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# 2020 Midwestern Virtual Bankruptcy Institute

## **Faculty Biographies**

**G. Matthew Barberich, Jr., CPA, ABV, CFF, CGMA, CIA, CFE, ASA, MBA** is a director with B. Riley Advisory Services in Kansas City. He has led numerous litigation support and forensic accounting engagements involving the quantification of losses from alleged embezzlements and other asset misappropriations; accounting irregularities; calculation of lost profits and other economic damages; critiques and rebuttals of lost profits and other economic damages; shareholder and business disputes; statutory and/or regulatory compliance; and whistleblower investigations. Previously, Mr. Barberich provided litigation support, business valuation and forensic accounting services for MarksNelson, LLC in Kansas City from 2004-18, and he was an associate at Taylor, Perky & Parker, LLC in 2003. Mr. Barberich has also performed hundreds of valuations of closely held companies for estate and gift tax purposes; income tax compliance; estate planning; appraisal review; shareholder agreements; marital dissolutions; shareholder disputes; and dissenting shareholder and minority oppression lawsuits. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Kansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and the American Society of Appraisers. In February 2020, Mr. Barberich was appointed to serve as a subchapter V trustee for the Western District of Missouri on a case-by-case basis. He received his B.B.A. in accounting and his M.B.A. with a concentration in accounting from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kan.

**Peter J. Barrett** is a partner in Kutak Rock LLP's Richmond, Va., office, where he concentrates his practice on financial restructuring matters. He represents unsecured and secured creditors, trustees, equityholders, distressed investors and corporate debtors in insolvency matters, including chapter 11 reorganizations, business liquidations and out-of-court restructurings. Mr. Barrett has experience representing interested parties in asset sales and has been involved in a number of complex chapter 11 bankruptcy cases throughout the country involving industries such as manufacturing, hospitality, construction, retail, entertainment and real estate. He also works with other firm attorneys to analyze the effects of insolvency and bankruptcy on corporate and financial transactions. Mr. Barrett is a member of the panel of chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division, and is licensed to practice in Virginia and California. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**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 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.

**Geoffrey L. Berman** is a senior managing director with Development Specialists, Inc. in Los Angeles, which he joined in 1997. He served as ABI's president from April 2011 to April 2012 and previously served as ABI's Vice President-Publications, with oversight of the *ABI Journal* and other publication projects and a member of ABI's Executive and Management Committees. Mr. Berman chaired the Task Force on General Assignments and wrote the ABI manual on general assignments, *Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors: The ABCs of ABCs*, which is now in its fourth edition. In addition, he authored an article published in the *ABI Law Review*. Mr. Berman brings over 40 years experience in the extension of secured and unsecured credit and the liquidation of numerous businesses. He has expertise in all types of insolvency case administrations with a specialty in the area of general assignments for the benefit of creditors (in various businesses and industries including wholesale seafood, retail auto parts, various manufacturing concerns, wholesale nursery operations and high-tech companies), and liquidating and creditor trusts under chapter 11 plans of reorganization. Mr. Berman is a certified mediator and serves on the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the Central District of California, as well as the Register of Mediators for the District of Delaware, and he has served as a Federal Court Receiver. He served as trustee of the USACM Liquidating Trust, the post-confirmation estate for USA Commercial Mortgage in Las Vegas. He also served as the post-confirmation trustee for the Syntax Brillian Corp. Liquidation and Lender Trusts, as established by the confirmed plan in these District of Delaware cases. Mr. Berman has previous experience with Union Bank (of California) and Mitsui Manufacturers Bank. Prior to joining DSI, Mr. Berman was with Credit Managers Association of California for 11 years, where he was the manager of its Adjustment Bureau and a member of the Association's senior management. He is a member of the Los Angeles, Orange County and Bay Area Bankruptcy Forums and the Association of Insolvency Accountants, and is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy and insolvency subjects. Mr. Berman received his B.B.A. with honors from the University of the Pacific in 1975 with a degree in business administration (accounting and finance) and his J.D. from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles.

**Mark V. Bossi** is a partner in the St. Louis, Mo., firm of Thompson Coburn LLP, where he co-chairs the firm's Financial Restructuring Group. He concentrates his practice in the areas of business bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial litigation, and has served as lead insolvency counsel to virtually all parties-in-interest in chapter 11 cases, debt-enforcement lawsuits, out-of-court workouts and intercreditor disputes. Mr. Bossi is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, is a *Missouri/Kansas Super Lawyer* and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, which named him St. Louis Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law Lawyer of the Year for 2016, 2018 and 2020. In addition, *Lawdragon* listed him to its inaugural 2020 *Lawdragon* list of the 500 leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. Mr. Bossi is an active member and former ABI director. He is admitted to practice in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas. Mr. Bossi received his B.A. and B.S. from the University of Kansas in 1984 and his J.D. in 1987 from George Washington University.

