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# 2018 Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Barbara G. Barton** is a partner in Barton Brimm, P.A. in Murrells Inlet, S.C., where she specializes in bankruptcy law and related issues. She has practiced law for over 40 years and is a certified specialist in the field of bankruptcy by both the South Carolina Supreme Court and the American Board of Certification. She is also one of five attorneys in South Carolina who are Fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy. Ms. Barton has served in every official capacity with the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association and served as its president from 1994-95. She has received the Billy Robinson Public Service Award and the Compleat Lawyer Award, is a *Super Lawyer*, and has been recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2004. Ms. Barton has served on the Board of Governors for the South Carolina Bar Association and on the Commission on Lawyer Conduct. She has been very active in the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and has held every office for that association. Ms. Barton received her J.D. in 1977 from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

**Carrienne J.M. Basler, CPA, CIRA** is a managing director based in the Chicago office of AlixPartners, LLP, where she co-leads its contingency planning & case administration practice. She has more than 20 years of extensive financial consulting experience combined with hands-on management in the areas of contingency planning, contract negotiations, litigation management, treasury, business planning, risk management and wind-downs. She has also served in an advisory capacity to senior management in the area of business plan feasibility and financial strategy, lender negotiations, plan of reorganization development and post-confirmation administration. Ms. Basler has served as an interim executive and financial advisor, and oversaw the bankruptcy case management for Altegrity Inc., Kodak, Mirant Corp., Dana and Dura Automotive. She was also part of the chapter 11 management team during the wind-down of Old GM. Ms. Basler is a member of ABI, the Turnaround Management Association, the International Women's Insolvency and Reorganization Confederation and the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors. She regularly speaks and has published numerous articles concerning turnaround management and reorganization matters as a contributing editor of the *ABI Journal*. Ms. Basler received her B.B.A. in accounting from the University of Wisconsin.

**Jay R. Bender** is a partner in Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP's Bankruptcy, Restructuring & Distressed Investing Practice Group in Birmingham, Ala., which he chaired from 2008-17. He represents debtors, banks, secured creditors, indenture trustees, and purchasers of distressed assets in complex chapter 11 and chapter 9 bankruptcy cases, in state and federal court receivership proceedings, and in out-of-court workouts, reorganizations, restructurings and liquidations. Mr. Bender is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, is recognized in *Chambers USA* and *The Best Lawyers in America* for his bankruptcy and restructuring practice, and is an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law. He is licensed to practice in both Alabama and Texas. Mr. Bender received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in public policy studies in 1986 from Duke University and his J.D. in 1993 with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

**Hon. Paul W. Bonapfel** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed in 2002. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law with Lamberth, Bonapfel, Cifelli & Stokes, P.A., now known as Lamberth, Cifelli, Ellis & Nason, P.A. As an attorney, Judge Bonapfel represented all types of parties in bankruptcy cases, including consumer and business debtors in liquidation cases, business debtors in reorganization cases, chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy trustees, creditors' committees, and creditors in both consumer and business cases. He is a co-author of *Chapter*

*13 Practice and Procedure* (Thomson Reuters). A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, he chaired the Bankruptcy Sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Bar Association and was a director and president of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, which presents an annual seminar on bankruptcy law and procedure. In addition, he teaches a course at Mercer Law School in Macon, Ga., on consumer bankruptcy practice. Judge Bonapfel received his B.A. *cum laude* from Florida State University in 1972 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1975, where he was a notes editor of the *Georgia Law Review*. Subsequently, he was a judicial law clerk for U.S. District Judge Wilbur D. Owens, Jr., in Macon, Ga.

**William Bullock** is executive vice president and Problem Asset Management head of Regions Bank in Birmingham, Ala., which serves customers throughout the South, Midwest and Texas. In his role, he directs all aspects of problem asset management for Corporate Banking and its various businesses, including corporate, commercial, commercial real estate and specialized lending. Previously, Mr. Bullock was south region credit executive with Regions, and he had assumed various leadership roles in credit risk management with Toronto-based RBC through its U.S. predecessor banks, including as head of Special Assets for U.S. operations during the last recession. He received his B.A. in economics from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and is a graduate of the LSU Graduate School of Banking.

**Hon. Henry A. Callaway** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Alabama in Mobile. Prior to his appointment in 2015, he practiced business litigation and bankruptcy law for 32 years with the Hand Arendall firm in Mobile. Judge Callaway served on the board of the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program for more than 25 years, including seven as president. He has also served as chair of the Alabama Access to Justice Commission, president of the Mobile Bar Association, state bar commissioner for three terms, and member of the state bar executive council and disciplinary commission. Judge Callaway received the Pro Bono Publico award from the American Bar Association in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard in 1980 and his J.D. from Vanderbilt in 1983.

**J.P. Cournoyer** is a partner at Northen Blue, LLP, in Chapel Hill, N.C. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law, and focuses his practice on business restructuring and chapter 11 bankruptcy. He also serves as a chapter 7 trustee in the Middle District of North Carolina. Mr. Cournoyer received his B.S. with distinction in 2006 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 2009 from Indiana University - Bloomington.

**Melissa J. Davey** is a standing chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Georgia for the Atlanta and Newnan divisions based in Atlanta, effective Oct. 1, 2017. Her office administers approximately 8,000 chapter 13 cases assigned to Hon. W. Homer Drake, Jr., Hon. Paul M. Baisier and Hon. Lisa Ritchey Craig. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Davey was in private practice in Atlanta as a member of Stites & Harbison, PLLC in its Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy Group, where she focused primarily on representing institutional lenders and other creditors in bankruptcy and consumer and commercial litigation. Prior to joining Stites and Harbison, she was a staff attorney for a chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Georgia for more than six years. She has also previously represented debtors in bankruptcy. Ms. Davey is the treasurer for the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. She also co-chairs the Georgia Network of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring

Confederation and is a former president of the Metro Atlanta Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Group. In addition, she serves on the Bench and Bar Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia and previously chaired the Committee. She also serves on the advisory board of ABI's Southeastern Bankruptcy Workshop and is a barrister in the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Ms. Davey received her B.A. in political science and French *magna cum laude* with honors and her J.D. from the Emory University School of Law in 2003. During her junior year of undergrad, she studied at the Sorbonne and the Institut Catholique in Paris.

