and conducting the company's internal and external IT plans. He joined the ABI staff in 2002 after several positions in website architecture and computer animation, most recently with Disney MGM Studios in Florida. Mr. Guirguis's work has earned several awards from his peers, including an Oscar for his work on Finding Nemo, the prestigious Horizon Award for ABI's video honoring its founders, as well as the Webby Award for his work with Tiffany Inc. and Polo.com. He is a regular presenter on cutting-edge technology issues for professional educators such as the American Society of Association Executives, for which he serves on its technology board. Mr. Guirguis received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Cambridge University in England, his Master's in multimedia and animation from George Mason University, and his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Charvi Gupta is a senior director at Getzler Henrich & Associates in New York and has more than 10 years of experience in turnaround, restructuring, M&A and bankruptcy situations. Her expertise includes business plan analysis, performance improvement, cash and vendor management, operations restructuring, workouts, bankruptcy consulting and interim-management engagements. She also works with law firms on forensic and litigation support assignments in bankruptcy cases. Ms. Gupta's experience spans multiple industries, including health care, food and beverage, retail, commercial real estate and hospitality, security alarm, automotive, consumer products and restaurants. She is a board member of the New York Institute of Credit as well as Legal Aid Society's New Leadership Program. In 2023, Ms. Gupta was honored as one of ABI's 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders in Insolvency Practice. She is a member of the Turnaround Management Association and serves on the NOW committee (NY chapter), and she is a member of IWIRC and serves on its Finance committee. Ms. Gupta received her B.A. in economics and statistics from St. Xavier's College in Mumbai, her M.S. in finance from the University of Rochester and her M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

Hon. Shon K. Hastings is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of North Dakota in Fargo, appointed in September 2011. She is also designated to preside over bankruptcy cases in the Districts of South Dakota and Minnesota. From 2014-21, she was assigned bankruptcy cases in the District of Nebraska. Judge Hastings serves as a mediator for civil cases in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota and bankruptcy cases in the District of Minnesota. She also has mediated bankruptcy cases in the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa. In January 2022, she was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Eighth Circuit. She began serving as Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on Jan. 25, 2024. Prior to her appointment, Judge Hastings served as a federal judicial law clerk for two years, associate attorney for Bowman and Brook LLP in Minneapolis for several years and Assistant U.S. Attorney in Fargo for almost 14 years. She received her undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of North Dakota.

Camille R. Hawk is a partner with Valentine O'Toole, LLP in Omaha, Neb., and is one of the region's leading creditors' rights attorneys. She offers financial institutions assistance in the areas of real estate and lending law, and default services including bankruptcy, title issues, foreclosure, loss mitigation, eviction and collections, covering commercial, residential, agricultural and SBA matters. Ms. Hawk has worked with banks for more than 32 years and is licensed in Nebraska and Iowa. She is a regular speaker on topics related to foreclosure, collections and debtor/creditor relations, and she serves on several community boards. Ms. Hawk received her B.A. in sociology in 1990 from Creighton University and her J.D. from Creighton University School of Law in 1994.

Zachary H. Hemenway is a partner with Stinson LLP in Kansas City, Mo., where he represents clients in bankruptcy proceedings and litigation. In addition to his bankruptcy and litigation work, he has assisted clients across a wide range of internal and external investigations, including negotiating with government agencies on scope and making internal presentations to boards, officers and general counsels. Mr. Hemenway assists clients in litigated matters within bankruptcy, including the representation of the debtor in adversary proceedings within the largest chapter 11 case ever filed in the District of Kansas. He argues complex discovery issues in federal and state court, including proceedings relating to forensic examination, corporate representative testimony, discovery scope, proportionality, spoliation, and technology-assisted review. Mr. Hemenway represents clients in wide range of internal and government investigations, including grand jury subpoenas, agency investigations, internal allegations,

and matters involving theft and potential theft of trade secrets. He also represents clients in appeals of bankruptcy decisions to district and appellate courts. Mr. Hemenway regularly presents CLEs for in-house attorneys and litigators on issues relating to electronic discovery, defensibility and attorney/client privilege, and has authored articles in bankruptcy publications on these issues. He is admitted to practice in Missouri and Kansas, and before the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas, Western District of Missouri and Southern District of Texas, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Hemenway received his B.S. in 2004 in journalism with honors from the University of Kansas, and his J.D. in 2007 with high distinction from the University of Nebraska, where he served as an executive editor of the *Nebraska Law Review* and was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