**Prof. Andrea J. Boyack** is a professor at Washburn University School of Law and co-director of the school's Business and Transactional Law Center. She teaches debtor/creditor law, property, real estate transactions, commercial leasing, contracts and other courses relating to real estate, transactions and finance. Prof. Boyack has written and presented extensively in the areas of bankruptcy (particularly consumer bankruptcy and financial protection), property and contract law theory, and laws and policies relevant to housing and capital markets. Prior to joining the faculty of Washburn Law, she was a visiting professor in at Fordham University School of Law and George Washington University School

of Law. Before she entered academia, Prof. Boyack practiced commercial real estate and finance law for nearly 14 years in New York City and the Washington, D.C., area with several large law firms and as regional counsel to a publicly traded national real estate developer. In practice, she dealt with a broad range of issues relating to finance and real estate development, including asset-backed financing and securitization, common interest community governance, commercial leasing and residential development. Prof. Boyack received her B.A. with honors in Russian and International Relations from Brigham Young University, her M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Daniel J. Casamatta** is the Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 13 in Kansas City, Mo., which includes the judicial districts in Arkansas, Missouri and Nebraska. He was sworn in on Jan. 1, 2015. Mr. Casamatta has served as the Assistant U.S. Trustee in the Kansas City, Missouri office of the U.S. Trustee Program (USTP) since 2008. Prior to that appointment, he served as Assistant U.S. Trustee in Grand Rapids, Mich., for 18 years, was an attorney advisor in the Cleveland USTP office for three years, and for periods of time was also the Acting Assistant U.S. Trustee in Indianapolis and the Acting Chief of the USTP's National Bankruptcy Training Institute, located in the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. Mr. Casamatta regularly speaks at the National Advocacy Center on a variety of topics and was the recipient of USTP's Director's Award for Exemplary Service (the USTP's second-highest award) in 2002. In 2018, he was given the USTP Director's Award for Distinguished Service (the Program's highest award). Before joining the USTP, Mr. Casamatta spent five years in private practice in Cleveland with an emphasis on bankruptcy and commercial litigation. He received his J.D. in 1982 from Case Western University School of Law.

**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 worked for the Attorney General's Honors Program in the U.S. Department of Justice, where she worked for the Office of the U.S. Trustee in St. Louis and Little Rock, Ark. In 1997, she transitioned to Norwest Financial, Inc. (now Wells Fargo Financial), where she piloted the company's field attorney program. Four years later, she joined the firm now known as Summers Compton Wells LLC, where she became a principal in 2004. The Missouri Supreme Court appointed Judge Clair to its Region X Disciplinary Committee in 2018. In addition, she served the Missouri Bar as a member of its Fee Dispute Resolution Committee for almost 20 years before she took the bench. Judge Clair is a frequent writer and presented on bankruptcy issues and appeared in the Lawyers' Association of St. Louis's annual Gridiron Show. 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 United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri.

**Mark A. Craige** is a shareholder and director with the law firm of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Okla., where he focuses his practice on insolvency, reorganization and related areas with emphasis on chapter 11 reorganizations, business chapter 7 cases, bankruptcy litigation and receiverships. As counsel of record for more than 30 reported cases on bankruptcy law issues, Mr. Craige is regarded as a leading authority in the legal bankruptcy arena. He has been Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification for more than two decades, and served as a member

of its board of directors for more than 15 years, having held various offices including president and chairman. One of only six Oklahoma members, Mr. Craige was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy in 2000. He has also been an active member of ABI for more than 25 years and worked on several of its committees. Mr. Craige has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2009 and *Super Lawyers* since 2006. He is a frequent writer and lecturer on bankruptcy and insolvency topics, and in 1998, he received the Oklahoma Bar Association's Earl Sneed award as the outstanding contributor to continuing legal education in the state of Oklahoma. Mr. Craige received his B.S. *cum laude* from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and his J.D. from the University of Tulsa Law School.

**John J. Cruciani, CPA** is a partner with the Kansas City, Mo., office of Husch Blackwell LLP, where he practices in the areas of bankruptcy, insolvency, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. He is the leader of its Insolvency & Commercial Bankruptcy team. Mr. Cruciani is Board Certified in Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification (ABC), and he previously served on its board of directors. Mr. Cruciani was a contributing author for the bankruptcy treatise *Small Business Bankruptcy Reorganization* (John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1994) and has published articles on bankruptcy matters for various publications. He has been a speaker for programs for the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute and other organizations in the areas of bankruptcy and insolvency, and in 2018, he chaired the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute's advisory board. Mr. Cruciani has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2009, and was named the 2014 and the 2018 Lawyer of the Year in Kansas City for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. In March 2019, he was inducted as a Fellow in the 30th class of the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Cruciani received his J.D. in 1994 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law.

