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# 2022 Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Jeffrey S. Ainsworth** is an attorney with BransonLaw PLLC in Orlando, Fla., where he practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, creditors' rights and dischargeability issues, and has represented individual debtors, corporate debtors, unsecured creditors, committees, secured creditors and trustees. He is a member of ABI, the Orange County Bar Association and the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association. Mr. Ainsworth is admitted to practice in all Florida courts and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida. He received his B.A. in political science in 2004 from the University of Central Florida and his J.D. in 2008 from Florida State University, where he also received a Certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law.

**John A. Anthony** is the managing member of Anthony & Partners in Tampa, Fla., where his practice focuses on chapter 11 reorganizations, complex chapter 7 liquidations, assignments for the benefit of creditors, loan restructures, state court loan enforcement litigation and lender-liability defense in state and federal courts. Previously, he chaired a statewide 22-lawyer creditors' rights department of a large law firm. Mr. Anthony served for four years on the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association's Board of Directors, and served for two years as an editor of its newsletter, *The Cramdown*. He frequently speaks and writes regarding matters of importance to financial institutions and other creditors, and he has been AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell for 25 years, with regular appearances on *Florida Trend's* "Legal Elite." He is a member of the Florida Bar Association's Corporate Banking and Business Law Section, as well as the Federal, American, Tampa Bay Bankruptcy, Polk County and Lakeland Bar Associations and the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida. He has been rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell since 1983, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Middle, Southern and Northern Districts of Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Anthony received his B.A. from Georgetown University College of Arts and Sciences in theology and political philosophy in 1984 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1987.

**Christie D. Arkovich** is an attorney with the Law Offices of Christie D. Arkovich, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., and practices in consumer bankruptcy law, including debt relief, foreclosure defense, creditor harassment, loan modifications, deficiency waivers, short sales and student loans. She is a frequent speaker at various consumer-oriented continuing legal education seminars for ABI, NACA, Westlaw and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association (TBBBA) on topics such as student loans, creditor harassment and bankruptcy. She also writes a quarterly column for the TBBBA, Student Loan Sidebar, and regularly contributes videos on the firm's Youtube Channel, Student Loan Sidebar, about recent student loan-related laws, regulations and developments nationwide. Whenever possible, Ms. Arkovich takes the opportunity to share her knowledge about student loans gained from prior work as trial counsel for Sallie Mae, ECMC and other student loan servicers or guarantors, and from her practice now on the consumer side of things. She recently served on the Student Loan Committee for the new Student Loan Management Program in the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida and has been the Consumer Chair for CLE for the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association for the past three years. Following law school, Ms. Arkovich interned with the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office and clerked with the Florida Bar. Thereafter, she worked in commercial litigation for three years for private law firms until starting her own consumer practice in 1995. Ms. Arkovich received her B.A. in political science from Stetson University in 1989 and her J.D. *cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law in 1992, where she was a member of the *Stetson Law Review*.

**Douglas A. Bates** is a shareholder with Clark Partington Hart Larry Bond & Stackhouse, P.A. in Pensacola, Fla., and chairs its Commercial Litigation section. He has handled insolvency matters, distressed business situations and special-asset cases across the State of Florida and the U.S., and across a wide range of industries including airline, hospitality, manufacturing, retail and financial services. He serves as a trusted advisor to local, regional and national clients and maintains his focus on commercial and real estate litigation, as well as bankruptcy and creditors' rights matters. Mr. Bates is listed in *Chambers USA* and is an active member of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, serving on the Section's Executive Council. He also is a member of The Florida Bar Standing Committee on Student Education and Bar Admissions, as well as numerous other local, statewide and national organizations. Mr. Bates received his B.S.B.A. *summa cum laude* from Birmingham Southern College and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Florida College of Law.

**Ceci C. Berman** is a managing shareholder at Brannock Humphries & Berman in Tampa, Fla., and is board-certified in appellate practice. She focuses on complex commercial appeals and has experience handling bankruptcy, family law and land-use appeals. She regularly speaks and writes on these and other appellate topics. Before joining Brannock Humphries & Berman, Ms. Berman was a shareholder with Fowler White Boggs, P.A., now Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney P.C., where she specialized in appellate practice and served on both the Writing Committee and the Associate Evaluation Committee. She is a past chair of the Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Section, and she has served on the Appellate Court Rules Committee. In addition, she is the Immediate Past Chair of the Civil Procedure Rules Committee. Ms. Berman has been recognized by numerous "Best Lawyer Lists" as a leading lawyer for appellate and commercial litigation, including *Chambers USA* and *Florida Trend*, and she has appeared annually as one of *Super Lawyers'* Top 100 lawyers and Top 50 women lawyers in Florida. Ms. Berman received her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida with honors and her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**Steven M. Berman** is a partner in the Tampa, Fla., office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, specializing in the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. He has more than 30 years of bankruptcy experience and focuses his practice on business bankruptcy litigation, representing creditors, investors, distressed-debt lenders, trustees, committees and business entities litigating disputes in bankruptcy court. Mr. Berman is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification in both Creditors' Rights Law and Business Bankruptcy Law, and he is a member of the Florida, California, District of Columbia, New York and Puerto Rico (Federal) bars. He is also admitted to practice before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Berman serves on the board of directors of the American Board of Certification and is a member of its Faculty Committee. He also serves on ABI's Board of Directors, its Endowment Committee and its Task Force on Veterans and Servicemembers Affairs, and he routinely volunteers and speaks at its seminars and other programs. On a local level, Mr. Berman is a member of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association and the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum. He also guest lectures at the University of Florida College of Law and Stetson University College of Law, both in the advanced bankruptcy courses. Additionally, Mr. Berman serves as the Judge Advocate and Parliamentarian to the Coronado Yacht Club in Coronado, Calif., and volunteers in providing *pro bono* bankruptcy and insolvency services and training for U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General officers and staff, along with representation of service members and their families in need. He received his B.S.

in multinational business operations from Florida State University and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Hon. Jacob A. Brown** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Jacksonville. He started his legal career by clerking for Hon. Jerry A. Funk in the same bankruptcy court. Prior to joining the bench in 2021, Judge Brown was in private practice for more than 20 years, representing creditors, committees, debtors and trustees in bankruptcy. He also handled commercial litigation and business law matters in state and federal courts. Judge Brown is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, former chair of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar, and past-president of the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association. He received his B.S. in chemical engineering, pulp & paper science and technology from North Carolina State University in 1994 and his J.D. from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law in 1998, where he was a member of Cumberland's trial advocacy program.

**Hon. Jason A. Burgess** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Jacksonville, appointed in March 2022. While in private practice, he became a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator and the only attorney in North Florida to be Board Certified in both Business Bankruptcy and Consumer Bankruptcy Law. While in law school and for a time following graduation, Judge Burgess practiced in the creditors' rights area, representing many of the nation's largest financial institutions. He later became the managing partner of The Law Offices of Jason A. Burgess, LLC, where he concentrated on chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and complex bankruptcy litigation. He was often called upon as a chapter 11 consultant for complex debtor and creditor bankruptcy cases, and was also appointed as a subchapter V chapter 11 trustee for both the Middle and Northern Districts of Florida. Judge Burgess was honored as a member of ABI's 2021 class of "40 Under 40." He received his LL.M. in business transactions *magna cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law.