**James D. Decker, CIRA** is a senior managing director with Guggenheim Securities, LLC in Atlanta, where he helped build out the firm's Investment Banking platform. He focuses on middle-market restructuring, merger and acquisition, financing, valuation, financial advisory and expert testimony. Mr. Decker has initiated and completed a variety of transactions including restructurings, reorganizations, exclusive sale assignments, acquisitions, divestitures, debt and equity financings, management buy-outs, leveraged buyouts, recapitalizations, valuations, and fairness opinions. His financial advisory clients include companies, boards of directors, lenders, unsecured creditors and trustees. Previously, Mr. Decker served as a managing director with Morgan Joseph TriArtisan LLC and as head of the firm's Recapitalization & Restructuring Group, and was a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal, for which he served as co-head of the firm's Corporate Finance Group. He was also a managing director with Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin, where he served as co-head of the firm's Atlanta office and was responsible for new client development, engagement management and personnel development for its Restructuring and Corporate Finance practices. He began his career as an investment banker in the Corporate Finance department of Bear, Stearns & Co., Inc., and he has completed in excess of 150 assignments across a variety of industries and situations for companies and creditors. Mr. Decker is a 1983 Smithsonian Institution Fellow and a frequent speaker on the topics of corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and financial restructuring, and is a licensed FINRA General Securities Registered Representative (Series 7, 24, 63). He is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. Additionally, he has co-chaired both ABI's Investment Banking Committee and Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. Mr. Decker received his B.A. in economics and geology from Vanderbilt University and his M.B.A. in business administration with a concentration in finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

**Hon. Mary Grace Diehl** is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed in February 2004 and retired in 2018. Prior to taking the bench, she was a partner in the litigation section of Troutman Sanders LLP and chaired its Bankruptcy Practice Group. During her years in private practice, she was consistently named in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers US: America's Leading Business Lawyers*. Judge Diehl is a past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and serves on the Boards of Directors of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association. She is also a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and serves on its board of directors, and she is a former president of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute. Judge Diehl received the Woman of the Year in Restructuring Award in 2008 from IWIRC (International Women in Restructuring Confederation), the David W. Pollard award for professionalism from the Atlanta Bar in 2013 and the Atlanta Bar Woman of Achievement Award in 2017, and she is a regular speaker at CLE programs. She served as a trustee of Canisius College from 2008-14 and has been an adjunct professor of law at Emory Law School. Judge Diehl received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y., and her J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

**Jane Harris Downey** is a practitioner with Moore Taylor Law Firm, P.A. in West Columbia, S.C., where she leads its bankruptcy section. After working seven years as an associate at Nelson Mullins, she started her own firm and practiced solo for 11 years prior to joining Moore Taylor in 2008. Ms. Downey is a past president of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association and the South Carolina bankruptcy specialization board. For 20 years, she has been both a certified specialist in bankruptcy and debtor/creditor law as recognized by the South Carolina Supreme Court and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. She currently serves on the editorial board of the *SC Lawyer* magazine and the pro bono committee of the South Carolina Bar. Ms. Downey received her J.D. in 1990 from Emory Law School.

**Sarah Edwards** is an attorney at the law firm of McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC in New Orleans and works in the firm's Commercial Litigation and Consumer Financial Services Compliance sections. She represents secured creditors in bankruptcy and restructuring proceedings, and assists lenders and servicers with bankruptcy compliance. Ms. Edwards received her J.D. *cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

**Paul K. Ferdinands** is a partner in the Financial Restructuring/Mergers & Acquisitions department of King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta, where he represents clients in bankruptcy and restructuring transactions. He helps clients buy and sell financially distressed businesses, including in chapter 11 cases, and represents companies in connection with in-court and out-of-court restructurings of their financial obligations. Mr. Ferdinands's clients in distressed merger and acquisition transactions have included many notable names in the health care, private-equity, financial services, energy, technology, manufacturing, agriculture and retail sectors. He also represents debtor/borrower clients in a variety of industries. A Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, Mr. Ferdinands is regularly included by *Chambers USA: Leading Lawyers for Business*. He has also been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* as a 2017 Lawyer of the Year, as well as in *Legal 500 U.S.* for Corporate and Finance, *Atlanta* magazine's "Super Lawyers," and *Georgia Trend* magazine's "Legal Elite." His representation of Cagle's Inc. in connection with its chapter 11 bankruptcy filing and the subsequent sale of its business was named 2013 National Transaction of the Year (Large Company Category) by the international Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Ferdinands received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Virginia and his J.D. from Stanford University.

**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 serving as secretary on the board 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.

**Katie Goodman** is the managing partner of GGG Partners, LLC in Atlanta and has a strong background in finance, operations, and mergers and acquisitions. She often assumes the role of director of reorganization or restructuring officer. She also serves as an advisor to boards of directors and management teams of companies in financial or operational distress. Ms. Goodman has worked in various industries, including banking, automotive, textiles, telecommunications, restaurants and retail, consumer products, commercial real estate and general manufacturing. She is experienced in dealing with companies in bankruptcy (chapter 11 and chapter 7), and has successfully sold companies under § 363 and structured many plans of reorganization. She also serves as a court-appointed receiver and assignee in assignments for the benefit of creditors. Most recently Ms. Goodman operated as federal receiver of Mosaica Education, a charter school management company with schools across the U.S., U.K., the Middle East and India. In this role, she stabilized operations, improved cash flow and rationalized expenses. Her other significant engagements include acting as CRO of the Cliffs Clubs Hospitality Group, a conglomerate including six premier residential golf and country club developments; restructuring Verilink Corp., a telecommunications company; and acting as chapter 11 trustee of Trendset, Inc., a freight bill and audit company with \$70 million of misappropriated funds. Prior to joining GGG in 2001, Ms. Goodman worked for a leveraged buyout fund, where she focused on assessing and acquiring middle-market companies including acquisitions in the telecommunications, textile and industrial distribution industries. She is a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth, a member of the National Funding Association, a member of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, and a current officer and past co-president of the Women's Finance Exchange. Ms. Goodman received her B.A. from Lancaster University in Lancashire, England, her M.B.A. in finance *summa cum laude* from Georgia State University, and she was an international scholarship student at Emory University in Atlanta.