**Ryan J. Dattilo** is the chief antitrust and bankruptcy counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, where is responsible for congressional legislation and hearings covering antitrust, privacy and bankruptcy. In the last three years, he has developed and negotiated several significant pieces of bipartisan and bicameral legislation regarding small businesses, systemically important financial institutions, and drug pricing that have been enacted into law. Mr. Dattilo has accumulated a wide breadth of experience in both the private and public sector in just over a decade of being an attorney. Previously, he clerked for Hon. Mary Walrath in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, worked in the Restructuring group at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, one of the foremost global law firms, and taught at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Mr. Dattilo received his B.S. and B.A. in finance and economics from Miami University in 2007 and his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School in 2010.

**Daniel F. Dooley, CTP** is a principal and CEO at MorrisAnderson in Chicago, where he manages the firm's distressed business consulting practice. He is an accomplished crisis manager, business operator and debt-restructuring. Mr. Dooley has successfully managed numerous projects for middle-market companies and assumed dozens of interim management positions as CEO, CRO and CFO for client companies nationwide. During his career, he has negotiated numerous transactions involving debt restructuring, supplier accommodations and business sales. Mr. Dooley is experienced in the development and implementation of cost-reduction and restructuring plans, as well as restructuring negotiations between companies and their creditors. He educates company ownership and management on

realistic business plans, implementation of cost and liquidity improvements and effective end-game strategies for clients. He also collaborates with management on issues related to turnaround, restructuring plans and business sales, and he specializes in the automotive, aerospace, capital equipment, metals, health care, transportation, food, distribution, oil and gas and real estate industries. Prior to joining Morris Anderson in 1997, Mr. Dooley served as an executive with several Fortune 500 manufacturers in both general-management and financial-management capacities, including Illinois Tool Works, an industrial manufacturer, and Allied Signal, an automotive electronics and aerospace manufacturer. In 2011, he was honored with the Turnaround Management Association's "Turnaround of the Year - Small Company" award for Analytics, Inc., an independent research laboratory in St. Louis, Mo. He has also served on boards of directors and been a key advisor to corporations and non-profit organizations. Mr. Dooley is a former board member of the Turnaround Management Association and former president of its Chicago chapter, and he sits on ABI's Board of Directors. He is also a contributing author to *The Chief Restructuring Officer's Guide to Bankruptcy: Views fom Leading Insolvency Professionals* (ABI 2013). Mr. Dooley received his B.B.A. and M.B.A. in finance at the Carlson School of Management from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Hon. Dennis R. Dow** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Nov. 10, 2003, by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to taking the bench, he was a partner with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, where he represented trustees in chapter 7 cases involving significant assets, individual and corporate debtors in proceedings under chapters 7 and 11, and secured, unsecured and priority creditors and lessors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 cases, and had been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of bankruptcy law every year since 1995. He also tried numerous adversary proceedings and contested matters, including preference actions, objections to discharge, dischargeability complaints and objections to confirmation of chapter 11 plans. Judge Dow is a member of ABI and 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 and serves as a member of the faculty of the Advanced Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Institute. Judge Dow is a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel and was appointed in October 2014 to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, 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*.

**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 Office. 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.

**Hon. Brian T. Fenimore** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, appointed on Aug. 31, 2017. Previously, he was a partner in the Kansas City, Mo., office of Lathrop & Gage LLP for more than 20 years and co-chaired its Banking & Creditors' Rights practice area, representing debtors, creditors and many other parties in interest. He also represented borrowers and lenders in problem loan matters, including loan enforcement, guarantor liability, workouts, reorganizations and bankruptcies throughout the U.S. Judge Fenimore is admitted to practice in Kansas and Missouri, and before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri and the District of Kansas, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the District of Kansas and the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* every year since 2003, among other listings. He is also a frequent speaker and ABI member. Judge Fenimore received his B.S. *magna cum laude* in 1988 in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Michigan Law School, after which he clerked for Hon. Arthur B. Federman.

**Hon. Mildred Cabán Flores** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Puerto Rico in San Juan, initially sworn in on March 19, 2010. She serves on the Federal Judicial Center's Bankruptcy Judges Education Advisory Committee and is part of the District Examination Committee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Previously, Judge Flores clerked for Hon. Héctor M. Laffitte of the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. In 1990, she became a bankruptcy practitioner at Brown Newsom & Córdova, then was a partner at Goldman Antonetti & Córdova, P.S.C., where her law practice focused on representing creditors in both commercial and consumer bankruptcy cases. She is a member of various bar organizations and has been a speaker for those organizations on bankruptcy and consumer law topics. Judge Flores is an advisory board member of CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) and speaks on financial literacy matters to students of all age groups. She received ABI's 2014 CARE Volunteer of the Year Award. Judge Flores received her B.A. from Barnard College in 1983 and her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1986.