**Rudy J. Cerone** is a member of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC in New Orleans and co-chairs its Creditors' Rights, Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice Group. He also served as a commissioner on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. Mr. Cerone was admitted to the California Bar in 1979 and to the Louisiana Bar in 1984. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy (2001) and is certified as a Business Bankruptcy Specialist by the American Board of Certification (1993) and by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization (1997). In 2019, he received a Mid-Size Company Turnaround of the Year Award from the Turnaround Management Association and a Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (\$10MM to \$25MM) Award from The M&A Advisor. Mr. Cerone is a long-time ABI member and former Board member, and he served as a commissioner on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy and as a co-chair of ABI's Caribbean Insolvency Symposium. He also is former chair, president and board member of the American Board of Certification. Mr. Cerone is a member of the State Bar of California, Louisiana State Bar Association, Bankruptcy Law Advisory Commission, Bar Association of the Federal Fifth Circuit and the American Bar Association. He is an author and frequent lecturer on both business and complex consumer bankruptcy issues. Mr. Cerone received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from the University of California at San Diego in 1976 and his J.D. *cum laude* from Boston College Law School in 1979, where he received the Order of Coif (1979), was the executive editor of the *Boston College International & Comparative Law Review* (1978-79) and received the Best Law Review Editor Award (1979).

**Hon. Roberta A. Colton** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando, appointed on April 1, 2016. She has an extensive background in bankruptcy mediation dating back to the early 1990s, when she worked with the Middle District of Florida to develop a pilot program that included mediation rules, training and qualifications for bankruptcy mediators. In 1992, Judge Colton presented a program on mediation in bankruptcy at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the following year co-authored “Confidentiality Issues in Bankruptcy Mediation,” which was published in the *Norton Bankruptcy Advisor*. While in private practice, Judge Colton mediated numerous complex and noncomplex bankruptcy and commercial disputes. Upon taking the bench, she continued bankruptcy mediations and now conducts judicial mediations for cases pending before her colleagues on the bench. In September 2016, she served as an instructor at the Federal Judicial Center’s Judicial Mediation Workshop. Before coming on the bench, Judge Colton practiced at Trenam Law in Tampa, Fla., for 33 years. Her practice included business reorganization, bankruptcy litigation, foreclosure/lender liability, creditors’ committees, bankruptcy trustee representation, commercial litigation and bankruptcy asset sales. Prior to joining Trenam Law, she served as a judicial law clerk for Hon. James C. Hill of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Colton has served on the Board of Regents for the American College of Bankruptcy and as chair of the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. She was the former chair of the Florida Bar Business Law Section, Bankruptcy/UCC Committee, and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. She currently co-chairs the Judicial Liaison Committee for the Florida Bar’s Business Law Section. Judge Colton received her B.A. in commerce with distinction from the University of Virginia in 1979 and her J.D. from William & Mary Law School in 1982, where she served on its law review and was a national moot court finalist.

**Hon. Caryl E. Delano** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa, initially appointed on June 25, 2008, and named Chief Judge on October 1, 2019. She also was appointed Presiding Judge of the Fort Myers Division in July 2012. Previously, Judge Delano practiced before the bankruptcy courts of the Central District of California for 14 years. In 1994, she returned to Tampa and most recently practiced law with the firm of Addison & Delano, P.A., where she concentrated her practice on bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Judge Delano has represented debtors and creditors in numerous chapter 11 cases and related adversary proceedings. She is a member of The Florida Bar, The State Bar of California, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar (Executive Council, CLE Committee), the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. In addition, she served as the liaison judge to the Middle District of Florida’s Local Rules Lawyers’ Advisory Committee from 2011-20 and is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Federal Rules Advisory Committee. In 2017, Judge Delano received the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association’s Alexander L. Paskay Professionalism Award. In addition, she is a former executive director and past-president of the J. Clifford Cheatwood American Inn of Court. Judge Delano received her B.A. in English *cum laude* in 1976 from the University of South Florida and her J.D. in 1979 from Indiana University School of Law, having completed her final year of law school at Emory University School of Law.

**Nicole DiBlasi** is a senior vice president and partner with IST Management Services Inc., in Tampa, Fla., and is responsible for overseeing its National Sales Team. She collaborates with law firms, including Am Law 100, and large corporations to facilitate the implementation of eDiscovery best practices and processes through utilizing the industry’s most innovative software and service solu-

tion. Through her interest in technology and law, Ms. DiBlasi has developed extensive knowledge of eDiscovery and litigation workflow, allowing her to work with her clients to develop fully customized and strategic eDiscovery solutions according to their discovery requests and overall litigation support needs. She previously has interned with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the House of Representatives and the U.S. Office of Pretrial Services. A Boston native, Ms. DiBlasi is also a classically trained, international prize-winning violinist, who has performed as a soloist with several orchestras. She is an advocate for music education and the importance of the arts in the world. Ms. DiBlasi received her undergraduate degree in communications with a concentration in sociology and violin performance from Boston University.

**John R. Dodd** is a partner with Baker McKenzie in Miami in its Restructuring and Insolvency Practice Group. He is experienced with handling transactions and litigations that arise in business reorganizations, liquidations, distressed-asset acquisitions and sales, financial restructurings and loan workouts. Mr. Dodd represents debtors, trustees, secured and unsecured creditors, and official committees and purchasers of troubled companies and their assets, both in and out of bankruptcy court. He is listed in the *South Florida Legal Guide* as a “Top Lawyer” (2020) and a “Top Up and Comer” (2017-19), was recognized in 2018 in the *Daily Business Review*’s “Most Effective Lawyers” list, and was listed as a *Florida Super Lawyers* “Rising Star” from 2013-19. Mr. Dodd is a member of the American Bar Association, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida and the Leadership Miami Committee. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Harvard College in 2001 and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2006.

**Herbert R. Donica, CPA** is the founding shareholder of the Donica Law Firm, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., and has practiced bankruptcy law since 1990. He has represented clients, including bankruptcy trustees and receivers, in more than 2,000 bankruptcy and insolvency cases, many of which have involved the litigation of contested matters. Previously, Mr. Donica spent two years with the big-six accounting firm of Coopers and Lybrand as a tax specialist and two years in the business law department of the Calkins, Kramer, Grimshaw and Haring law firm in Denver. On Aug. 25, 2021, the Manatee Circuit Court entered an Order appointing Mr. Donica as a receiver to take control of the Piney Point Facility in Manatee County, Fla., a former phosphate fertilizer manufacturing complex, and oversee its permanent closure. The facility consists, in part, of a 466-acre phosphogypsum stack system including four elevated pond systems. The ponds are lined reservoir compartments that contain phosphogypsum process water and dredged materials. The stack system holds more than 400,000,000 gallons of water, much of which has levels of phosphorus and nitrogen as well of levels of heavy-metal particulate. In April 2021, the sidewall of one of the stacks developed a leak that resulted in the loss of more than 220,000,000 gallons of water into Bishops Harbor near Bradenton, Fla. The event prompted the State of Florida to investigate ways to implement a permanent solution to fix the Piney Point Facility. As receiver, Mr. Donica is charged with the responsibility to maintain, repair and close the Piney Point stack system as expeditiously as possible so that it is no longer a threat to public safety and the environment. The Florida legislature has set aside \$100,000,000 to fund closure activities. Mr. Donica received his B.S. in accounting in 1975 from Indiana University and his J.D. in 1979 from Washington and Lee University Law School.