**Elizabeth A. Green** is a partner with BakerHostetler in Orlando, Fla., and chairs its National Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group. She represents debtors, creditors and committees in a wide range of industries and has represented a number of health care-related entities, including skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, pharmacies, health care practices and health care CROs in chapter 11 cases nationally. She also has represented buyers of health care facilities in chapter 11 cases across the country. Ms. Green, a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, has been recognized in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida's Legal Elite* and *Super Lawyers*. *The Best Lawyers in America* named her "Lawyer of the Year in Orlando" for bankruptcy and restructuring in 2012 and for bankruptcy litigation in 2015 and 2016. She was also selected as one of five *Law360* MVPs in Bankruptcy in 2016. Ms. Green has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law in advanced bankruptcy, and as bankruptcy advisor to the subcommittee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar that amended the Florida LLC Statute. She received her B.A. in 1984 from the New College of Florida and her J.D. with honors in 1986 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Hon. Michelle M. Harner** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maryland in Baltimore, appointed in 2017. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was the Francis King Carey Professor of Law and the Director of the Business Law Program at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey

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

**Christopher L. Hawkins** is a partner in the Birmingham, Ala., office of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. While he represents clients in a wide variety of bankruptcy and insolvency-related matters across the country — including out-of-court business restructurings, chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and bankruptcy-related litigation — he devotes a substantial portion of his practice to advising large financial institutions on bankruptcy compliance and bankruptcy-related regulatory matters. During his time serving as interim in-house bankruptcy counsel for one of the largest financial institutions in the Fortune 100, Mr. Hawkins has counseled clients in a wide range of engagements. He has designed and performed regulatory risk assessments related to key consumer bankruptcy milestones; drafted policies, procedures, jurisdiction-specific guidelines, job aids and user manuals related to various consumer bankruptcy processes; identified the need for and assisted in the implementation of bankruptcy remediation projects; prepared formal comments on behalf of clients and industry groups with respect to proposed financial regulations impacting consumer bankruptcy; prepared and evaluated client-training materials related to consumer bankruptcy; conducted on-site reviews of third-party vendors providing bankruptcy services to clients; reviewed and revised clients' customer-facing correspondence; assisted with compliance issues related to consent orders, the National Mortgage Settlement and the CFPB's amended mortgage servicing rules; and worked diligently with clients to manage bankruptcy department operations. Mr. Hawkins received his B.S. *summa cum laude* in 1996 from Spring Hill College and his J.D. *summa cum laude* in 1999 from the University of Alabama School of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and served on the *Alabama Law Review*, and received the M. Leigh Harrison Award and was a Hugo Black Scholar.

**Gregory G. Hesse** is a partner with Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP in Dallas, where he focuses primarily on bankruptcy, reorganizations and structured financial transactions. He has represented debtors, unsecured creditors' committees, secured lenders, unsecured creditors, purchasers of assets, and parties to leases and executory contracts. In addition to representing parties in bankruptcy cases, Mr. Hesse is frequently involved in addressing bankruptcy risks through the structuring of transactions out of bankruptcy, including asset sales, loan transactions and securitized transactions. A frequent

speaker and writer, he is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the Second, Fifth, Seventh and Eleventh Circuits, the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Districts of Texas, the District of Delaware, and the Texas and Delaware Supreme Courts. In addition, he has represented parties *pro hac vice* in bankruptcy courts throughout the U.S. In addition to practicing law, Mr. Hesse is active in the firm's Pro Bono and "Green" Committees. He received his B.B.A. *cum laude* from Southern Methodist University in 1986 and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Texas at Austin.

**Henry E. Hildebrand, III** has served as standing chapter 13 trustee for the Middle District of Tennessee in Nashville since 1982 and as standing chapter 12 trustee since 1986. He is also Of Counsel to the Nashville law firm of Lassiter, Tidwell, Davis, PLLC. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and the Nashville Bar Foundation. Mr. Hildebrand is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. He chairs of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) and sits on the board of directors for the NACTT Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education, Inc. He is also an adjunct faculty member of the Nashville School of Law and St. John's University School of Law. In addition, he serves on ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. Mr. Hildebrand graduated from Vanderbilt University and received his J.D. from the National Law Center of George Washington University.

**Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff** is Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida in Miami, initially appointed on Feb. 13, 2006, and named chief judge on Oct. 1, 2016. She also serves on ABI's Board of Directors. Judge Isicoff is immediate past secretary, and currently serves as a director, of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. She is a member of the Pro Bono Committee of the American College of Bankruptcy and chair of its Judicial Outreach Committee. She also currently serves as judicial chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar and is a member of the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Pro Bono. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Isicoff specialized in commercial bankruptcy, foreclosure and workout matters both as a transactional attorney and litigator for 14 years with the law firm of Kozzyak Tropin & Throckmorton, after practicing for eight years with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, now known as Squire Patton Boggs. She also developed a specialty in bankruptcy and SEC receiverships involving Ponzi schemes. After law school, Judge Isicoff clerked for Hon. Daniel S. Pearson of the Florida Third District Court of Appeals before entering private practice. She is a past president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association (BBA) of the Southern District of Florida and, until she took the bench, chaired its Pro Bono Task Force. Judge Isicoff speaks extensively on bankruptcy around the country, and is committed to increasing pro bono service, diversity in the bankruptcy community and financial literacy. She received her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 1982.