**Rachel Lynn Foley** is the founder of Foley Law, PC in Independence, Mo., and handles consumer chapter 7s and 13s in both Kansas and Missouri. In addition to filing consumer bankruptcy cases and holding mortgage companies accountable, she is an international speaker for the UMKC Law CLE Abroad program, as well a national speaker for the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and ABI. Ms. Foley is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. She is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Association for Women Lawyers of Greater Kansas City, ABI, the National Cannabis Bar Association and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. Ms. Foley currently volunteers through the Voluntary Attorney Project and Military Matters programs. She received her undergraduate degree in the sciences and medicine from Creighton University and her J.D. from Creighton School of Law.

**Prof. Brook E. Gotberg** is an associate professor of law at the University of Missouri Law School in Columbia, Mo., where she teaches bankruptcy, contracts, secured transactions, securities regulation and other commercial law subjects. Her scholarship focuses primarily on debtor and creditor

relations, both in and out of bankruptcy. She has published articles on the treatment of preferential transfers in the Bankruptcy Code, the jurisdiction of bankruptcy judges and, more generally, on the laws and policies shaping business reorganization in the U.S. In addition to her publications, she has presented on such topics as the relationship between medical insurance and bankruptcy, student debt in bankruptcy, Puerto Rico's debt crisis, and the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions on bankruptcy proceedings. This past summer, Prof. Gotberg chaired the Small Business Committee of the Bankruptcy & COVID-19 Working Group, an interdisciplinary group of scholars who study the corporate bankruptcy system and the problems associated with financial distress. The committee advised Congress on policy proposals responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also petitioned the leading monitors of credit and leading small business lenders to provide additional information on the state of small business lending and loan performance. Prior to joining the law faculty, Prof. Gotberg was an Academic Fellow for the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University. She also practiced commercial law with Sullivan & Cromwell in Los Angeles, and has also practiced for smaller regional firms in New Mexico. Prof. Gotberg has litigated a variety of cases from large antitrust suits to minor contract disputes, and represented both debtors and creditors in bankruptcy court. In addition, she clerked for Hon. Milan D. Smith Jr. in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and Hon. Thomas B. Donovan in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. Prof. Gotberg has published in the *ABI Law Review* and was an ABI "40 Under 40" honoree. She received her B.A. from Brigham Young University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Robert A. Hammeke** is a partner in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice of Dentons US LLP in Kansas City, Mo. He is licensed to practice in Missouri and Kansas, and his practice concentrates on loan enforcements, receiverships and workouts, including out-of-court workouts and restructurings, loan exit strategies, pre-judgment loan remedies, including attachments, injunctions and receiverships, non-judicial and judicial real estate foreclosures and UCC Article 9 foreclosures, capture of rents and other proceeds of collateral, and all other aspects of creditor's rights litigation, including defending lender-liability claims, obtaining monetary and ancillary relief judgments against borrowers and full and carve-out recourse guarantors, and protecting clients' rights and interests in bankruptcy. Mr. Hammeke has particular experience with state and federal court receiverships and sales of real estate and personal property collateral by receiver sale. His clients include national, regional and local lending and financial institutions, inventory finance lenders, special servicers, distressed-debt purchasers, and state and federal court receivers. Mr. Hammeke is a member of ABI, the Turnaround Management Association and the Kansas City Missouri Bankruptcy Bar Association. He was selected as a Missouri & Kansas *Super Lawyer* "Rising Star" in the area of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights in 2012 and a Missouri & Kansas *Super Lawyer* in the area of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights in 2013-20, and he was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Litigation - Real Estate in 2020. Mr. Hammeke received his B.A. magna cum laude in 1996 from Fort Hays State University and his J.D. summa cum laude in 1999 from Oklahoma City University School of Law, where he was articles editor of the *Oklahoma City University Law Review*.

**Andrew C. Helman** is a business, workout and restructuring attorney with Murray Plumb & Murray in Portland, Maine, and works with all types of businesses, including those in the health care sector, to help them protect their assets. A large part of his work is focused on helping debtors and creditors, and he represents clients in distressed and nondistressed transactions, business litigation and preference actions. Mr. Helman has been involved in some of the most significant chapter 11 cases in Maine and New Hampshire in recent years, including the representation of the debtor-in-possession in the

largest health care bankruptcy case in Maine's history. In that same case, he subsequently represented a liquidating trustee under a confirmed chapter 11 plan and successfully resolved about 50 preference actions with an estimated value exceeding \$3 million. Mr. Helman frequently writes articles for national insolvency publications and teaches seminars on bankruptcy and fraudulent-transfer law. He was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2015-17 issues of *Super Lawyers* as a "Rising Star" and was one of 40 attorneys nationally to participate in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' 2016 NextGen Program.