**Robert F. Elgidely** is a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP in Miami and New York, where he focuses his practice on complex bankruptcy disputes and commercial litigation matters. In his bankruptcy

practice, he regularly represents court-appointed fiduciaries in connection with chapter 7 and 11 cases stemming from fraud and financial crimes. He also regularly represents debtors, creditors, creditors' committees and liquidating trustees. Mr. Elgidely has handled business, real estate, aviation, admiralty, sports and entertainment, motor vehicle and ERISA/employee benefits disputes. He prosecuted avoidance claims seeking more than \$84 million in recoveries in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case stemming from a massive check-kiting scheme, served as special counsel to the chapter 7 trustee in a bankruptcy case involving a \$350 million international Ponzi scheme in which 7,000 victim-creditors obtained significant recoveries, represented the chapter 11 trustee of a law firm that collapsed following the revelation of a \$1.2 billion Ponzi scheme perpetrated by the firm's principal and secured recoveries that contributed to a 100 percent distribution to victim-creditors, and represented several Italian professional tennis players in connection with a suit against the ATP concerning provisions of the official rulebook for the sport. Prior to joining Fox Rothschild, Mr. Elgidely was a partner in the bankruptcy law and litigation practice of a Florida boutique law firm. Before he became a lawyer, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve; he completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in 1989 and Advanced Individual Training as a medic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 1990. Mr. Elgidely received his B.A. from Siena College in 1993, his J.D. in 1996 from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law and his LL.M. in taxation in 1997 from the University of Miami School of Law.

**Heidi A. Feinman** is a trial attorney with the U.S. Trustee Program in Miami. She started in Atlanta in 1992 and moved to the Miami office in 1998. Although she has overseen cases in all three divisions in the Southern District of Florida and appeared before most of the judges, she has regularly appeared before Judges Hyman and Friedman and now appears before Judges Kimball and Mora. For the last approximately 23 years, Ms. Feinman has been the Bankruptcy Fraud Criminal Referral Coordinator with the Miami office and is the liaison with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other federal agencies regarding bankruptcy criminal matters. She is a member of the SDFL Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force and the Securities and Investment Task Force. In 2002 and 2003, Ms. Feinman was appointed a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in Miami and assisted in the prosecution and conviction of Thomas Warmus for bankruptcy fraud. She is a member of several government fraud working groups and has lectured on bankruptcy fraud to the U.S. Attorney Program, the court, the bankruptcy bar and other agencies. Ms. Feinman currently serves on several U.S. Trustee Program working groups. She also works on trustee oversight and is a point person on regional SBRA matters. She is a member of the Lawyers Advisory Committee and previously served on the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida on behalf of the U.S. Trustee's Office. Ms. Feinman a DOJ Ambassador to several Florida law schools and a DOJ mentor. She received her B.S. in accounting in 1986 from the University of Florida and her J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 1990.

**Lara Roeske Fernandez** is a shareholder with Trenam Law in Tampa, Fla. She currently serves on the firm's Executive Board and is a former practice group leader for the firm's Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group. Ms. Fernandez is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and her clients include financial institutions, fiduciaries/trustees and private-equity groups in the areas of business reorganizations, trustee representation, bankruptcy litigation, commercial foreclosures and workouts, and loan modifications. Ms. Fernandez has served as a chapter 11 trustee and liquidation trustee. Prior to joining Trenam, she clerked for Hon. Alexander L. Paskay, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Emeritus of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle

District of Florida, from 2001-04 and for a year after graduating from law school. Ms. Fernandez is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and listed in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers of America*, *Super Lawyers* and *Florida Super Lawyers*. She received both her B.A. and J.D. from Emory University.

**Prof. Roberta K. Flowers** is a professor of law at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla. She also is the director of the Center for Excellence in Elder Law and the director of the LLM in Elder Law. Prof. Flowers teaches ethics in an elder law practice in the Elder Law LL.M. program. She also teaches evidence, criminal procedure and professional responsibility. Prof. Flowers has served as the director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy Center and as the William Reece Smith, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Professionalism. She is currently the vice president of NAELA (National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys). Prof. Flowers has lectured throughout the U.S. and internationally in the area of ethics. She co-created a set of videos depicting ethical dilemmas faced by elder law attorneys, which have been used throughout the U.S. to train attorneys. The Florida Supreme Court awarded Pher with the Florida Supreme Court Professionalism Award for her work on these videos. Additionally, she co-designed the first “elder-friendly courtroom” in the nation, a model of the important considerations that should be made when creating courtrooms of the future. Prof. Flowers began her career in 1984 as a deputy district attorney for the 18th Judicial District of Colorado, where she served as a trial attorney in the criminal division. In 1989, she was appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, where she served in the Appellate Division, the Major Crimes Unit and the Public Corruption Unit. Prof. Flowers’s articles have appeared in such journals as the *Fordham Law Review*, the *Boston College Law Review*, *Missouri Law Review*, the *Nebraska Law Review*, the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*, *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*, the *Stetson Law Review* and the *NAELA Journal*. She received her Bachelor’s degree *magna cum laude* in psychology from Baylor University in 1979 and her J.D. from the University of Colorado in 1984, where she was selected to be a member of the Order of the Coif.

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

*American Legal & Finance Network* and *Default Servicing News*. Mr. Fraser has the highest rating by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his B.A. in 2007 from the University of Miami and his J.D. in 2010 from the University of Miami School of Law.

**Robert C. Furr** is a partner with Furr & Cohen, P.A. in Boca Raton, Fla., and serves as a panel trustee for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Southern District of Florida. He is regularly appointed as a chapter 11 trustee and has been designated as the chapter 12 trustee in the Southern District. Mr. Furr has represented numerous businesses in chapter 7 liquidations and in chapter 11 reorganizations, as well as individuals in complex chapter 7 and chapter 11 proceedings. He lectures frequently on issues of bankruptcy, creditors' rights and remedies before national organizations. Mr. Furr served as editor of *NABTalk* from 2000-05 and sat on NABT's board of directors from 2000-11, serving as president during the 2008-09 term. He is currently president of the American Board of Certification. Mr. Furr is a contributor to the *ABI Journal* and is admitted to practice law in Georgia and Florida and in all federal courts in Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1983, Mr. Furr became a Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer by the Florida Bar, and in 1994 he received an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and in *Florida Super Lawyers* and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. Mr. Furr received his J.D. from Emory University in 1975.

**David L. Gay** is a shareholder with Carlton Fields, P.A. in Miami, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy and creditors' rights, corporate reorganizations and restructurings, and commercial litigation. He represents debtors, creditors, financial institutions, trustees and creditors' committees in chapter 11 reorganizations and chapter 7 liquidations, as well as in fraudulent-transfer actions, preference actions, and litigation against directors and officers. As an experienced litigator in federal and state courts, Mr. Gay is known for his strategic approach throughout all phases of commercial litigation, from pre-litigation consulting to post-judgment collection to appeals. He also has significant experience in business planning and advisory matters, insolvency and restructuring matters, shareholder and partnership disputes, real property disputes, and collection matters. Mr. Gay is an active member of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, serving on a number of committees, including the committee studying revisions to Florida's Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act. He also has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and in *Florida Super Lawyers* since 2009. Prior to attending law school, Mr. Gay served as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army. He received his B.S. from the University of Florida and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Florida College of Law, where he was on the Moot Court Board and was co-founder and vice president of the University of Florida Association for Law & Business.