**Paul G. Jennings** is a member of Bass, Berry & Sims PLC in Nashville, Tenn., and has more than 20 years of experience representing creditors, debtors, committees and trustees. He has been involved in several of the largest chapter 11 reorganization proceedings in the state of Tennessee, in addition to representing clients in insolvency-related litigation matters including preference, fraudulent conveyance and proof-of-claim issues. Mr. Jennings often provides counsel to clients on board-related insolvency fiduciary duty issues. He also represents court-appointed receivers and trustees, including a recent success representing the liquidating trustee in a high-profile bankruptcy, for which he achieved a multi-million-dollar D&O settlement on a contingency basis. Mr. Jennings has been listed

inn *Chambers USA* for Litigation: Bankruptcy (2005-18), *The Best Lawyers in America* as Nashville Bankruptcy Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law “Lawyer of the Year” (2014, 2017) and as Nashville Litigation: Bankruptcy “Lawyer of the Year” (2015), as well as for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation: Bankruptcy (2003-18), as one of *Lawdragon’s* “New Stars” and *Nashville Business Journal’s* “Best of the Bar” (2011-12), and in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* (2006-17), among others. He received his B.S. in 1987 from Middle Tennessee State University and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and student materials editor of the *Tennessee Law Review* (1988-90).

**Joe A. Joseph** is a partner in the Birmingham, Ala., office of Burr & Forman, LLP, where he is a member of the firm’s Creditors’ Rights and Bankruptcy Group. His practice is concentrated on the representation of creditors in complex commercial matters in bankruptcy courts, as well as state and federal trial and appellate courts. Mr. Joseph has experience in chapter 11 reorganizations and commercial loan restructurings. His primary clients include commercial lenders (bank and nonbank), retail shopping center owners, equipment lessors, health care companies, insurance companies, general contractors and manufacturers. Mr. Joseph has represented landlords in many of the large retail bankruptcies over the past two decades, most recently in the Macaroni Grill, Toys ‘R’ Us, Gymboree, Charming Charlie and The Walking Company cases. He is a member of ABI and serves on the advisory board of the Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop, and he is a director of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute. In addition, he is a past director for Alabama Appleseed, Inc., a nonprofit organization that seeks to ensure equal access to justice. Mr. Joseph has lectured on such topics as distressed condominiums, selected topics in bankruptcy law, commercial loan workouts, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights categories, and since 2011, he has been named as “Leader in their Field” in Bankruptcy & Restructuring by *Chambers USA*. Mr. Joseph is admitted to practice in all federal and state courts in Alabama, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He has also been admitted to practice *pro hac vice* in bankruptcy courts in California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, Tennessee and Texas. Mr. Joseph received his B.S. in finance in 1980 from the University of Alabama and his J.D. in 1987 from Samford University Cumberland School of Law.

**Suzanne Kelly** is co-founder and principal of Kelly Garfinkle Strategic Restructuring LLC in Washington, D.C., where she focuses on balancing employees’ need for a secure retirement income with the need of employers to have an affordable and predictable pension cost. Before launching Kelly Garfinkle, she served as a senior financial analyst with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. (PBGC) in Washington, D.C., from 1991-97 and again in 2003. For the PBGC, Ms. Kelly led multi-disciplinary teams including lawyers, actuaries, outside professionals and management in various cases where she was responsible for developing the case strategy, including in response to distress termination and minimum funding waiver requests. She represented the PBGC on numerous bankruptcy unsecured creditors’ committees for reorganizing and liquidating companies that sponsor defined-benefit pension plans. Ms. Kelly took a lead role for the PBGC in cases involving Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corporation, Delta Air Lines, LyondellBasell, Chemtura Corp. and Quebecor Inc. (now known as World Color Press), among others. Prior to joining the agency, she was a senior consultant to S&J Consulting Inc. where she worked with a privately held company to restructure financial obligations. Ms. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Maryland and a Masters of Econom-

ics – International Development Banking from American University, and is a Certified Insolvency & Restructuring Advisor.

**Darryl Scott Laddin** is a partner and chairman of the Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Financial Restructuring Practice of Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in Atlanta. He leads the firm's representation of its national bankruptcy clients, including several Fortune 100 global companies in a variety of industries. Mr. Laddin's national practice focuses on the restructuring of commercial indebtedness and creditors' rights under the Bankruptcy Code and the Uniform Commercial Code on behalf of debtors and creditors. He serves as counsel to major creditors in large chapter 11 cases involving complex bankruptcy, jurisdictional, procedural and other legal issues for those creditors. He is experienced handling small as well as multimillion-dollar complex commercial litigation matters in bankruptcy court and district court. Mr. Laddin has represented official creditors' committees and the creditors who serve as chair of such committees in all aspects of chapter 11 cases, and serves as a trustee of litigation trusts under confirmed chapter 11 plans. He also is experienced in documenting commercial loans for financial institutions, including asset-based lending arrangements, and representing financial institutions in debt restructurings and workouts. Mr. Laddin is frequently quoted by major local and national news publications on the topic of bankruptcy and reorganizations. Prior to beginning his private practice, he clerked for Hon. James C. Hill on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Mr. Laddin is admitted to practice in New York, Georgia and the District of Columbia. He received his B.A. magna cum laude in 1987 from Harvard University and his J.D. with distinction in 1990 from Emory University School of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Hon. Jennie D. Latta** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, appointed on March 6, 1997, and reappointed to a second 14-year term on Feb. 14, 2011. She also served a four-year term on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel from 2003-07. Previously, Judge Latta practiced with the firm of Krivcher, Magids, Neal, Cottam & Campbell, P.C., and served as chairman of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Public Outreach Committee from 2006-10. She is also co-founder of the court's Bankruptcy Pro Bono Committee, and in 2010, she received the Memphis Area Legal Services' W.J. Michael Cody Pro Bono Attorney of the Year award. Judge Latta was appointed to the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and she is a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers' Guild of West Tennessee, as well as the Leo Bearman, Sr. American Inn of Court. She received both her B.A. *summa cum laude* in English in 1981 and her J.D. in 1986 from the University of Memphis, her M.A. from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 2003, and her Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Memphis in 2014.