**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 represents clients in bankruptcy, nonbankruptcy insolvency proceedings, such as receiverships and other related insolvency matters. Mr. Johnson is a member of the panel of chapter 7 trustees and has served as a federal equity receiver for the Western District of Missouri. He currently chairs the Missouri Bar's Business/Corporate Division. In the past, Mr. Johnson has served as co-chair for the Missouri Bar's Bankruptcy Creditor-Debtor Rights Committee, president of the Kansas Bar Association Bankruptcy and Insolvency Section, president of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar Association, and as a member of the Bench Bar Committees for the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Kansas and the Western District of Missouri. He currently serves on ABI's Board of Directors and on the advisory board for the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute, and he is a past chair of ABI's Secured Creditors Committee and has served in other committee leadership positions. Mr. Johnson is a frequent author and speaker on insolvency-related topics and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa and his J.D. from the University of Iowa College of Law.

**Lee R. Keith** is president of banking services for Neocova, a bank technology company based in St. Louis. For nearly 40 years, he has worked on challenging banking issues in Missouri, Illinois, Texas and Florida. With the exception of one year as president and COO of a wholesale pharmaceutical distribution company, he has spent his entire career in the banking industry. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Keith's experience has included the areas of strategic planning, capital-raising, asset management, mergers and acquisitions, and compliance with state and federal banking requirements. He began his banking career with the Dickinson Financial Corp. From 2017-19, Mr. Keith served as the Commissioner of Finance for the state of Missouri, where he oversaw state chartered banks and mortgage companies. He has spoken on leadership and ethics at the School of Finance and Economics in Southern China, and he has been a guest lecturer for several organizations and nonprofits, with opportunities to speak in Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan, Nigeria, Japan and India. Mr. Keith received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1976.

**Melissa S. Kibler, CPA, CIRA, CTP, CFF, CDBV** is a senior managing director of Mackinac Partners in Chicago and has more than 25 years of experience providing financial advisory, restructuring and turnaround management services to Fortune 500 and mid-sized companies and their stakeholders. She also has investigative, litigation and valuation experience, including insolvency-related litigation, avoidance actions, fraud investigations, merger and acquisition disputes, director and officer claims, and other commercial litigation support. Ms. Kibler was most recently a senior managing director in the Chicago office and an executive committee member of Mesirow Financial Consulting following its 2004 acquisition of the corporate recovery practice of KPMG LLP, where she had served

as partner-in-charge of the Midwest Region Corporate Recovery practice and the Pacific Northwest Corporate Recovery and Forensic and Litigation Services practices since 1999 after starting her career at PricewaterhouseCoopers. She currently serves as president of the American College of Bankruptcy, and her prior leadership roles in professional associations included president of ABI, director of INSOL International, and chair of the AICPA Bankruptcy Task Force. Ms. Kibler was named a *Consulting Magazine* 2013 “Women Leader in Consulting,” an Illinois CPA Society 2011 Women to Watch Award recipient, the IWIRC 2010 Woman of the Year in Restructuring, a *Crain’s Chicago Business* 2004 “40 Under 40,” and the 2003 “CIRA Gold Medal Winner.” She received her B.A. in accounting *summa cum laude* from Texas A&M University and her M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University, graduating first in her class.

**Elizabeth M. Lally** is a partner with Goosmann Law Firm in Omaha, Neb., and practice area lead for Goosmann’s Banking and Bankruptcy group. She is also a chapter 11 and subchapter V trustee for Region 12 covering parts of Iowa and South Dakota. Ms. Lally’s focus is on complex litigation with an emphasis on commercial banking, insolvency and restructuring. She has experience representing chapter 11 debtors, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, secured creditors and unsecured creditors’ committees. Ms. Lally is licensed to practice in federal and state courts in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana, as well as federal courts in Colorado. She is a regular speaker at regional conferences on bankruptcy topics. Ms. Lally received her B.A. *cum laude* in English from Bradley University in 1999 and her J.D. in 2005 from DePaul University College of Law.