**Tiffany Payne Geyer** is a partner with BakerHostetler in Orlando, Fla., and practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights. She has represented both corporate and individual debtors in chapter 11 cases and individuals in chapter 7 cases, and her clients include health care businesses and medical professionals, investment bankers and financial advisors. She has also represented clients in the hospitality sectors, and has assisted in representing debtors in the energy sectors. Ms. Geyer has negotiated multiple settlements of guarantor liability and has experience with assignments for the benefit of creditors. She has also represented secured creditors, unsecured creditors, landlords and panel trustees. Ms. Geyer has been listed in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Florida and in *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2020 for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor

Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and she is a member of the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association (CFBLA), Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). She received her B.A. with honors in political science and public administration in 1998 from the University of Central Florida, and her J.D. in 2000 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she received the Book Award for Legal Drafting and was a member of a trial competition team.

**Michael I. Goldberg** chairs Akerman LLP's Fraud and Recovery Practice in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and leads an experienced team of lawyers focused on unraveling high-profile investor fraud, including Ponzi schemes, receiverships and EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program wrongdoing. He has managed some of the largest Ponzi scheme liquidation recoveries in U.S. history. More recently, Mr. Goldberg has developed a reputation for his work unraveling EB-5 fraud schemes. He previously chaired Akerman's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group. As a qualified expert witness on Ponzi schemes, Mr. Goldberg is highly sought-after and routinely testifies in federal and state court cases throughout the country and internationally. He has served as court-appointed receiver in many of his cases over the past two decades, helping victims maximize potential returns by identifying, securing and monetizing potential assets as quickly and efficiently as possible. Regarded as a thought leader on fraud, Mr. Goldberg has appeared on CNN, CNBC, Fox News and National Public Radio to discuss Ponzi schemes and receiverships. He has also been quoted in Bloomberg, *Forbes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The American Lawyer*, *The Miami Herald*, *Sun Sentinel* and numerous other publications. Mr. Goldberg regularly lectures on receiverships, Ponzi schemes and EB-5 fraud to regulators and various legal groups throughout the country, and he is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He received his B.A. in history in 1985 from Boston University, his M.B.A. in 1987 from New York University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Boston University School of Law.

**Hon. Scott M. Grossman** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in Fort Lauderdale, sworn in on Oct. 2, 2019. He previously was a shareholder with a large international law firm in its global restructuring and bankruptcy practice, and he represented distressed companies, debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, official committees, trustees, landlords and purchasers of distressed assets, and worked on bankruptcy cases across various industries, including real estate, hospitality, health care, entertainment, banking, technology, energy and financial fraud. While primarily involved in chapter 11 reorganizations, he also represented clients in out-of-court workouts and restructurings, chapter 7 liquidations, receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors and insolvency-related litigation. Judge Grossman was active in local bar activities, including having served as president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida. When in private practice, he was listed in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers* magazine, and was a member of the winning teams for the Global M&A Network's Turnaround Atlas Awards for both "Cross Border Special Situation M&A Deal (Small-Mid Markets)" in 2019, as well as "Turnaround of the Year — Small Markets" in 2015. Judge Grossman began his legal career in the Attorney General's Honors Program at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was a trial attorney in the Tax Division, Civil Trial Southern Section, from 1999-2004. He received his B.S. in 1996 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 1999 from George Washington University Law School.

**Debra J. Jackson** is a managing director at HDH Advisors, LLC in Fort Myers, Fla., and a sub-chapter V trustee in the Middle District of Florida. Her 35-year career as a business, financial and commercial real estate professional includes a variety of experience in bankruptcy, capital markets, investor relations, development, asset-management, dispositions, construction lending, permanent lending, underwriting, credit analysis, due diligence, loan restructuring, lender negotiations, private REIT valuation, business valuation, family limited partnership valuation and commercial real estate appraisal. Ms. Jackson joined HDH Advisors, LLC in 2012 and is the firm practice leader in the real estate consulting service line providing comprehensive financial advisory, due diligence, capital market, restructure, private REIT valuation and turnaround consulting services. She also provides business and family limited partnership valuation services, as well as financial advisory services including expert report and expert testimony in conjunction with chapter 11 bankruptcy and loan deficiency cases. Ms. Jackson received her B.B.A. in real estate from Georgia State University and is qualified to provide expert testimony in Georgia state courts and federal courts.

**David S. Jennis** is president and a founding attorney of Jennis Morse Etlinger in Tampa, Fla., where he focuses his practice in the areas of complex corporate bankruptcy, workouts, restructuring and reorganizations, and commercial litigation. His clients include debtors, trustees, creditor committees and creditors, as well as clients requiring successful outcomes in commercial litigation. Mr. Jennis is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has been appointed to its Board of Directors. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar, ABI and other professional organizations. Mr. Jennis is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has authored numerous *ABI Journal* articles, and he routinely presents on various bankruptcy issues relating to his practice throughout the state of Florida. He also has served as a guest lecturer for the University of Florida and Stetson University College of Law’s advanced bankruptcy courses, and has testified as an expert fee witness in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida on many occasions. Mr. Jennis received his B.S. in business administration in 1985 and his J.D. with honors in 1988 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of the Holderness Moot Court Bench and the National Moot Court Team.

**Erik Johanson** is the founder of Erik Johanson PLLC in Tampa, Fla., where his practice includes commercial bankruptcy, business litigation, commercial litigation, appeals, local counsel services and general civil litigation. He began his career in private practice in Tampa, representing debtors, creditors and bankruptcy trustees in commercial chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Johanson left private practice in 2015 to serve a two-year term as a judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich. During his clerkship, he oversaw Judge Kovachevich’s docket of civil cases and bankruptcy appeals. He founded Erik Johanson PLLC in July 2020. Mr. Johanson has been honored as one of the 2022 “Top Lawyers” by *Tampa Magazine* for bankruptcy/creditor/debtor rights/insolvency & reorganization law, and has been listed in *Super Lawyers* as a “Rising Star” in civil litigation and business bankruptcy since 2019. He also was a finalist and won for Outstanding Brief at the 21st Annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, in 2013, which is sponsored by ABI and St. John’s University School of Law. In addition, he received the William F. Blews *Pro Bono* Service Award in 2013. Mr. Johanson received his B.S. in finance and philosophy *magna cum laude* from Florida State University in 2009 and his J.D. *cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law in May 2013.

**Hon. William F. Jung** is a U.S. District Court Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa. He was nominated to the court by President Donald Trump on Dec. 21, 2017, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Sept. 6, 2018, by a voice vote. Judge Jung was previously nominated to the same federal judicial post in April 2016 by President Barack Obama. On Jan. 3, 2017, his nomination was returned to President Obama at the *sine die* adjournment of the 114th Congress. Prior to his 2018 judicial appointment, Jung was a partner at the Tampa, Fla.-based law firm of Jung and Sisco, P.A., which he co-founded in 1993. He received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in 1980 and his J.D. in 1983 from the University of Illinois College of Law.

**Roy S. Kobert** is a shareholder in the Orlando and Tampa, Fla., offices of GrayRobinson, P.A., where he focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, creditor/debtor law, lender liability, Article 9 and commercial litigation. He has mediated more than 100 bankruptcy and commercial litigation disputes and is the first Florida graduate of the 40-Hour Bankruptcy Mediation Training Program, jointly sponsored by ABI and the Hugh Carey Center for Dispute Resolution at St. John's University Graduate School of Law. He also is a Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator. Ms. Kobert has been Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification for over a 15 years, is a former president of the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association, and founded the Orlando Chapter of the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program. He received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Miami.