**Prof. Robert M. Lawless** is the Max L. Rowe Professor of Law and co-director of the Program on Law, Behavior and Social Science at the Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Ill. He also served as the College's associate dean for research from 2013-16. Prof. Lawless specializes in bankruptcy, consumer finance and business law. He is a co-author for the eighth edition of *Secured Transactions: A Systems Approach*, a leading textbook on secured transactions. He also co-authored *Empirical Methods in Law*, a textbook on empirical methodologies as applied to the study of law and newly released in a second edition in 2016. Prof. Lawless administers and contributes to the blog Credit Slips, which discusses credit, finance and bankruptcy. He also participates in the Consumer Bankruptcy Project, a long-term research project studying persons who file bankruptcy. Prof. Lawless serves as the reporter

for ABI's Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. He is a member of the American Law Institute, the National Bankruptcy Conference and the American College of Bankruptcy. In addition, he has testified before Congress, and his work has been featured in media outlets such as CNN, CNBC, NPR, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, the *National Law Journal*, the *L.A. Times* and the *Financial Times*. He is also one of the College's regular contributors to "Legal Issues in the News" on WILL-AM 580. Prior to joining the Illinois faculty in 2006, Prof. Lawless was the Gordon & Silver, Ltd. Professor of Law at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law. From 1993-2002, he was on the faculty at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, and he has been a visiting faculty member at the University of Illinois, Ohio State University and Washington University in St. Louis. Prof. Lawless began his career as a law clerk for Hon. Harlington Wood, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, then practiced law in Washington, D.C., with the firm of Zuckert, Scouff & Rasenberger. Prof. Lawless received both his undergraduate degree in accounting and his J.D. from the University of Illinois, during which time he served as editor-in-chief of the *University of Illinois Law Review*.

**Prof. Angela K. Littwin** is the Ronald D. Krist Professor in Law at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin and studies bankruptcy, consumer, and commercial law from an empirical perspective. Her current research includes studying the attitudes towards bankruptcy among consumers being sued by debt collectors, as well as the relationship between consumer credit and domestic violence (DV). Prof. Littwin has published in journals such as the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *California Law Review* and the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. She has recently published article about the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's complaints process and supervision program, as well as on how consumer bankruptcy attorneys adapted to the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. Prof. Littwin has been a principal investigator for a number of empirical projects and is currently interviewing DV victims about coerced debt, which occurs when the batterer in an abusive relationship uses fraud or coercion to generate debt in the name of the victim. She also helped develop a coerced debt survey conducted by the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Previously, Prof. Littwin was a principal investigator on the 2007 Consumer Bankruptcy Project, which has been the leading study of consumer bankruptcy for the past 35 years. She has also conducted a study on low-income women's use of credit cards. Prof. Littwin received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2002. After law school, she clerked for Hon. Rosemary Barkett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and founded ROAD (Reaching Out About Depression), a community-organizing project for low-income women. Prior to her appointment at the University of Texas School of Law, she was a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. She joined the UT faculty in 2008.

**Samuel R. Maizel** is a partner in Dentons US LLP in Los Angeles and focuses his practice on restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy in and out of court in all industries, and he leads the firm's health care industry restructuring efforts nationwide. He has served as lead bankruptcy counsel to health care debtors and creditors' committees in chapter 9 and 11 cases, and has served as counsel to chapter 7 and 11 trustees, and as an examiner, chapter 11 trustee, patient care ombudsman and consumer privacy ombudsman. Before joining Dentons, Mr. Maizel was a partner in a national bankruptcy firm, and before that he represented the federal government in bankruptcy, district and appellate courts nationwide as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Commercial Litigation Branch. He has also served in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps, including service in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Mr. Maizel has lectured

extensively, is widely published, and been interviewed on television and radio on bankruptcy topics. He has been listed regularly in *Super Lawyers*, is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and was named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Health Care in its 21st edition. Mr. Maizel received his B.S. in 1977 from the U.S. Military Academy, his M.A. from Georgetown University in government in 1983 and his J.D. in 1985 from George Washington University School of Law, where he won the Jacob Burns Prize for excellence in appellate advocacy and served as president of the Moot Court Board.

**Jason S. Mazer** is a partner and shareholder with Cimo Mazer Mark PLLC in Miami and for the past 20 years has successfully represented individual, corporate and municipal policyholders, as well as third-party claimants in all manner of disputes with insurance carriers. His industry experience includes financial, professional, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, retail, aviation, food services, construction, agriculture, media, entertainment and technology. Mr. Mazer has experience in policyholder insurance recovery, insurance coverage litigation, insurer bad faith and unfair insurance practices, and he regularly represents bankruptcy trustees, receivers and court-appointed fiduciaries in complex business litigation matters involving director and officer, error and omission, and commercial general liability insurers. Additionally, he represents health care providers and hospitals in reimbursement disputes with commercial payors. Mr. Mazer has written on many aspects of insurance law and unfair insurer practices and is often asked to teach in these areas. Previously, he served as a volunteer in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, prosecuting pattern or practice employment discrimination cases, after which he joined the Miami office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, where he represented management in labor and employment disputes. Mr. Mazer is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2013-present), *Florida Superlawyer* (2013-present) and *Florida Top Lawyer* (2013-present). He received his B.A. from Tufts University in 1994 and his J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1998, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**G. William McCarthy, Jr.** is a partner with McCarthy, Reynolds & Penn, LLC in Columbia, S.C., and has been representing debtors and creditors for 40 years, specializing in corporate and partnership restructurings both in and out of bankruptcy courts. Though primarily representing debtors, he has also served as counsel for various creditors' committees, for trustees in chapter 11 cases and for receivers in state court cases. He has also been appointed as trustee in chapter 11 cases, receiver in state court matters, and as liquidating trustee in both chapter 11 and chapter 9 hospital cases. The types of engagements Mr. McCarthy has been involved in have ranged from master planned developments to office parks to apartment complexes to environmentally challenged unimproved land; from manufacturing companies in the furniture, textile, and automobile industries to automobile dealers and trucking companies; and from soybean milling companies and other agricultural companies to communications companies, employment companies, and health care companies, nursing homes and hospitals. He also serves as a mediator, having completed the ABI and St John's University School of Law 40-Hour Bankruptcy Mediation Training Program. Mr. McCarthy has served as an adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina Law School and regularly lectures to law students and lawyers. He received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi.