**David P. Leibowitz** is founder and managing member of the Law Offices of David P. Leibowitz, LLC in Chicago. He is also Of Counsel to Lakelaw in Chicago and a senior legal advisor to Upright Law, a national consumer bankruptcy firm headquartered in Chicago. Mr. Leibowitz is licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin and has practiced throughout the country. He is a member of ABI’s Board of Directors and co-chaired ABI’s task force on individual chapter 11 cases. He also has served as co-chair of ABI’s Consumer Bankruptcy Committee and Commercial Fraud Committee. Mr. Leibowitz is co-author and editor-in-chief of the *ABI Fraud Handbook*. He is Board Certified in both Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and he is recognized as a *Super Lawyer*, is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and recently was recognized as one of the top 500 bankruptcy lawyers in the U.S. by *Lawdragon*. Mr. Leibowitz has been a panel chapter 7 trustee for more than 30 years and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. As a chapter 7 trustee, he has administered more than 30,000 cases. Mr. Leibowitz received his B.A. in economics from Northwestern University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, where he was note editor of its law review.

**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 is an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal* and an adjunct professor of law at the University of Tulsa, and he 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.

**Hon. Cynthia A. Norton** is Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, sworn in on Feb. 1, 2013. Prior to her appointment, she clerked for Hon. John E. Rees of the Kansas Court of Appeals and Hon. James A. Pusateri, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, and was a partner at Lewis Rice & Fingersh in Kansas City before establishing her own law firm in 1995. As a member of Grimes & Rebein, Judge Norton practiced in bankruptcy and related fields in Kansas and Missouri until being sworn in as a bankruptcy judge in the Western District of Missouri. She 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 a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Judge Norton has authored numerous articles and seminar papers, and spoken at conferences all around the country. She 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.

**Michael Rapp** is a co-founder of Stecklein & Rapp in Kansas City, Mo., and is licensed to practice in Kansas and Missouri. His practice is focused solely on consumer-protection cases. Typically, he brings cases against credit reporting agencies, banks, credit card companies, and the occasional debt collector or shady car lot for doing things that they shouldn't. These cases include both individual and class at the state and federal level. A bestselling author, Mr. Rapp is currently serving as vice chair of the ABA's TIPS Cybersecurity and Data Privacy and the Business Litigation Committees, and as Kansas state chair for the National Association of Consumer Advocates. He also frequently presents on the Fair Credit Reporting Act and topics surrounding consumer protection law. Mr. Rapp received his J.D. from UMKC School of Law, where he served as a research administrator for *Friedman on Leases* and was awarded the Sanford B. Ladd Award for exceptional achievement in real estate law. Prior to attending law school, he was decorated and honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

**Nicolette L. Robovsky** is an associate at Pletz and Reed, P.C. in Jefferson City, Mo., where she practices mainly consumer bankruptcy law. She is a member of the Missouri and Illinois Bars, and has practiced bankruptcy law in the Western District of Missouri and the Northern District of Illinois. Ms. Robovsky received her B.A. from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago.

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

**Paul D. Sinclair** is counsel with Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gonard P.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and has more than 40 years of experience as a first chair trial lawyer in jury, non-jury and arbitration cases, and in the representation of secured and unsecured creditors. He has also represented business debtors, guarantors, committees of unsecured creditors and equity securityholders, receivers and liquidating trusts in commercial disputes, and business restructuring, workout and bankruptcy matters. Mr. Sinclair frequently has represented directors and officers in fiduciary-duty litigation and buyers and sellers of significant businesses in asset/business sales and acquisitions. With his experience in piercing the corporate veil, alter ego and successor liability, subordination, recharacterization, fraudulent transfers, preference matters and partnership disputes, he is actively involved in planning major corporate restructuring and high-net-worth individual asset-planning and protection. An ABI Board member, Mr. Sinclair received the Missouri Bar Association's Oliver Rasch Award in 1989 and has been listed since 2003 as one of the "Best of Bar" in the *Kansas City Business Journal*. In addition, he is recognized in *Missouri* and *Kansas Super Lawyers* and in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Sinclair has published numerous articles in the *ABI Journal* on Ponzi scheme clawback cases and serves as a member of the board of the *ABI Law Review*. He frequently lectures on legal topics and contributes to Missouri Bar publications, and he has served as an adjunct professor of real estate transactions at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. Mr. Sinclair received his A.B. *magna cum laude* from Boston College and his J.D. from Georgetown University.

**Hon. Dale L. Somers** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka, initially appointed in September 2003. He hears cases in Topeka, Kansas City and Wichita. Previously, he was in private practice for 32 years. Judge Somers was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in March 2010. He served as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Judge Somers served on the Board of Governors for the Kansas Bar Association from 1988-98 and as president from 1995-96. He is a Fellow of the 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.