**Kay S. Kress** is a partner in the Finance & Restructuring Practice Group of Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP in Detroit and has experience in restructuring debt and representing secured creditors in federal receivership actions. She also focuses on representing debtors, creditors' committees, secured creditors, trustees, individual creditors and parties in interest — both as lead counsel and co-counsel — in out-of-court workouts and bankruptcy courts in the Eastern District of Michigan, Western District of Michigan, District of Delaware, Southern District of New York and other bankruptcy [districts] nationwide. Ms. Kress co-authored Chapter 83, "Creditors' Committees," for *Colliers Bankruptcy Practice Guide*; co-wrote "Alternatives to Bankruptcy Under Federal and State Law," a chapter in *Navigating in Today's Environment*; and authored the "Federal Receiverships" chapter in *Guide to Receivership and Foreclosure*. She also has written articles for the *Michigan Business Law Journal*; the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Bankruptcy Committee Newsletter, *Business Law Today*; and the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*. Ms. Kress has moderated and spoken on a variety of topics, including federal and state receiverships, both locally and nationally. Additionally, she served as ABA Business Law Section advisor to the Uniform Law Drafting Committee for the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act. The act was approved by the Uniform Law Commission in July 2015 and has been enacted in seven states. She testified before Michigan House Committee on Judiciary prior to the enactment of the act in Michigan. Ms. Kress is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Finance Lawyers, a council member of the Business Law Section of the ABA, and vice-chair of the Committee on Committees. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Bowling Green State University in 1978 her J.D. *cum laude* from Wayne State University Law School in 1986, where she was a member of Order of the Coif.

**Cynthia E. Lewis, CPA** is an attorney with Lewis & Monroe, PLLC in Orlando, Fla., whose practice centers around consumer bankruptcy. She represents both individuals and businesses in chapter

7 liquidations, chapter 13 reorganizations and complex chapter 11s. She also represents creditors and chapter 7 trustees, and She is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law. Ms. Lewis previously directed the administration of various Orlando law firms. Most recently, she served nine years as the Orlando Office Administrator for a national law firm. Ms. Lewis is a member of the Florida Bar and the South Carolina bar. She is certified to appear in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Lewis graduated from the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law in Orlando in 2007 and *cum laude* from Florida Southern College.

**Coral Lopez-Castro** has been a partner at Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton, LLP in Miami since 1998. She is currently serving her third term as managing partner of the firm. Ms. Lopez-Castro concentrates her practice on bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters, focusing on bankruptcy reorganizations and liquidations, receiverships, debt restructuring and creditors' rights. She has been involved with the liquidation of four bank holding companies in bankruptcy courts around the country and in state court. Ms. Lopez-Castro served on the panel of trustees for the Southern District of Florida between 1998 and 2002, during which she time was responsible for the liquidation of assets in bankruptcy cases filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. She has also been appointed a receiver in several cases, including as equity receiver in a \$100 million Ponzi scheme case. In 2014, Ms. Lopez-Castro was inducted as a Fellow into the 25th Class of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2006, she was elected the second woman president of the Cuban American Bar Association, the largest voluntary bar association in Florida, and in 2018, she was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers (IATL). She has devoted most of her career promoting diversity in the legal profession. Ms. Lopez-Castro received her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law.

**Michael C. Markham** is a partner with Johnson Pope Bokor Ruppel & Burns, LLP in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Fla., where his practice focuses on chapter 11 cases. For nearly 35 years, he has represented virtually every type of constituent in chapter 11 cases, including debtors, trustees, committees, purchasers and creditors of all kinds. Mr. Markham was lead counsel to the chapter 11 trustee in the *Brasota Mortgage Co.* chapter 11 case in Tampa, lead counsel to the receiver in the *Transcontinental Airlines/Lou Pearlman* receivership case in Orlando, Fla., and counsel to the chapter 11 trustee in the *PenAir* case in Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Markham regularly speaks and writes on bankruptcy topics and has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2008. He received both his B.S. *summa cum laude* and his J.D. with honors from Florida State University.

**Hon. Catherine P. McEwen** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa, appointed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 22, 2005, and an adjunct professor at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. She is the first female judge appointed in her district. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice for almost 23 years in Tampa and was a solo practitioner from 2001 until the date of her appointment to the bench. Before opening her solo practice, she was a shareholder of Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson, P.A., formerly known as Moffitt, Hart & Herron, P.A., where she practiced law from 1982-2001 in its Tampa office, concentrating on commercial litigation with an emphasis on representing parties in bankruptcy cases. Judge McEwen was elected into the American Law Institute in 2012. Among her other honors are the Stetson University College of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award (2007), Hillsborough County Bar Association

Jimmy Kynes Pro Bono Service Award (2008), the Stetson University College of Law J. Ben Watkins Award (2009), the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Leaders in the Law inaugural class designation (2010), the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association's Luis "Tony" Cabassa Award (2012), the George Edgecomb Bar Association's Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award (2015), the inaugural Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award (2016), the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association Ben C. Willard Award (2016), the University of South Florida Distinguished Alumna Award (2016) and the Bay Area Legal Services Inc. Judge Don Castor Justice Award (2016). In 2017, Judge McEwen was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts, Jr. to serve a two-year term as the nonvoting bankruptcy judge observer to the Judicial Conference of the United States, which ended on Sept. 30, 2019. Prior to becoming a lawyer, she was a sportswriter from 1975-79 for the *Tampa Tribune* and the *Tampa Times*. Judge McEwen received her B.A. in political science from the University of South Florida in 1979 and her J.D. *cum laude* from Stetson University in 1982.

**Robert S. 'Steve' Miller** has served as chairman of the board of Purdue Pharma, Inc. since July 1, 2018 in Troy, Mich. Previously, he was president and CEO of International Automotive Components (IAC) from July 2015 until June 2018. Headquartered in Luxembourg, IAC is a tier-one supplier of interior components to the auto industry, with 50 factories and facilities located on all continents and over 20,000 employees. From 2010-15, Mr. Miller served as chairman of the board of American International Group, a global insurance conglomerate, overseeing its recovery from the financial crisis of 2008-09. From 2012-13, he was CEO of Hawker Beechcraft, an airplane manufacturer located in Wichita, Kan., that was restructured in bankruptcy. Prior to that, he served as chairman and CEO of Delphi Corp., a diversified global auto parts supplier, during its restructuring in bankruptcy from 2005-09. Mr. Miller was vice chairman of Chrysler Corp. under Lee Iacocca during 1979-92. He also served as a director of numerous public companies, including Dow Chemical, Symantec, United Airlines, Reynolds Tobacco, Waste Management and US Bank. Mr. Miller received his undergraduate degree in economics in 1963 and his M.B.A. in 1968 from Stanford University, and his J.D. in 1966 from Harvard Law School.

**Charles G. Moore** is a sole practitioner with Charles G. Moore Attorney at Law in St. Petersburg, Fla., where represents consumer debtors in chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases. He has been practicing law in excess of 31 years and has handled well over 2,700 bankruptcy cases. Mr. Moore is an active member of ABI, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association and the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees. He served as NACBA's Florida Chair from 2011-18. Previously, Mr. Moore was a criminal prosecuting attorney with the Sixth Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida. He received his B.S. in business administration in 1987 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 1991 from Stetson University College of Law.