Hon. Mitchell L. Herren is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Wichita, appointed in July 2020. His 33 years prior to the bench included practice with a litigation firm in Kansas City, serving as in-house litigation counsel for a large energy company, then returning to private practice for 18 years with a Wichita-based firm, where he served for seven years as managing member and represented clients ranging from individuals to large companies, with a focus on commercial litigation. Judge Herren is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America and the American Bar Foundation. He received his J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law.

Joseph C. Jeppson, VI is CEO of Jeppson Law Office, LLC in Gladstone, Mo., which he founded in 2011. He has represented debtors in chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases in Missouri and Kansas since 2006. Mr. Jeppson is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and serves on the board of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association. He also is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy law and related topics. Mr. Jeppson previously worked for two Kansas City bankruptcy firms, rising to the rank of partner. He is an ABI member and currently serves as the president of the Kansas City Bar Association. Mr. Jeppson received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

Eric L. Johnson is a partner at Spencer Fane LLP in Kansas City, Mo., and the practice group leader for its Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Group. He has focused his practice on the representation of bankruptcy trustees, judicial receivers, and assignees for the benefit of creditors in complex litigation and liquidations. He also has served as a federal equity receiver, state court-appointed receiver and chapter 11 trustee, and he is currently a member of the panel of chapter 7 trustees for the Western District of Missouri. In addition to his fiduciary related work, Mr. Johnson has focused his practice on the representation of secured lenders along the distressed loan continuum, including out-of-court workouts, state law remedies such as receiverships, and bankruptcy proceedings. He is a Fellow of The American College of Bankruptcy, serving as the Eighth Circuit Education Chair. He also serves on ABI's Board of Directors and on the board of the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. Mr. Johnson is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and was selected into the 2021 class of the American College of Bankruptcy. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Brent R. Kellenberger is an attorney with W Law Group, LC in Overland Park, Kan., where he focuses his practice on estate-planning and several of its niche areas, including asset-protection, farm succession, family legacy, charitable giving, special needs, long-term care and incapacity, and

business planning. He counsels clients on protecting and transferring assets, including real property, financial accounts, qualified plans, personal property, intellectual property, and wisdom and values. Mr. Kellenberger designs and drafts various types of trusts, along with wills, powers of attorney, deeds, and other legal tools. He previously worked as a nursing home administrator and as a science teacher. Mr. Kellenberger received his undergraduate degree in 1999 from Kansas State University (1999) and his J.D. in 2005 from the University of Kansas.