**Robert M.D. Mercer** is a partner with Schulten Ward Turner Weiss, LLP in Atlanta after having been a partner for many years in the bankruptcy and restructuring group of a large international law firm.

He has a bankruptcy and restructuring practice focused on high-dollar litigation and transactions. Mr. Mercer is listed in *Chambers USA's Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and as a "Georgia Superlawyer" by *Atlanta* magazine. His engagements have included avoidance actions in connection with large leveraged buyouts or corporate governance disputes involving officers and directors for which there is a significant amount of D&O insurance. Mr. Mercer frequently speaks on the topic of D&O coverage in the insolvency and bankruptcy context. He received his B.A. in 1993 from the University of Georgia and his J.D. in 1996 from Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law, where he was a member of the *Mercer Law Review* and a Moot Court Board Gibbons Criminal Law Competition team member.

**O. Byron Meredith III** is the standing chapter 13 trustee in the Southern District of Georgia in Savannah, appointed in December 2006. Prior to that time, he served as the managing bankruptcy partner for a firm in Atlanta primarily representing banks, credit unions, mortgage servicers, government agencies, and corporations within the financial industry. He is a former judicial law clerk for Hon. John S. Dalis (ret.) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia. Mr. Meredith is the vice president of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) and has served as chair of its Mortgage Committee. He serves currently as the NACTT liaison officer with the National Association of Bankruptcy Clerks, is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, and speaks frequently on bankruptcy topics for several professional associations. Mr. Meredith received his A.B.J. and J.D. from the University of Georgia.

**Jennifer M. Meyerowitz** is a managing director of Client Relations & Development with GCG, LLC in Atlanta and leads the company's restructuring business development efforts. She has 15 years of experience in bankruptcy, restructuring and settlement administration as an attorney, consultant and company leader. Ms. Meyerowitz is responsible for creating and executing the company's long-term growth strategy, as well as providing a seamless and tailored experience for GCG's clients. Before she joined GCG, she spent eight years in business-development leadership roles, most recently serving as the vice president of business development for a chapter 7 trustee legal technology start-up, where she managed the sales team and served as the liaison between clients and operations. Prior to that, she was a vice president for a global legal technology and services company, with responsibility for development, legal consulting and strategic communications, compliance and logistics, and case-management functions for the company's bankruptcy and restructuring settlement services. Ms. Meyerowitz began her career as a practicing attorney at Alston & Bird LLP, where she represented debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees and trustees in complex workouts, debt restructurings, commercial litigation and chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings for nearly 10 years. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Emory University School of Law, where she was executive notes and comments editor for the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

**Christine L. Myatt** chairs the Creditors' Rights/Bankruptcy Group of Nexsen Pruet LLC in Greensboro, N.C., where she represents banking and financial institutions in real estate, construction, development and tax credit lending transactions and in workouts, debt restructuring and bankruptcy. She has particular experience representing trustees, creditors' committees, debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bondholders, guarantors and others in bankruptcy law and workout cases in North Carolina, Virginia, the Southern District of New York and Delaware. Ms. Myatt has served as a receiver in nu-

merous state and federal matters on behalf of various creditors and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association's Board of Governors and is a Fellow in the American Bar Foundation. Ms. Myatt is certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and in Bankruptcy Law by the North Carolina State Board of Legal Specialization. She has been listed among North Carolina's "Legal Elite" in bankruptcy law by *Business North Carolina* for several years and has been named a *North Carolina Super Lawyer* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law (2009-16), a "Top 50 Woman Lawyer in North Carolina" (2012-15), as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2012 and as one of the leading North Carolina lawyers by *Chambers USA* (2012-15). Ms. Myatt received both her B.A. and J.D. from Wake Forest University.

**Patrick J. Nash, Jr.** is a partner in the restructuring practice group of Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago, where he represents a variety of clients in complex business reorganizations, troubled-company M&A, debt restructurings and financing matters. He has counseled companies experiencing financial difficulties, purchasers of and investors in distressed companies, and lenders to and creditors of such companies. Mr. Nash has been listed as a leading lawyer in *Chambers USA* every year since 2013. He has also been included in the 2013-18 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. Some of Mr. Nash's recent representative debtor matters include EXCO Resources, Avaya, Global A&T Electronics, Goodman Networks, Gordmans Stores, Horsehead Holding Corp., GSE Environmental, Studio City International, Sorenson Communications, EveryWare Global, AMF Bowling, Hawker Beechcraft, Tronox Inc., FGIC Corp. and U.S. Concrete. Some of his recent creditor, distressed-investor and lender engagements include Oaktree Capital Management as plan sponsor and debtor-in-possession lender to Quiksilver, Versa Capital Management in its out-of-court acquisition of U.S. Shale Solutions, an ad hoc group of first-lien lenders in the chapter 11 cases of Altegrity, and the second-lien lenders to Cal Dive International. Mr. Nash received his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.

**Rebecca Finch Redwine** is a partner with Hendren, Redwine & Malone, PLLC in Raleigh, N.C., and focuses her practice on debtor representation in chapter 11 and chapter 7 bankruptcies for both businesses and individuals. She also counsels clients experiencing insolvency, and assists in workouts and settlements with various lenders. In addition, she has served as Unsecured Creditors Committee Counsel and as counsel in various adversary proceedings. Ms. Redwine is a council member for the North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Section Council and co-chairs its Pro Bono Committee. She is a board member of the Carolinas Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), and she is a volunteer attorney for Legal Aid of North Carolina's "Lawyer on the Line" program. Ms. Redwine was named a North Carolina "Rising Star" in the area of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights by *North Carolina Super Lawyers* magazine from 2010-13. Additionally, she was recognized as a "Legal Elite" in Bankruptcy for 2013-18; she is also included in the 24th Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights and was named Lawyer of the Year for 2018 Raleigh Litigation – Bankruptcy. Ms. Redwine earned a Phi Beta Kappa key from North Carolina State University, where she received her B.A. in 2004, and was an honor student at the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she received her J.D. in 2007.