**Hon. Mindy A. Mora** is U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in West Palm Beach, appointed on April 6, 2018. She practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial finance, and securitized real estate finance and litigation from 1982-2018 prior to her appointment to the bench by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Mora is a Fellow of both the American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Commercial Finance Attorneys. She previously chaired the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, which represents the interests of more than 5,000 business lawyers within the State of Florida. Throughout much of her legal practice, she has been active in

the development of Florida's commercial laws, most recently as a member of The Florida Bar Business Law Section task force that prepared draft Florida legislation adopting a modified version of the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act. Judge Mora is a member of NCBJ (National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges) and has served on its Technology, New Member and Education Committees. She also participates as a member of the Business Law Sections of both the American Bar Association and The Florida Bar, the Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of South Florida, and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Judge Mora regularly lectures on commercial law and bankruptcy topics to lawyers and other judges throughout the U.S. From 2018-20, Judge Mora served as the judicial chair of the Local Rules Committee, which promulgated the proposed amendments to the Local Rules for consideration by the bench of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. She received her B.B.A. from George Washington University in 1979 and her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1982.

**Megan W. Murray** is a founding shareholder of Underwood Murray PA in Tampa, Fla., and has nearly 20 years of reorganization and workout experience advising business owners, debtors, trustees, creditors' committees, secured and unsecured creditors, and asset-purchasers and sellers. She also has worked on both the legal side and business side in a global financial institution. Ms. Murray counsels businesses and owners in a wide variety of industries, including, but not limited to, real estate, hospitality, pharmaceutical, medical services, construction, insurance, transportation and financial services, in making critical business decisions while prosecuting and defending complex business disputes. She has been involved in director and officer liability litigation, bondholder disputes, shareholder and partnership disputes, court-appointed receiverships, assignment proceedings, and the recovery of large and small business assets. Ms. Murray is an ABI "40 Under 40" honoree and has been named in *Chambers & Partners USA*, *Florida Super Lawyers* and *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite multiple years running. She is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is a contributing author to *Creditors' and Debtors' Practice in Florida*, a frequent speaker on bankruptcy and insolvency topics, and co-chair of ABI's Real Estate Committee. She also is active in local and national bankruptcy bar associations. Ms. Murray received her B.B.A. from the University of Iowa Tippie College of Business in 2002 and her J.D. with honors from the University of Iowa College of Law in 2011, where she was a contributing editor to the *Iowa Law Review* and an ABI Medal of Excellence recipient.

**Douglas W. Neway** has served as the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Jacksonville Division and Chapter 12 Trustee for Jacksonville and Orlando Divisions in Florida since October 2007. Previously, he was the managing partner of Bond, Botes & Neway, P.C. in Orlando from 1997-2007, where he represented debtors in consumer bankruptcy cases. Mr. Neway has served as chairman of the Orange County Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association, the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association and the Orlando Division's Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison Committee, and he was an original member of the Middle District of Florida's Districtwide Bankruptcy Steering Committee. He was also the Florida State Chairman of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, is a member of the Florida Bar's Bankruptcy/UCC Committee and the Statewide Bankruptcy Judicial Liaison Committee, and serves on the board of directors for the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association. Mr. Neway is a frequent lecturer on consumer bankruptcy topics at seminars, colleges and law schools. He successfully argued *In re Tanner* before the Eleventh Circuit, which allowed strip-off of mortgages in chapter 13 cases, and drafted an amendment to

F.S 222.25, increasing Florida's personal property exemption law that was enacted in July 2007. Mr. Neway received his B.F.A. in acting from Marymount Manhattan College and his J.D. from Nova University School of Law.

**Loretta C. O'Keeffe** is an attorney with Gibbons | Neuman in Tampa, Fla., where her practice focuses on commercial litigation, creditors' rights and real estate litigation, including disputes involving contracts, foreclosures, title insurance and collections. She is a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ms. O'Keeffe currently serves as board member and mentoring co-chair for the C.H. Ferguson-M.E. White American Inn of Court, board member and treasurer for St. Michael's Legal Center for Women and Children, and secretary of the Tampa Bay Catholic Lawyers Guild. She served on The Florida Bar's Grievance Committee, the Professional Ethics Committee of The Florida Bar and the Leadership Institute for the Hillsborough County Bar Association, and she was president of the Young Men's Service League South Tampa, a national mother-and-son service organization. Ms. O'Keeffe is a member of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Hillsborough County Bar Association, ABI, the Tampa Bay Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society, the Propeller Club of Port Tampa, the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Krewe of Iris in New Orleans. She received her undergraduate degree from Loyola University College of Business in New Orleans and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Fla.

**John E. Page** is a partner with Shraiberg Page P.A. in Boca Raton, Fla., where he focuses his practice in the areas of commercial bankruptcy and complex business litigation. He has experience representing a variety of parties in interest in bankruptcy cases including chapter 7, 11 and 12 debtors, creditors' committees, trustees, landlords, secured and unsecured creditors and purchasers of assets. He has also handled a wide range of business litigation covering financial fraud, contract and shareholder disputes, fraudulent transfers, commercial foreclosures, theft of trade secrets and computer fraud law. Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, Mr. Page has experience reorganizing troubled companies through out-of-court workouts, bankruptcy and state court insolvency proceedings. He has represented real estate developers, construction companies, self-storage facilities, consumer goods companies, marinas, boat manufacturers, restaurants and golf courses, among others. He has also successfully confirmed several individual chapter 11 plans of reorganization resulting in clients eliminating millions in debt and restructuring residential and commercial mortgages. On the creditor side, he has aggressively litigated on behalf of creditors in collection matters, contesting chapter 11 plans, obtaining relief from the automatic stay, converting chapter 11 cases to chapter 7 liquidation, prosecuting fraudulent transfer actions, and contesting chapter 7 debtors' right to a discharge. He has successfully defended creditors in preference and fraudulent transfer proceedings nationally. Mr. Page is an approved bankruptcy court and Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil mediator. Prior to entering private practice, he clerked for Hon. Paul G. Hyman, Jr. of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. Mr. Page has been listed in *Florida Super Lawyers* from 2019-21 and as a "Rising Star" from 2010-18. He received his B.S. *summa cum laude* in economics in 2001 from George Washington University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2004 from the University of Miami School of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif and a member of the *University of Miami Law Review*.

**Nicole W. Peair** is a trial attorney in the Tampa, Fla., field Office of the U.S. Trustee for Region 21, which is comprised of the Tampa and Fort Myers Divisions of the Middle District of Florida. She joined the U.S. Trustee's Office in 2010 through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Ms. Peair is responsible for monitoring chapter 11 and 7 cases for compliance with the Bankruptcy Code and Rules and has oversight responsibility for members of the panel of bankruptcy trustees. She received her B.S. from Louisiana State University and her J.D. *cum laude* from Southern University Law Center, during which time she served as an editor and manager of the *Southern University Law Review*.

**Damien H. Prosser** is co-managing partner of Morgan & Morgan's Business Trial Group in Orlando, Fla., where he litigates complex commercial cases exclusively on a contingency-fee basis. He has extensive civil jury trial experience and typically tries at least one business case to verdict a year. In June, after a six-day jury trial in New York, one of his clients was awarded a multi-million-dollar verdict against Major League Baseball's media arm, MLB Advanced Media, for breach of contract and fraud. Mr. Prosser began his legal career with a prestigious national law firm and quickly realized the economic challenge of litigating cases under the billable hour model applied to most commercial litigation. He also realized that an additional problem is the absence of actual trial experience by most lawyers at many of the national firms. Mr. Prosser was named a "Rising Star" in 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine, and he has been recognized as a "Legal Elite Up and Comer" by *Florida Trend* magazine. Prior to joining Morgan & Morgan, he practiced for several years with BakerHostetler and Shutts & Bowen. He received his B.A. *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Florida State University and his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law.