**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.

**Inez Feltscher Stepman** is a senior policy analyst at the Independent Women's Forum in Washington, D.C. She has worked in education policy for seven years, and prior to joining IWF was the director of Education and Workforce Development at the American Legislative Exchange Council. Ms. Stepman's research focuses on educational freedom, school choice, and the cultural impact of empowering parents with control over their children's educations. She is the author of numerous policy papers, including the annually compiled Report Card on American Education, which ranks the states across six aspects of education policy. Her thoughts on education policy have been published in numerous outlets, such as the *Washington Examiner*, *Orange County Register*, *The Hill* and others, and she frequently testifies as an expert in state legislatures across the country. She also is a senior contributor to *The Federalist*, for which she writes on subjects ranging from feminism to fashion, and the Thursday editor of *BRIGHT*, a women's daily newsletter. Ms. Stepman received her B.A. in philosophy from the University of California, San Diego and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Sharon L. Stolte** is a shareholder with Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard P.C. in Kansas City, Mo., and leads the firm's Bankruptcy group. She brings more than 25 years of experience in business law and business and commercial litigation, and her legal practice focuses on bankruptcy, chapter 11 debtor and creditor issues, as well as chapter 7 and 13 consumer debtor matters. Ms. Stolte has

represented creditors in all aspects of creditor rights litigation, claim-objection litigation, collateral realization, mechanic's liens, collections, foreclosures and *replevin* litigation. She has also assisted financial institutions, lenders and large suppliers with the consumer and commercial restructuring of troubled credits and other business matters. In addition to representing clients before both state and federal courts, Ms. Stolte has served as national counsel for several Kansas City-based construction industry firms. As managing attorney of the firm's Kansas City-area offices, she works directly with the firm's CEO, practice group and senior firm leadership on all aspects of the operation of the Kansas City area's offices. In her role, she oversees the communication, recruiting, financial management, marketing and business-development efforts of the two offices. Ms. Stolte is a member of the Western Missouri Bankruptcy Court's Attorney Advisory Group (AAG), the advisory board of ABI's and UMKC's Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute, the American Bar Association, the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and the Johnson County Bar Association. She is a former president of the Turnaround Management Association's Midwest Chapter, a former director of the Kansas City Bankruptcy Bar, a former vice chair of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association's Commercial & Bankruptcy Law Committee, a former officer of the Workout Professional Organization, and a member of the Associated General Contractors of Missouri. Ms. Stolte regularly contributes to the Missouri Practice Series and composes the chapter pertaining to mechanic's liens. She is also a contributor to the *Missouri In-House Counsel Magazine* by Missouri Lawyers Media. Ms. Stolte received her B.A. from the University of Colorado and her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

**Hon. Holly L. Teeter** is a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Kansas in Topeka, appointed in August 2018. Following law school, she worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., doing patent prosecution work before returning to Kansas City to practice patent law at Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. Judge Teeter subsequently left private practice and clerked for the Hon. Carlos Murguia in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, then for Hon. Brian C. Wimes in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. Most recently, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Western District of Missouri. Judge Teeter earned a chemical engineering degree with highest distinction from the University of Kansas, a diploma in legal studies from the University of Oxford, and her J.D. from the University of Kansas, where she graduated first in her class.

**Prof. Mikah K. Thompson** is an associate professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in Columbia, Mo., where she teaches civil procedure, evidence, race and the law, and employment law. Her research centers on the intersection of evidentiary law and critical race theory. She also writes on the pedagogy of legal education with a particular emphasis on techniques for infusing cultural competence into the first-year law school curriculum. Prior to joining the faculty, Prof. Thompson was the director of Affirmative Action and Title IX coordinator for the UMKC campus. In that role, she coordinated the university's response to internal complaints of discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence. She also handled the university's response to complaints of discrimination investigated by local, state and federal administrative agencies and served as the campus's ADA accommodations coordinator. Prof. Thompson is a certified mediator in Kansas and Missouri, and frequently provides continuing legal education in the areas of employment law, professional responsibility and implicit bias. She received her J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

**Elizabeth B. Vandesteeg, CIPP** is the chair of both the Litigation and Dispute Resolution and the Data Security and Privacy groups at Sugar Felsenthal Grais & Helsinger LLP in its Chicago office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial litigation, business disputes, and privacy and data-security issues. Ms. Vandesteeg has experience in nearly every facet of commercial bankruptcy and restructuring, having represented debtors, secured creditors, unsecured creditors and unsecured creditors' committees. She also has broad bankruptcy litigation experience, having represented clients in complex adversary and contested litigation matters across the U.S. Ms. Vandesteeg is a Certified Information Privacy Professional for the U.S. private sector, as qualified by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, the world's largest information privacy organization. She assists clients with developing and implementing information security programs that are reasonable and appropriate for their specific business needs and risks, and she also advises clients on their various privacy and data-security compliance and regulatory issues. Ms. Vandesteeg has been an associate editor of the *ABI Journal* for the last seven years and founded its Cyber-U column. She is a member of the ABI's inaugural class of "40 Under 40" honorees and has also been featured in the *Chicago Law Bulletin's* 40 Under 40. In addition, she has been named one of the Top 50 Women Attorneys in Illinois by *Super Lawyers* and one of *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers." Ms. Vandesteeg received her B.A. from Columbia University and her J.D. from Boston College.