**Louis E. Robichaux, IV, CFA, CIRA, CTP, CDBV** is a senior managing director at Ankura Consulting Group, LLC in Dallas and serves on the firm's Management Committee. He provides restructuring, crisis-management, financial advisory and expert witness services to parties in a broad variety of distressed corporate settings, with a significant emphasis on the U.S. health care industry. His current and former clients include providers, payors, secured creditors, unsecured creditor committees, governmental entities, trustees and other parties in interest. Prior to joining Ankura, Mr. Robichaux was a principal in Deloitte's restructuring practice, and prior to joining Deloitte, he was a co-managing member and managing director of a national boutique crisis management and restructuring firm. He also was a senior restructuring practitioner at a large professional services firm and a Big Four professional services firm. Mr. Robichaux worked in the health care industry as a senior financial and operational analyst for Kaiser Permanente, as well as various management positions in the long-term care industry, before he entered the consulting environment. He also holds an inactive license as a Texas Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator and is a former member of the City Council of Highland Village, Texas. Mr. Robichaux received his B.B.A. from Austin Peay State University and his M.B.A. in research and statistics from Texas A&M University Mays Business School.

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

**Hon. Frank J. Santoro** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for Eastern District of Virginia, appointed on Feb. 21, 2008, and sitting in Norfolk and Newport News. Prior to his appointment, he was the managing partner of Marcus, Santoro & Kozak, P.C. in Portsmouth and Chesapeake, Va., where his practice concentrated in bankruptcy, corporate reorganizations and corporate finance. Judge Santoro served as

standing chapter 13 trustee beginning in 1987 and as a chapter 7 panel trustee from December 1981 through May 1990. He was also a former law clerk to Judge Hal J. Bonney, Jr. Judge Santoro has been a frequent speaker at seminars and is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2003, he was selected by his peers as the outstanding bankruptcy lawyer in Virginia. Judge Santoro received undergraduate degrees with honors in political science, economics and finance from Allegheny College in 1976, where he was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and his J.D. from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in 1979.

**Travis Sasser** is the principal at Sasser Law Firm in Cary, N.C.. He is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and through the North Carolina State Bar's Board of Legal Specialization, and he currently serves on its Bankruptcy Specialization Committee. Mr. Sasser is a member of ABI, NACBA and the Bankruptcy Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. He received his B.A. from North Carolina State University and his J.D. from the University of Georgia.

**Hon. William R. Sawyer** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery, initially appointed on May 24, 1999. He served as Chief Judge from 1999-2006 and from 2013 to the present. Judge Sawyer served as the Eleventh Circuit representative to the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2014-16. Upon graduation from law school, he joined the law firm of Clifford, Claudon, Alexa and Sawyer in Valparaiso, Ind., until 1986. In June 1986, he became a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division, and in 1989, he became assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Alabama, serving there until 1999, when he was appointed to the bankruptcy bench. Judge Sawyer was admitted to the Alabama bar in 1991 and has served as an adjunct professor at Faulkner University Jones School of Law, where he has taught bankruptcy law since 2005. He was also an adjunct professor at Huntington College from 2002-06. Judge Sawyer lectures and writes frequently on bankruptcy-related issues. He received his J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1982 and was admitted to the Indiana bar the same year.

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**Brian K. Smithweck** is a partner with Adams and Reese LLP in Mobile, Ala., where he practices in the areas of corporate, partnership and limited liability company planning, estate planning, probate, trusts and estates, mergers and acquisitions, tax planning and tax controversies. He represents businesses, individuals and families. Mr. Smithweck is admitted to practice in Alabama, Florida and

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**Jonathan M. Tibus, CIRA, CDBV** is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal in Atlanta, where he specializes in developing, evaluating and implementing restructuring and performance-improvement plans for underperforming companies, largely in the restaurant, retail and hospitality sectors. He has more than 20 years of experience in interim management and financial advisory roles and has managed numerous in-court and out-of-court restructuring efforts. Most recently, Mr. Tibus served as CEO Ignite Restaurant Group, which owned and managed 137 restaurants under the Joe's Crab Shack and Brickhouse Tavern + Tap brands. Prior to this, he served as CEO of Last Call Operating Co., which owned and managed over 80 restaurants under the brand names of Champps, Bailey's, and Fox & Hound. In these roles, he had overall strategic, financial and operational responsibility for a long-term stabilization and positioning process, ultimately leading to a sale transaction in chapter 11. He also recently served as CRO to Quiznos, a sandwich restaurant franchisor with over 2,000 domestic and international stores, and as COO to Max & Erma's, a \$150 million chain of casual dining restaurants. Mr. Tibus also has served as restructuring advisor to various companies, including an \$800 million golf and sports equipment retailer, a multi-unit retail and wholesale nursery business, and an Atlantic City resort and casino prior to and during its bankruptcy filing. He also has extensive experience advising lenders, creditors and franchisees. Prior to joining A&M, Mr. Tibus was a manager in the restructuring practice of a Big Five consultancy. A member of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors (AIRA), the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) and ABI, Mr. Tibus received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University and his M.B.A. from the University of Florida.

**Hon. John E. Waites** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Carolina in Columbia, appointed on June 27, 1994, and served as chief judge from March 1, 2006 until March 1, 2013. He presently serves on the Executive Committee for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) as president-elect and will become president in October 2018, and he previously served as co-chair of its Legislative Committee and as a member of the NCBJ Board of Governors from 2010-14, as well as various committees, including Public Outreach. On Oct. 1, 2013, he was appointed by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court to serve on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, a post to which he was reappointed in 2016. He also served as a member and chairman of the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts from 2008-13. Judge Waites has served as a member of the Access to Justice Commission of the South Carolina Supreme Court since 2006. In 2016, he was appointed as a member of the South Carolina Bar's Pro Bono Board, having previously served on its Pro Bono Committee. Judge Waites has been awarded several honors, including receiving the Legal Services Corporation's Pro Bono Award and the South Carolina Bar's pro bono award for his efforts to ensure equal access to justice for South Carolina citizens. In addition, he has been presented with the J. Bratton Davis Professionalism Award, the highest honor of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, and the U.S. District Court Judge Matthew J. Perry, Jr. Civility Award from the Richland County Bar Association. In March 2018, Judge Waites became a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, serving on its Pro Bono Committee. He is also the president of the J. Bratton Davis Bankruptcy American Inn

of Court. Judge Waites received his undergraduate degree from Davidson College and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina.