**Edwin G. Rice** is counsel with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Tampa, Fla., where his practice focuses primarily in the areas of banking and insolvency. He has represented lenders, lessors, trustees, committees and debtors in chapter 11 cases, and he has legal experience in mortgage foreclosures, workouts, lending transactions, lending-related litigation and assignments for the benefit of creditors. Mr. Rice's bankruptcy experience includes the defense and prosecution of preference actions, fraudulent-transfer actions and other avoidance actions, claims litigation, dischargeability actions, relief-from-stay litigation, valuation litigation, contested confirmations, director and officer claim litigation, lease assumptions and rejections, bankruptcy sales and debtor-in-possession financing. Rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, he is a past president and chairman of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association and is recognized by *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers of America* and *Super Lawyers*. Mr. Rice received his B.S.B.A. in 1987 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Luis E. Rivera, II** is a shareholder in GrayRobinson's Fort Myers, Fla., office and focuses his practice on business litigation, bankruptcy, creditors' rights and insolvency counseling. He is one of only 13 attorneys in Florida who is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Since 2010, Mr. Rivera has also served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee for the Middle District of Florida. As a panel trustee, he is one of the two court-appointed fiduciaries who administer chapter 7 bankruptcy cases filed in Southwest Florida. Mr. Rivera's bankruptcy experience includes representation of lenders, landlords, individuals and

financial institutions in both consumer chapter 7 and 13 proceedings and chapter 11 reorganization cases, as well as involuntary and discharge proceedings. As a trustee, he is also routinely involved in the liquidation of business enterprises, including the recovery and sale of assets; the investigation, development and prosecution of litigation to recover funds for creditors; and the reconciliation and payment of claims held by creditors. In addition to his bankruptcy and creditors' rights matters, Mr. Rivera has experience in a variety of business and general civil litigation matters, including contract disputes, real property litigation, mortgage foreclosure, land/tenant disputes and title insurance litigation. Active within the legal community, he chairs The Florida Bar's Grievance Committee for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit. He has also served on the Bench-Bar Fund Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and the District-Wide Steering and Local Rules Committees of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Rivera is a past-president of the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professional's Association. In 2017, he was named to ABI's inaugural "40 under 40" class. He also was recognized as *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite for Bankruptcy and Workout in 2017 and 2020. Mr. Rivera received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans, where he was an Ignatian Scholar, and his J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*.

**Hon. Grace E. Robson** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando. She previously was a partner with Markowitz Ringel Trusty & Hartog, P.A. Judge Robson is a Board-Certified bankruptcy attorney with more than 20 years of experience representing corporate debtors, trade and institutional creditors, trustees, receivers and creditors' committees. Prior to taking the bench, she practiced corporate reorganization and bankruptcy, debtor-creditor relations and bankruptcy litigation. Judge Robson has been involved in all facets of reorganization-related representations, including pre-filing consultation, filing complex corporate bankruptcy cases, post-bankruptcy financing, asset purchase agreements as well as "routine" matters. She is an active member of ABA, currently serving as a co-chair of the Secured Creditors Subcommittee of the Business Law Section, Business Bankruptcy Committee (and previously served as a co-chair of the *Pro Bono* Services Subcommittee). Prior to relocating to the Middle District of Florida, she served on the board of directors of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida and was the Broward Chair of the *Pro Bono* Committee, the Broward Chair of the CARE Program Committee and chair of the Wellness Committee. Judge Robson received her B.A. *cum laude* from the State University of New York at Albany in 1994 and her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1997.

**Alan R. Rosenberg** is partner with Markowitz Ringel Trusty + Hartog in Miami, where he represents chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy trustees, creditors, debtors and other parties-in-interest in all aspects of insolvency proceedings and bankruptcy-related litigation. His practice has a particular emphasis on bankruptcy litigation, and he has served as lead or co-counsel to high-net-worth individuals, multinational corporations and nearly every chapter 7 panel trustee in the Southern District of Florida. Mr. Rosenberg has been recognized as a leading authority in the field of cryptocurrency in bankruptcy. He also is an active ABI member, serving on various committees, regularly speaking at conferences and publishing in the *ABI Journal*. In 2020, Mr. Rosenberg was named one of ABI's 40 under 40 insolvency professionals. In addition, he is listed as a *Florida Super Lawyer* "Rising Star" for 2017-21 and a *Florida Legal Elite* "Up and Comer" from 2018-20. Mr. Rosenberg received his B.S.B.A. in finance in 2008 from the University of Florida and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Miami in 2011.

**R. Scott Shuker** is a bankruptcy partner with Shuker & Dorris, P.A. in Orlando, Fla., and practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights. He has represented corporate debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, asset-purchasers and trustees in bankruptcy cases of corporate and individual debtors. Mr. Shuker has also represented several chapter 11 trustees in Ponzi scheme cases and has experience in fraudulent-transfer litigation. Prior to entering law school, Mr. Shuker was a corporate banking officer for Southeast Bank, N.A. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, was named the 2010 Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year (Orlando) by *The Best Lawyers in America* and ranked as a top bankruptcy attorney by *Chambers USA* for over 10 years. His notable representations include as debtor's attorney in the chapter 11 reorganization cases of Planet Hollywood International, Inc., Transit Group, Celebrity Resorts, Appliance Direct, Hudson's Furniture, FoodFirst Global Restaurants, Inc., DM World Transportation, Inc. and 1069 Restaurant Group, LLC. A Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America, Mr. Shuker received his B.S. in finance in 1986 with high distinction from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. with high honors in 1993 from the University of Florida College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Eric J. Silver** is a shareholder in the Business Restructuring department of Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. in Miami and is a member of the firm's board of directors. He handles complex commercial restructuring and related litigation matters in both federal and state courts, and he regularly represents court-appointed fiduciaries, secured and unsecured creditors, and purchasers of distressed assets. Prior to joining the firm in 2010, Mr. Silver clerked for Hon. Robert A. Mark in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. He is a member of ABI and was president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida for 2020-21. In addition, he was the Miami chair of its *Pro Bono* Committee from 2016-19 and *Pro Bono* Committee Liaison of the FLSB Bankruptcy Lawyers Advisory Committee from 2018-19, and is a member of The Florida Bar's Business Law Section. Mr. Silver was honored as one of ABI's 2021 "40 Under 40." He received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law jointly with his M.B.A. from the School of Business Administration.

**Paul S. Singerman** is co-chair of Berger Singerman LLP in Miami and leads the firm's Business Reorganization Team. His practice areas include complex bankruptcy and commercial litigation, representation of fiduciaries in fraud cases, corporate governance, and distressed business mergers and acquisitions. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Singerman was in business for eight years. He has been involved in some of the highest-profile and most significant restructuring matters in Florida for over three decades. Mr. Singerman represented Piper Aircraft Corp. in its extraordinarily successful chapter 11 case filed in 1991. Starting in 2000, he was lead counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the CHS Electronics case, and post-confirmation, he was lead counsel to the liquidating trustee. Starting in 2009, he was lead counsel to the chapter 11 trustee in the \$1.3 billion Ponzi scheme case of the Rothstein, Rosenfeldt & Adler law firm, the only Ponzi scheme case in the U.S. in which unsecured creditors received full payment on their claims. In that same year, he commenced the representation of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the chapter 11 case of Taylor Bean & Whitaker, then the largest nonbank mortgage-originator in the country. That case involved more than \$11.5 billion in claims. Currently, he serves as lead counsel to the court-appointed receiver in the case involving the collapse of the Champlain Towers South condominium building, which resulted in 98 deaths. Mr. Singerman received his B.A. with highest honors from the University of Florida and his J.D. with honors from the University of Florida Fred-

eric G. Levin College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and Omicron Delta Kappa.