Samuel R. Maizel is a partner at Dentons US LLP in Los Angeles and leads the firm's health care industry restructuring efforts nationwide. His practice includes bankruptcy matters as well as financial restructurings, both in and out of court. Mr. Maizel has served as lead counsel to debtors, trustees, buyers of assets, state attorneys generals and creditors' committees, and has served as a trustee, examiner, patient care ombudsman and consumer privacy ombudsman in chapter 7, 9 and 11 cases. His most recent debtor representations include Curitec, a durable medical equipment supplier that filed in Houston; Borrego Community Health Foundation, a chain of 19 federally qualified health care centers that filed in San Diego; Astria Health, a chain of nonprofit hospitals that filed in Yakima, Wash.; and Verity Health System of California, a chain of six hospitals and the second-largest nonprofit hospital bankruptcy case in U.S. history, which filed in Los Angeles. Mr. Maizel has lectured extensively, is widely published, and has been interviewed on television and radio. He is the only lawyer in the U.S. ranked in both health care and bankruptcy by *Chambers and Partners* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, Mr. Maizel was named a "Legal Visionary by the *Los Angeles Times* in 2023; recognized as one of its "Top 100 Lawyers for 2022" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*; awarded the "Outstanding Lawyer Award" for distinguished service as outside counsel to nonprofit organizations by the American Bar Association in 2022; and named by the *Daily Journal* as one of California's "Top Healthcare Lawyers" in 2021. In addition, Global M&A Network named him "Restructuring Lawyer of the Year" in 2020. In addition, he has been listed in *Super Lawyers* every year since 2007. Mr. Maizel received his B.S. in 1977 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, his M.A. from Georgetown University in government in 1983 and his J.D. in 1985 from George Washington University School of Law, where he won the Jacob Burns Prize for excellence in appellate advocacy and served as president of the Moot Court Board.

Holly Malone-Zukaitis is a staff attorney for Richard V. Fink, the standing chapter 13 trustee for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, Mo. She has been with the trustee's office since March 2008. Ms. Malone Zukaitis is a member of the Missouri Bar Association and the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and her J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Samuel Z. Marks is a sole practitioner with Marks Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa. He has been practicing law for more than 20 years and has experience with bankruptcies, foreclosure, consumer-protection cases, divorces and estates. Mr. Marks received his B.A. in chemistry in 1997 from the University of Iowa in 1997 and his J.D. in 1999 from Drake University Law School.

Jennifer M. Meyerowitz is chief growth officer and general counsel for SAK Healthcare in Atlanta. Her experience in health care consulting, bankruptcy, restructuring, operational management and advisory services spans more than 23 years, and she has served as an attorney, consultant, investor, ad-

visor, real estate professional and company leader. Ms. Meyerowitz is responsible for implementing SAK's growth strategy, managing operational reporting for facilities and client relations, overseeing the human resources and legal departments of SAK and providing executive-level management to the company. She regularly serves as a receiver, expert witness, board member, third-party manager and fiduciary for various health care entities, including senior living facilities, skilled nursing homes, memory care centers and hospitals. Ms. Meyerowitz previously worked with Summit Investment Management and Keen-Summit Capital Partners, buying distressed debt, selling distressed real estate and negotiating lease portfolios in bankruptcy and restructuring processes. She also served in operations, business-development, consulting and other leadership roles, including as vice president for global legal technology and services companies, with responsibility for development, legal consulting and strategic communications, compliance and logistics, and case-management functions for the company's bankruptcy and restructuring settlement services. Ms. Meyerowitz began her career as a practicing attorney at Alston & Bird LLP, where for nearly 10 years she represented debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, landlords and tenants, banks and trustees in complex workouts, debt-restructurings, commercial litigation and chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. She is an active participant in several industry organizations, serving on their boards, speaking on panels and publishing industry articles. Ms. Meyerowitz is a former global chair of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and a former chair and co-founder of its Georgia network. She currently serves on the boards of ABI and the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, and on the global executive board of the Turnaround Management Association. She also is involved in various other professional organizations, including having served as a former chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association and currently serving on various boards and committees in the industry, as well as other nonprofit organizations in her community. Ms. Meyerowitz received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Emory University School of Law, where she was executive notes and comments editor for the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

Hon. Terrence L. Michael is Chief 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.