**Eric E. Walker** is a bankruptcy partner in the Chicago office of Perkins Coie LLP, where he focuses his practice on all aspects of commercial litigation, financial restructuring and bankruptcy, including experience representing debtors, creditors, asset-purchasers, examiners and trustees in bankruptcy proceedings throughout the country. He has particular experience in the highly regulated health care industry, representing debtors, creditors' committees, private-equity sponsors, stalking-horse bidders, landlords and other constituents in out-of-court restructuring negotiations, bankruptcy and litigation. He also has particular experience in restructuring hospital systems, senior living facilities, continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), behavioral health centers and diagnostic medical laboratories. His successful representation of the asset purchaser in the Health Diagnostic Laboratories (HDL) bankruptcy case was awarded the 2016 Restructuring Deal of the Year (Under \$100M) by M&A Advisors. In addition, Mr. Walker has experience in the hotel and hospitality industry, regularly representing hotel owners, developers, operators, lenders and major hotel brands in transactions, state and federal litigation, and bankruptcy. He represented the petitioners before the U.S. Supreme Court in *RadLAX Gateway Hotel LLC, et al. v. Amalgamated Bank* (Case No. 11-166), a landmark chapter 11 bankruptcy case involving secured creditor cramdown. Mr. Walker has been recognized for 2020 in *Lawdragon's* "500 Leading Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers," ABI's "40 Under 40" list of leading restructuring professionals, and the 2013 Next Generation Class at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He currently serves on ABI's Board of Directors. Mr. Walker received his B.S.B.A. in finance in 2000 from Miami University and his J.D. in 2006 from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

**Alice L. Whitten** is managing counsel and senior vice president in the Wells Fargo Legal Department in its Irving, Texas, office. She leads a team that provides guidance and support for consumer bankruptcy operations across the Wells Fargo enterprise, including mortgage, automobile, credit cards and student lending, and supports default functions within home lending, including collections, foreclosure, property preservation and REO. She has been with Wells Fargo since 2014. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Ms. Whitten served as a standing chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Texas

for four years and was senior vice president – associate general counsel with AmeriCredit Financial Services Inc. (now known as GM Financial), where she provided legal support for bankruptcy and default services operations. Ms. Whitten is admitted to practice in Texas and co-chairs the NACTT Automobile Committee, and she is a board member for the NACTT Academy. She was a council member of the Bankruptcy Law Section Counsel of the State Bar of Texas from 2013-15, and a committee member of the Committee on Case Administration and the Estate for the ABI Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy (2018-19). She currently co-chairs the NACTT Automobile Committee and is a board member for the NACTT Academy. Ms. Whitten received her J.D. *cum laude* from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio and a degree from the University of Minnesota – Carlson School of Management.

**Mark P. Williams** is an attorney with Norman, Wood, Kendrick & Turner in Birmingham, Ala., and has handled all phases of creditor representation throughout the State of Alabama, including bankruptcy, commercial litigation, construction litigation, commercial collections, mechanics and materialmen's lien claims, mortgage foreclosures and appeals for over 30 years. He is Board Certified in Creditors' Rights and Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, of which he has served on its board of directors from 2009-19, and he holds a Judicial AV-Preeminent rating and an AV-Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Williams is a past chairman of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Alabama State Bar and has served as an adjunct lecturer of legal studies at the University of Alabama School of Commerce and Business Administration, and as an adjunct professor in bankruptcy and creditors' rights at the University of Alabama School of Law. He also coaches the bankruptcy moot court team for the University of Alabama School of Law. Mr. Williams previously clerked for Hon. George S. Wright, former Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Alabama. He was recognized in the 25th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and has been recognized by *Alabama Super Lawyers* in the practice area of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights since 2009. He also was named in *B-Metro Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" in 2010, 2012 and 2016-18, and in *BHM BIZ's* "Top Lawyers" in 2016. Mr. Williams served on the Alabama Law Institute's Revised Article 9 Committee and as co-chair of the Professional Compensation Committee, as well as on ABI's Website Editorial Board. He received his B.A. in 1981 and J.D. in 1984 from the University of Alabama, where he was an associate editor of the *Alabama Law Review*.