**Daniel Stabile** is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP, where he is a member of its Financial Services Practice Group, which has been recognized by *Chambers USA* as a Band 1 banking and financial practice area since its first publication. In the financial services arena, he represents financial institutions in internal and governmental/SRO investigations, enforcement proceedings, civil litigations and arbitrations. Additionally, Mr. Stabile is a leading attorney in the distributed ledger and digital-asset spaces. He has advised banks, brokers, FinTechs and other institutions in regards to their implementation of blockchain technology. Since 2018, Mr. Stabile has taught a popular course on blockchain and digital-asset regulation at the University of Miami Law School. He speaks regularly on digital currency regulation in various forums both domestically and abroad, and he advises government officials and regulators regarding digital-asset technology and regulation. He currently is vice chair of the Miami-Dade County Cryptocurrency Task Force, an appointed position. Additionally, he co-authored *Digital Assets and Blockchain Technology: US Law and Regulation*, a first-of-its-kind legal textbook designed for law and other graduate-level students. In the litigation arena, Mr. Stabile concentrates his practice on class-action defense and complex commercial litigation. He has experience handling matters in federal trial and appellate courts in Florida and various forums throughout the country, and he has been published in academic and trade journals on the issue of class action defense. Prior to joining Shutts, Mr. Stabile practiced in the New York office of an international law firm. During law school, he interned at the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Stabile was listed as a *Florida Super Lawyers* Rising Star in Business Litigation from 2016-21. He received his B.A. in philosophy in 2005 and his J.D. in 2008 from George Washington University Law School.

**Hon. Lori V. Vaughan** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando, sworn in on Feb. 25, 2020. She started her career as a law clerk to Hon. Karen S. Jennemann. Judge Vaughan then practiced bankruptcy law for 21 years at two law firms. Most recently, she was a shareholder at Trenam Law in Tampa, Fla., and before that, she practiced at Foley & Lardner, the last year of which she spent practicing out of its New York office. Judge Vaughan previously served as president of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, chair of the Bankruptcy/UCC Committee of the Florida Bar's Business Law Section, and board member for the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. She has also sat on the boards of the USF Financing Corp. and USF Property Corp. Before taking the bench, Judge Vaughan was recognized by *Florida Super Lawyers* as being among the top 100 Lawyers in Florida, the top 50 Lawyers in Tampa Bay and the top 50 Women Lawyers in Florida. She also has been recognized by *Chambers USA* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. Judge Vaughan received her B.A. with high honors from Eckerd College in 1995 and her J.D. with honors from the University of Florida, College of Law in 1998.

**Jeffrey W. Warren** is a founder and president emeritus of Bush Ross, PA in Tampa, Fla. He has nationally recognized legal practice in chapter 11 reorganization cases, both as a courtroom counsel and as an out-of-court negotiator and problem-solver. Mr. Warren is certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a circuit mediator. He is admitted to practice in Florida, the U.S. District Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Warren is a Fellow in the American

College of Bankruptcy and was a contributing editor for the *ABI Journal*. He also is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has authored several chapters for publication with the Florida Bar, as well as numerous articles regarding creditors' rights issues. In 2008, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association presented Mr. Warren with its "Douglas P. McClurg Professionalism Award." He has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1995 and received its "Lawyer of the Year" designation in Bankruptcy Creditor Debtor Rights and Bankruptcy Litigation in 2011 and 2013, respectively. He has also been named to Florida's "Legal Elite" by *Florida Trend Magazine* since 2005, and has been recognized as one of the top 10 *Florida Super Lawyers* for 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Mr. Warren is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He received both his B.S. in 1969 and his J.D. in 1972 from the University of Florida.

**Prof. Marcia Narine Weldon** is director of the Transactional Skills Program, faculty coordinator of the Business Compliance & Sustainability Concentration, and lecturer in law at the University of Miami School of Law. She has 30 years of legal experience in a variety of settings and is the founder of Illuminating Wisdom, an executive-coaching, business-strategy and corporate-training firm. She also is general counsel of MDO Partners and of a sustainable startup. Prof. Weldon teaches regulatory compliance, corporate governance and sustainability; business and human rights; transactional skills; and business associations. She has written several law review articles and blogs on compliance and ESG matters for the Business Law Professor Blog. Additionally, she has been interviewed by or featured in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, NPR, the *Guardian*, the *Verge*, *Forbes*, *Agenda (Financial Times)* and other news outlets around the world. Prof. Weldon spent several years in-house as the vice president and deputy general counsel, as well as the vice president of Global Compliance and Business Standards and chief privacy officer of Ryder, a publicly traded, multinational Fortune 500 company. She oversaw the company's global compliance, business ethics, privacy, government-relations, environmental compliance, enterprise risk management, corporate responsibility, and labor and employment legal programs. She also served as the head of human resources for one of the company's two divisions before being tasked with developing the compliance, enterprise risk management and privacy programs from scratch. Prior to joining Ryder, Prof. Weldon worked as labor and employment associate at Morgan Lewis in Miami and a commercial litigator at Cleary Gottlieb in New York, and she clerked for the Supreme Court of New Jersey. She currently serves as the co-chair of the governance committee of the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade and as a coach for social entrepreneurs through Radical Partners. In May 2011, she testified before the House Financial Services Committee in Congress on the unintended impact of Dodd-Frank Financial Reform on corporate compliance programs. In 2012, the Secretary of Labor appointed her to the Whistleblower Protection Advisory Committee, on which she served for five years. She also served on the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust from 2014-17. Prof. Weldon has been admitted to the bars of New York, New Jersey, Florida and the U.S. Supreme Court. She received her undergraduate degree *cum laude* in political science and psychology from Columbia University and her J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

**Edmund S. Whitson III** is a partner with Adams & Reese LLP in Tampa, Fla., and has advised clients throughout the U.S. on complex litigation matters in state, district and bankruptcy courts. He is familiar with the needs of financial institutions with regard to loan document enforcement and restructuring and bankruptcy, and he has experience representing banks, receivers and financial institutions in matters involving asset recovery, asset sales and fraudulent-transfer litigation. Mr. Whitson has also worked extensively with insurance company and private-equity group clients in

this area. He represents companies in sophisticated collection/garnishment and judgment-recovery litigation and is experienced in creditors' rights, landlord-tenant, commercial lending, and real estate lending and development issues. His experience includes counseling clients in contract negotiation and preparing legal opinions in connection with nonconsolidation and other credit transactions and Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act financings. In addition, Mr. Whitson has represented a variety of clients, including large hospitals, physician groups and other health care providers in mergers, acquisitions and affiliation transactions. He received his B.S. from the University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce and his J.D. with honors from the University of Florida Frederic G. Levin College of Law.

**Hon. Michael G. Williamson** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa, initially appointed as bankruptcy judge in March 2000 and as chief judge from 2015-19. He currently serves as co-author of *West's Bankruptcy Law Manual* and as an adjunct professor at Stetson University College of Law, where he teaches bankruptcy law. Judge Williamson began his bankruptcy practice serving as a chapter 7 panel trustee from 1977-79. For the next 20 years, he represented numerous chapter 11 corporate debtors, creditors' committees and trustees in bankruptcy cases pending throughout the state of Florida until his appointment to the bankruptcy bench in 2000. Judge Williamson is past chair of the Committee on Creditors' Rights, Section of Litigation of the American Bar Association, past chair of the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar and that section's Bankruptcy/UCC Committee, and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He received his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1973 and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976.