Johannes H. Moorlach is an attorney with Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. in Des Moines, Iowa. He represents financial institutions, financing lenders, trade creditors and purchasers of financially distressed businesses involved in disputes comprising commercial interests and bankruptcy matters. Creditor rights and bankruptcy litigation is a significant part of Mr. Moorlach's regular work as he seeks to collect debts, recover collateral, arrange workout plans, restructurings, and other matters relating to financially distressed borrowers. He also serves as general counsel, or Chancellor, to The Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church and its Bishop. Mr. Moorlach has served as the president of the C. Edwin Moore Inn of Court (Des Moines Chapter), on the executive committee for the Iowa Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, as chair of the Iowa State Bar Association's Federal Practice Committee, and on the Attorney Admission Fee Fund Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. He is a member of the state bars of Iowa and South Dakota. Prior to joining Whitfield & Eddy Law, he clerked for Hon. Robert W. Pratt, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. Mr. Moorlach received his B.A. *cum laude* from Oklahoma Wesleyan University, his M.Div. with honors from Asbury Theological Seminary, and his J.D. with honors from Drake University Law School, where he served as note editor of the *Drake Law Review*.

Hon. Cynthia A. Norton is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City. Prior to her appointment on Feb. 1, 2013, 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, and established her own law firm in 1995. 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 a member of various bankruptcy organizations. She also is the recipient of the Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award and the Robert L. Gernon Award for Outstanding Contribution to CLE, as well as the NCBJ Excellence in Education Award. Judge Norton received her B.A. in French and art history Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude* from Kansas University in 1981, and her J.D. from the Kansas University Law School in 1984, where she was associate editor of its law review.

David Prelle Eron is the CEO of Prelle Eron & Bailey, P.A., in Wichita, Kan., and represents businesses and consumers in bankruptcy, litigation and commercial transactions, with a primary focus on chapter 11 and 12 cases. He has represented debtors, creditors, committees, trustees and the U.S. Trustee's Of-

Mr. Eron is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and was recognized by the *Wichita Business Journal* as one of Wichita's "40 Under 40" in 2015, as well as awarded the KBA's Pro Bono Certificate in 2013. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has been a *Super Lawyer* since 2013 and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2019. Mr. Eron is a member of the District of Kansas Bench Bar Committee, past member of the Kansas Bankruptcy Bench Bar Committee and past president of the KBA Bankruptcy and Insolvency Section, and has been a member of the Executive Committee for the Wesley E. Brown Inn of Court several times since joining in 2013. He regularly presents seminars and writes articles on bankruptcy-related topics, including service for two years as a contributing editor for the *ABI Journal*. He is currently serving on the advisory board of the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute. Mr. Eron received his B.A. in political science from Iowa State University in 1998 and his J.D. with honors from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2002.

William E. Quick is the Corporate Transparency Act Chair and a shareholder of Polsinelli PC in Kansas City, Mo. His practice centers around business entities, and he handles an array of corporate, finance, governance, transactional and related legal needs. Mr. Quick seeks to fill voids in the legal and transactional process, bringing order to dissonance and timely project consummations. He also literally wrote the book on the Corporate Transparency Act, which is scheduled to be published by the American Bar Association in October 2024. Mr. Quick serves as the lead business negotiation competition coach and an adjunct professor at the University of Kansas Law School, where he teaches transactional skills and corporate transparency. He is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, received the Kansas Bar Association's Distinguished Service Award in 2024, and is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Quick received his B.S. in 1993 in civil engineering from Iowa State University, his Faculty of Law in 1996 from Leiden University in The Netherlands, and his J.D. in 1997 from the University of Michigan.

Craig M. Regens is a shareholder in Crowe & Dunlevy's Oklahoma City office. He concentrates his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights, energy and environmental litigation, oil and gas transactions, and commercial litigation. Mr. Regens frequently represents oil and gas companies and financial institutions in chapter 11 bankruptcies and in matters involving the acquisition and divestiture of oil and gas assets through bankruptcy court and private sales. He also has significant experience representing business entities, including special-purpose entities, in a variety of energy-related, commercial and general business litigation in federal, state and administrative courts. Mr. Regens has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2018 and was recognized as the 2023 Lawyer of the Year (OKC) in the practice area of Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law by the same publication. Since 2023, Mr. Regens has been listed in *Benchmark Litigation* as a National and Oklahoma Litigation Star. An active member of the legal community, he formerly served as chair of the Oklahoma County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and was a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Gen Class IX. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Regens served as a term and career federal judicial law clerk to Hon. Sarah A. Hall, then-Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. He received his B.A. from the University of Oklahoma, his M.S. from the London School of Economics and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.