**Hon. David M. Warren** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Raleigh, appointed on Oct. 4, 2013. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the Norman A. Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University and as a guest lecturer at the Wake Forest University School of Law. Before taking the bench, Judge Warren was a partner at Poyner Spruill LLP in Raleigh and Rocky Mount, N.C., for over 27 years and concentrated his practice in the areas of bankruptcy and commercial law. He also served on the Panel of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustees for the Eastern District of North Carolina for 24 years and is a past chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. Judge Warren served on the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina for more than 10 years and served as chair for more than seven years. Judge Warren is Board Certified in Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization and the American Board of Certification. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from Wake Forest University and his J.D. from the Wake Forest University School of Law, after which he clerked for the late Hon. Thomas M. Moore, who co-drafted legislation that became chapter 12.

**Joseph A. Weissglass, CIRA, CDBV** is a partner with Configure Partners, LLC in Atlanta and was previously in the e Middle Market Special Situations practice at Guggenheim Securities, where he was a vice president. Prior to joining Guggenheim, he was part of the Global Finance and Restructuring Group at Barclays Capital in New York. Mr. Weissglass has focused his career on providing advisory services to middle-market companies as it relates to financings, mergers and acquisitions, and restructurings. He is a FINRA General Securities Representative (Series 63, 79) and was recognized by the M&A Advisor as a recipient of the 2017 Emerging Leaders Award. Mr. Weissglass received his B.S. in construction science and management from Clemson University and his M.B.A. from the University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School.

**David A. Wender** is a financial restructuring, workout, and bankruptcy partner at Alston & Bird LLP's in Atlanta, where he represents a variety of clients in complex bankruptcy cases, out-of court workouts, debt restructurings, asset dispositions and claims-reconciliation procedures. He routinely advises clients on mergers and acquisitions, litigation, real estate financing, structured financing, workouts, restructuring and bankruptcy. Prior to joining Alston & Bird, Mr. Wender clerked for Hon. Mary F. Walrath, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware. He is a barrister in the inaugural W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, serves on the advisory board of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop, and is a board member of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*. Mr. Wender has been recognized by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for excellence in the area of Bankruptcy/Restructuring since 2016 and has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2018 in the area of Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. He received his B.S. in business administration from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998 and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law in 2003.

**Margaret R. Westbrook** is a partner with K&L Gates LLP in Raleigh, N.C., and currently serves as a co-practice group coordinator for the firm's Restructuring and Insolvency Practice Group. She represents and litigates for secured and unsecured creditors in restructuring and insolvency matters both

in and out of the state and federal courts in North Carolina, and in other jurisdictions including New York and Delaware. Ms. Westbrook advises transactional clients with respect to insolvency risks and debt restructuring. She represents purchasers and sellers of debt and assets from financially distressed companies in a variety of structures, including foreclosure sales, Article 9 sales and § 363 sales. She has extensive experience with agricultural cases, including chapter 12 proceedings, and with health care insolvency issues both in and outside of formal insolvency proceedings. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Westbrook clerked for Hon. J. Rich Leonard of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina from 1996-98. She has chaired the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina since 2010 and serves on the board of the Eastern Bankruptcy Institute and the Turnaround Management Association Carolinas Chapter. Ms. Westbrook is listed in *Chambers USA* and *NC Legal Elite*. She received her B.A. and J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Nancy J. Whaley** is an attorney and a chapter 12 and 13 trustee for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, where she oversees 39 employees and operates a trust of over \$75 million. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and has chaired ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop Advisory Board. Ms. Whaley is a member of the Northern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court's Bench and Bar Committee. She also served on the Executive Committee and co-chaired the Community Service Committee for the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Ms. Whaley is a past chair of both the Atlanta Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Georgia. She served as president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and of the GAWL Foundation. From 2005-11, Ms. Whaley served on the Executive Committee for the State Bar of Georgia, and since 2000 she has been a member of the Board of Governors. She is the current chair of State Bar's Finance Committee. Ms. Whaley is an active member in the Association of Chapter 12 Trustees and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and is their representative to the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. She also serves on the NACTT Foundation Board. Ms. Whaley taught as an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School in Atlanta from 2002-14 and retired from the Air Force Reserve in 2009 as a Lieutenant Colonel. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Eureka College, where she was a Ronald Reagan Scholar, and her J.D. from Emory Law School.

**Rory D. Whelehan** is a partner with Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP in Greenville, S.C., and for almost 30 years has represented varied constituents in bankruptcy and insolvency matters. He concentrates his practice primarily on chapter 11 cases and assorted bankruptcy litigation matters, as well as out-of-court workouts and debt restructurings, including contested and uncontested foreclosures in North Carolina and South Carolina. Mr. Whelehan has represented all major players in chapter 11 cases, including secured creditors, debtors, creditors' committees, trade creditors and equity securityholders. He appears regularly in bankruptcy courts throughout North Carolina (Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Durham and Asheville) and South Carolina (Charleston, Columbia and Spartanburg), and he has appeared in cases pending in New York, Wilmington, Atlanta, Dallas and Tampa. Mr. Whelehan's chapter 11 experience has involved numerous financially distressed industries, including aviation, textiles, asbestos, big-box retail and petroleum/convenience stores. In addition to his litigation work, he has provided advice and assistance in workouts and debt restructurings for various financial institutions. He has also provided bankruptcy legal opinions in connection with various sophisticated financial transactions, including nonconsolidation, fraudulent transfer and automatic stay opinions. In addition, he has represented litigations in bankruptcy appeals both at the federal district court level in North Carolina and has appeared at the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va. His

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