Hon. Bianca M. Rucker is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas in Fayetteville, appointed 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, where she teaches alcohol beverage 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.

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 and a partner in the law firms of Eidson, Lewis, Porter & Haynes and Wright, Henson, Somers, Sebelius, Clark & Baker. 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 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.

Hon. Paul R. Thomas is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in Muskogee, appointed on April 8, 2022. He previously was with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Tulsa. Judge Thomas received his J.D. from the University of Tulsa.

Andrew R. Turnbull is a managing director with Houlihan Lokey in Chicago and a senior member of the firm's Midwest Financial Restructuring Group. For more than 30 years, he has specialized in assisting companies, lenders, creditors and investors in financially distressed situations. His experience includes conducting acquisitions and divestitures of financially troubled businesses, raising various forms of capital, and negotiations relating to the restructuring of private and public securities, both in chapter 11 and in out-of-court situations. Mr. Turnbull has worked in a variety of industries during his career, although for last 10 years or so he has been focused primarily on the health care sector. He spends most of his time on health care-related mandates. Mr. Turnbull's transaction experiences include work relating to Brookdale Senior Living, Carestream Health, Nashville Senior Care, ProMedica, Promise Healthcare, Provision Healthcare, Quorum Health, Randolph Health, The Stayton at Museum Way and Verity Health System. He is also a frequent speaker on various topics, including trends in restructurings and distressed M&A, particularly relating to health care. Before joining Houlihan Lokey in 2004, Mr. Turnbull was a director at PricewaterhouseCoopers Corporate Finance LLC, where he led its Chicago restructuring practice. He is a member of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Turnbull received his B.S. in biology from the University of Western Ontario and an Honors Business Administration degree from the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario.

Hon. Brian C. Walsh is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, appointed in January 2023. Before taking the bench, he practiced for more than 25 years in Atlanta and St. Louis, principally in bankruptcy, restructuring and related fields. Judge Walsh is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and began his legal career in Kansas City clerking for Judge Pasco Bowman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Brent S. Westbrook is an attorney with Westbrook Law Group, LLC in St. Charles, Mo., where he focuses almost exclusively on helping individuals and businesses in financial distress. He regularly counsels clients facing foreclosure, repossessions, garnishment and lawsuits. He also assists consumers and businesses with asset protection and exemption-planning. Previously, Mr. Westbrook practiced in Kansas City at Wagoner Maxcy Westbrook, PC after graduating law school in 2006 until the end of 2011. He has represented thousands of clients and is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy law and related topics. Mr. Westbrook received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, during which time he interned for Hon. Jerry W. Venters.

Daniel R. Wiggins, CTP is CEO of Dawi Consulting in St. Louis and has more than 30 years of experience in financial and operational improvements, turnarounds, restructurings and transactions. Prior to establishing Dawi Consulting, he worked at turnaround firm MorrisAnderson & Associates for 17 years. Prior to a consulting career, Mr. Wiggins held roles in management and executive financial and operational positions at domestic and international companies with revenues ranging from \$30 million to over \$1 billion. He also has expertise in advising management teams and boards of directors in several industries, including construction, distribution, health care, manufacturing and transportation. He frequently leads negotiations with clients' key suppliers, customers, and lenders — particularly during restructuring initiatives. In addition to advisory and consulting roles, Mr. Wiggins also serves as interim CEO, CFO or CRO, in advisory roles in bankruptcy matters, and as a court-appointed receiver. He is a member of the Turnaround Management Association and ABI, and he is a Certified Treasury Professional alumnus. He received his B.A. in marketing and his M.B.A. in finance and accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi.