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# Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop 2021

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Julie M. Anania** is a staff attorney for Nancy J. Whaley, Standing Chapter 13 Trustee, in Atlanta and has represented the chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Georgia for nine years. Prior to that, she represented consumer debtors. Ms. Anania is an active member of the bankruptcy sections of State Bar of Georgia, the Atlanta Bar Association and the Metro-Atlanta Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Group. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she also played for the women's soccer team, and her J.D. from Liberty University School of Law.

**James B. Bailey** is a partner with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham, Ala., and has experience with both debtor and creditor representation in bankruptcy, out-of-court workouts and restructurings, and bankruptcy-related litigation. He also regularly represents commercial lenders and mortgage-servicers in federal court commercial litigation. Mr. Bailey has represented chapter 11 debtors including Walter Energy, Inc. in Alabama and Vanguard Healthcare, LLC in Tennessee, which have involved numerous complex issues, including the termination of employee and retiree benefits and going-concern sales free and clear of claims. He also has chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy experience as one of the attorneys representing Jefferson County, Ala., in several contested matters and adversary proceedings that involved issues unique to chapter 9. Mr. Bailey's creditor bankruptcy practice involves representing commercial lenders in business bankruptcy cases under chapters 7 and 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and in individual cases of commercial loan obligors under chapters 7, 11 and 13. This representation has recently involved several mortgage-servicing clients in bankruptcy courts. He also represents creditors in substantive bankruptcy litigation, including proceedings that involve preferences, fraudulent transfers, relief from stay and lien-avoidance issues. His bankruptcy litigation experience includes appeals to both district courts and appeals courts. Outside of bankruptcy, Mr. Bailey has transactional experience negotiating and documenting out-of-court workouts. He has experience pursuing pre- and post-judgment creditor remedies, including receivership and receiver sales, nonjudicial foreclosures and garnishments, and he has commercial litigation experience pursuing judgments against defaulting commercial loan obligors. Mr. Bailey co-authored ABI's *Construction Issues in Bankruptcy*. He received his B.A. in political science and B.S. in finance *cum laude* in 2005 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 2010 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

**Carrienne J.M. Basler, CPA, CIRA** is a managing director in the Turnaround and Restructuring group at AlixPartners, LLP in Chicago. She has more than 25 years of extensive financial consulting experience combined with hands-on management in the areas of contingency planning, financial strategy, contract negotiations, litigation management, treasury, business planning, plan administration and risk management. Over the years, Ms. Basler has served in a number of interim-management roles, including serving on the management team of Motors Liquidation (formerly General Motors Corp.) and recently as CFO of Aceto Corp. In addition, she has provided chapter 11 case leadership for clients such as Eastman Kodak, McDermott, Altegrity, Pacific Drilling, C&J Energy Services, David's Bridal, Mirant and Dana Corp. Ms. Basler regularly speaks and has published numerous articles concerning turnaround management and reorganization matters. She received her B.B.A. in accounting from the University of Wisconsin.

**Hon. Suzanne H. Bauknight** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee in Knoxville, appointed on Nov. 10, 2014. She previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and

Civil Division Chief, representing federal agencies in a variety of matters including bankruptcy and debt collection. During her term as chair of the DOJ's Civil Chiefs Working Group, she was appointed to the Advisory Committee of U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. Following law school, Judge Bauknight clerked for South Carolina Court of Appeals Judge C. Tolbert Goolsby, Jr., then was an associate at Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, where she practiced in commercial and employment litigation. She is a member of the Tennessee, South Carolina and Knoxville Bar Associations, and served as a member of the KBA Board of Governors and as co-chair of the Government and Public Service Sector Lawyers' Section. She also is an Emeritus Master of the Bench and past president of the Hamilton Burnett Chapter of the American Inns of Court. Judge Bauknight teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law and the Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law, and she is an associate editor of the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*. She received her B.A. with honors and *magna cum laude* in international studies from the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina, and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she attended as a Carolina Legal Scholar.

**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 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 Taskforce 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. Paul M. Black** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Virginia in Roanoke, appointed in 2014. He previously practiced law in Richmond for several years, then returned to Roanoke and joined Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC, where he co-chaired its Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights practice group and focused his practice on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and banking and finance law. Judge Black was named to *The Best Lawyers in America* in multiple areas related to finance and insolvency, to "Virginia's Legal Elite" by *Virginia Business* magazine in both Civil Litigation and Bankruptcy Law, and as a *Virginia Super Lawyer* in the field of Bankruptcy Law. For many years, he was an active participant in the Boyd-Graves Conference of the Virginia Bar Association, which studies and makes recommendations to the Virginia legislature on improve-

ments to civil practice in Virginia. Judge Black is a past chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar, and also chaired the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia Bar Association. In addition, he served as a member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board from 2007-13. Judge Black is a frequent speaker to insolvency professionals on matters pertaining to bankruptcy, litigation and ethics. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1982, studied at Cambridge University in England, and received his J.D. from the University of Richmond in 1985, after which he clerked for Hon. Blackwell N. Shelley of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

**Jason L. Boland** is a partner in the Disputes Group of Norton Rose Fulbright in Houston, where he maintains a diverse and nationwide practice centering on business bankruptcy matters and complex commercial disputes. Throughout his career, he has represented a broad range of clients across various industries, including debtors, lenders, litigation trustees, indenture trustees, and secured and unsecured creditors in both transactional and litigation-related engagements, and he has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in complex commercial litigation matters pending in federal courts across the country. Mr. Boland is a frequent speaker and has been selected as a *Texas Super Lawyer* for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights, and he was recently recognized in 2021 by *Chambers & Partners USA, Texas: Bankruptcy/Restructuring*. He is currently on the Complex Case Rules Committee for the Southern District of Texas, serves as an at-large member on the board of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA), and is a past president of the Houston Chapter of the TMA. Mr. Boland received his B.A. in government from the University of Texas and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from Texas Tech University School of Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as comment editor for the *Texas Tech Law Review*, and was an associate editor of the Texas Tech Legal Research Board.

**John R. Bollinger** is a shareholder with the Boleman Law Firm, P.C. and partner-in-charge of its Hampton, Va., office. The firm focuses exclusively in the area of consumer bankruptcy law and is the largest consumer bankruptcy practice in Virginia. He is a frequent speaker at local, regional and national organizations and is past president of the board of the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association. Mr. Bollinger has spoken before ABI, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, Virginia Bar Association (VBA), Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association (TBBA), Virginia Governors Conference on Housing, the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees and the Virginia Trial Lawyer's Association, as well as a number of civic and business organizations. Additionally, he has served as the past president of the board for the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association. Mr. Bollinger most recently served on the 2019 ABI Strategic Planning Committee and the 2019 and 2020 ABI "40 Under 40" Steering Committees. He currently serves as the Education Director of ABI's Consumer Bankruptcy Committee and is an editor for ABI's VOLO project. Mr. Bollinger has been recognized by *Super Lawyers* as a "Virginia Rising Star" in the area of Consumer Bankruptcy Law. He received his J.D. from the University of Richmond T.C. Williams 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 in Atlanta with Lamberth, Bonapfel, Cifelli & Stokes, P.A., now known as Lamberth, Cifelli, Ellis & Nason, P.A. As an attorney, Judge Bonapfel represented all types of parties in bankruptcy cases, including consumer and business

debtors in liquidation cases, business debtors in reorganization cases, chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy trustees, creditors' committees, and creditors in both consumer and business cases. Judge Bonapfel is a co-author of *Chapter 13 Practice and Procedure* (Thomson Reuters). A Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, he has served as chairperson of the Bankruptcy Sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Bar Association and was a director and president of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, which presents an annual seminar on bankruptcy law and procedure. In addition, he teaches a course at Mercer Law School in Macon, Ga., on consumer bankruptcy practice. Judge Bonapfel received his B.A. *cum laude* from Florida State University in 1972 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1975, where he was a notes editor of the *Georgia Law Review*. Following law school, he clerked for U.S. District Judge Wilbur D. Owens, Jr., in Macon.

**Sarah R. Borders** is a partner with King & Spalding in Atlanta, where her practice focuses on developing, structuring, documenting and closing financing transactions, representing borrowers and lenders in debt restructurings, workouts and forbearance arrangements and representing debtors, lenders, purchasers and unsecured creditors in chapter 11 reorganization cases. Her practice spans a number of industries, including infrastructure, real estate, energy, agriculture, health care, manufacturing, retail, restaurant, hospitality and transportation. Ms. Borders has successfully represented a number of debtors in chapter 11 cases, including The Krystal Co., Ignite Restaurant Group, FXCM Inc., Propex Inc., Sea Island Co., AIG Baker, Jack Cooper Enterprises, The New Power Co., Winn Dixie Stores, Rhodes Furniture Inc., Dan River Inc., Centennial Healthcare Corporation, World Health Alternatives Inc., LJM2 Investments, Titan Financial Group, Black Diamond Mining and International Total Systems. She previously clerked for the late Hon. Henry A. Politz of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. A Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, Ms. Borders has been recognized in *Chambers & Partners* (ranked as Bank 1 and Star Individual), *The Best Lawyers in America* (Georgia Lawyer of Year for Bankruptcy Litigation), *Legal 500* (Real Estate), *The Deal* (Leading Individual Debtor Lawyer), *International Who's Who Legal* (Insolvency) and *Guide to the World's Leading Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyers*. She has served multiple terms on the firm's policy committee and led both its Financial Restructuring and Real Estate practice groups. Ms. Borders received her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, for which she serves on the Board of Trustees for the Law School Foundation.

**David K. Bowsher** is a partner in the Birmingham, Ala., and Houston offices of Balch & Bingham LLP, where his practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, including those involving troubled companies; on corporate restructuring and bankruptcy issues; and on oil and gas matters. Previously, he served as acting general counsel and deputy general counsel of the U.S. Department of Commerce in President George W. Bush's Administration. During that time, Mr. Bowsher advised senior U.S. government officials on a wide variety of issues, including providing financial assistance to distressed industries (e.g., the automotive and steel industries), foreign direct investment, congressional oversight and investigations, coastal development litigation (particularly oil and gas-related developments), export control licensing and enforcement, and internet governance. He also co-led U.S. engagement with the People's Republic of China on transparency in government as part of the Strategic Economic Dialogue and led U.S. participation in the U.S.-China Legal Exchange as part of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade. Mr. Bowsher received his B.A. with honors in English and American literature and economics from Brown University in 1995. After teaching English

at the Culver Academies in Indiana, he received his J.D. *cum laude* in 1999 from Duke University School of Law, where he was an articles editor for the *Duke Law Journal* and was elected to the Order of the Coif. Following law school, he clerked for Hon. William H. Yohn, Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Marchand Boyd** is an SVP and senior managing director for Axos Bank in Delaware, Ohio, and heads its Global Fiduciary Banking team. He formulates market and engagement-specific deposit-management solutions, and provides his clients with specialized banking accommodations. Mr. Boyd has fiduciary management and systems improvement experience, and he often will bridge the gap between banking and technology and present customized solutions to clients. He also is responsible for expanding professional client relationships across a wide range of fiduciary markets, and he has experience with treasury management and technology solutions for professional fiduciaries in domestic and international markets. Mr. Boyd received his Bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Suffield University.

**Beverly M. Burden** has served as the chapter 13 trustee for the Eastern District of Kentucky in Lexington since 1999. She previously clerked for Hon. Joe Lee, and prior to that was an assistant attorney general for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in its Consumer Protection Division. Ms. Burden has presented at numerous national, regional and local bankruptcy seminars. She is a member of the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT) and serves on the board of directors of the NACTT Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education ([www.considerchapter13.org](http://www.considerchapter13.org)). Ms. Burden chairs the University of Kentucky Biennial Consumer Bankruptcy Law Conference and served on the Chapter 13 Advisory Committee to the ABI Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy. She also is a regular contributor to [www.considerchapter13.org](http://www.considerchapter13.org) and writes a blog for practitioners in the Eastern District of Kentucky at [www.ch13edky.wordpress.com](http://www.ch13edky.wordpress.com). Ms. Burden was the 1997 recipient of the Kentucky Bar Association's Justice Thomas B. Spain Award for Outstanding Service in Continuing Legal Education and in 2017 was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. She received her J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law and holds a B.B.A. in accounting.

**Hon. Helen Elizabeth Burris** is the Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Carolina in Spartanburg. After clerking for Hon. Marvin R. Wooten in Charlotte, N.C., she began her private practice at a debtor's firm and worked with a chapter 7 trustee before joining a larger firm, primarily representing creditors, until she was appointed as standing chapter 13 trustee. She is licensed to practice in North Carolina and South Carolina. Judge Burris is a member of the J. Bratton Davis Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, a member and former president of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, and a former member and chair of the South Carolina Supreme Court Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor Specialization Advisory Board. She has served on various committees and as a member of the Board of Governors for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and as a member of the Next Generation of CM/ECF committee for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. In addition, she served as a member and chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Audits and Administrative Office Accountability (AAOA), a group that oversees the audit processes and certain investigative activities for the federal courts, Administrative Office and related offices nationwide, and member of the 2020 Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Group for the Judicial Conference, contributing to the five-year plan for the federal courts. Judge Burris received her B.A. from Appala-

chian State University and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill.

**Laura Day DelCotto** is the founding member of DelCotto Law Group, a boutique law practice in Lexington, Ky., focusing on bankruptcies, restructurings, and various types of commercial, debtor/creditor and bankruptcy litigation. She has more than 30 years of experience in all aspects of corporate, municipal and high-net-worth individual liquidations and restructurings. Ms. DelCotto holds numerous professional recognitions and is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. She is also Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and holds top ratings in Martindale-Hubbell, and she is listed as a “Top 10” attorney in *Kentucky Super Lawyers* and in The Best Lawyers in America’s “Lawyer of the Year” selections for Lexington, Ky., for Bankruptcy, Bankruptcy Litigation, Insolvency and Debtor/Creditor law. Ms. DelCotto is one of the founders of IWIRC’s Central Kentucky chapter. She received her undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from The University of the South at Sewanee and her J.D. with distinction from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She is also certified in Ayurvedic Lifestyle by the Chopra Center, and is a speaker/teacher in educational and corporate wellness programs.

**Denise D. Dell-Powell** is the chair of Dean Mead’s Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group in Orlando, Fla., and has more than 25 years of experience in bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, as well as distressed property, including CMBS foreclosures, workouts and bankruptcy matters. She has represented secured and unsecured creditors, debtors, chapter 11 trustees, chapter 7 trustees and unsecured creditors’ committees. In addition to a focus on banking and financial institutions, her career also includes representation in the hospitality, restaurant, health care and agricultural industries. In Ms. Dell-Powell’s business litigation practice, she has represented parties in federal and state court and has experience trying both jury and nonjury trials. Her litigation practice involves representing clients in a broad range of matters, including those involving real estate, mortgage foreclosure, receiverships, lender liability, commercial evictions, partnership disputes and other real estate-based litigation. Ms. Dell-Powell is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a frequent lecturer, presenter and author on bankruptcy, restructuring and related issues. She has presented at conferences and seminars sponsored by the American Bar Association, ABI, Trigild, The Florida Bar, The Bankruptcy/UCC Section of The Florida Bar, the Florida Bankers Association, the Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association and Lorman Education Series. Ms. Dell-Powell received her B.S. from Florida State University and her J.D. from Mercer University School of Law.

**Richard H. Drew** is an Assistant U.S. Trustee with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Shreveport, La. He began practicing with the Corporate and Financial Litigation Section of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Division, where he represented the U.S.’s interests in chapter 11 bankruptcies and in other commercial litigation. In 2015, Mr. Drew joined the U.S. Trustee Program in his home state of Louisiana, then in 2019 joined the Shreveport field office. In 2021, he has also served as the Acting Assistant U.S. Trustee for the San Antonio field office. Mr. Drew received his J.D. from the Louisiana State University Law Center.

**Ashley A. Edwards** is a partner with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Charlotte, N.C., and has represented creditors in all aspects of commercial debt collection and loss mitigation, including

loan restructuring, bankruptcy, litigation and post-judgment execution. Her clients include Fortune 500 companies, national, regional and community banks, nontraditional lenders, finance companies, lessors and manufacturers. She also advises and represents clients from various industries in the purchase and sale of assets under § 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, chapter 11 plan confirmation, and the assumption and rejection of contracts. In particular, she has experience defending national companies against preference and fraudulent transfer actions in a wide variety of jurisdictions. Ms. Edwards also represents clients in a broad range of business litigation in federal and state courts, as well as mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. She has defended principals and officers in derivatives lawsuits and against claims of fraud, embezzlement and racketeering. She is also experienced in issues related to insider trading and corporate structure. Ms. Edwards is admitted to practice before all U.S. Bankruptcy and District Courts in North Carolina and Georgia, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Prior to joining Parker Poe, she clerked for Hon. J. Craig Whitley of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina. She is a member of the advisory board of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and a member of Parker Poe's *Pro Bono* Committee, averaging more than 80 hours of *pro bono* services each year. She focuses her *pro bono* work with North Carolina's Guardian *ad Litem* program, through which she represents abused and neglected children. She also serves on the Next Generation Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the leadership team (called the council) of the North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, and she is the vice chair of the North Carolina chapter of Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE). Ms. Edwards received her B.A. *cum laude* in 2005 from Wake Forest University and her J.D. in 2009 from Emory University.

**Jonathan T. Edwards** is a partner with Alston & Bird LLP in Atlanta in its Financial Restructuring & Reorganization Group. He represents various clients in corporate, finance and litigation matters, including complex bankruptcy cases, workouts, receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors, debt restructurings, distressed acquisitions and dispositions, financings and recapitalizations, and commercial litigation. Mr. Edwards focuses his practice on assignments combining financial and operational restructuring advice with transactional and major litigation work. He represents distressed purchasers, debtors and other parties in bankruptcy sales; private and alternative credit lenders and financial institutions; unsecured creditors; CDO, CLO, CMBS, RMBS and indenture trustees; CMBS master and special servicers and collateral managers; and defendants in avoidance actions, including fraudulent-transfer litigation nationwide. Mr. Edwards counsels directors, officers and others in complex bankruptcy and commercial litigation. He also helps lead the firm's opinion committee, advising on bankruptcy structuring issues in leveraged finance, securitization and structured finance transactions. Mr. Edwards is listed in the 2019-2021 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and was a 2018 honoree of ABI's "40 Under 40" program. Since 2015, he has been selected to the *Georgia Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" list, and in 2019-2021 he was named in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring – Georgia. In 2017, he received M&A Advisor's Emerging Leaders Award for his contributions to the turnaround industry. Mr. Edwards is admitted to practice in New York and Georgia and is an ABI member. He received his B.B.A. in 2005 from Georgia State University and his J.D. in 2008 from Mercer University.

**Philip G. Eisenberg** is a partner in the Houston office of Locke Lord LLP and has run its bankruptcy group for 20 years. A leader in the firm's energy, commercial and maritime litigation, creditors' rights and bankruptcy groups, he represents major corporate clients focused on high-profile offshore and

oil and gas and energy-related matters, both domestically and internationally, involving all aspects of offshore matters, commercial dealings and regulatory agency work. Mr. Eisenberg previously worked many years in the offshore and energy industry at ChevronTexaco, where he served in various capacities, including senior counsel. He also represented BP in various aspects of the Macondo Oil Spill, including the \$20 billion trust fund, joint-interest claims against Anadarko and MOEX, and claims arising out of the ATP bankruptcy. Mr. Eisenberg received his B.S. in accounting from Brooklyn College in 1981 and his J.D. from the Louisiana State University Law Center in 1984.

**Hon. Michael A. Fagone** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maine in Bangor, appointed in April 2015. He is also a member of the U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit, appointed in April 2016. Judge Fagone previously clerked for Associate Justices Leigh I. Saufley and Robert W. Clifford of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. Following his clerkship, he joined Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson in Portland, Maine, and was a member of its Business Restructuring and Insolvency Practice Group from 1998-2000, and from 2001-15, where he represented clients in bankruptcy cases and in out-of-court restructurings. While practicing law, Judge Fagone was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Chambers USA* as one of the top bankruptcy lawyers in Maine. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and served on the board of directors of the Nathan and Henry B. Cleaves Law Library, and on the board of directors of the Dyer/Library and Saco Museum. Judge Fagone currently serves on ABI's Board of Directors and volunteers with Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE), teaching students about the responsible use of credit and the dangers of credit abuse. He also has volunteered as a coach and an evaluator for Maine Law's teams in the Conrad B. Duberstein Moot Court Competition. Judge Fagone received his B.A. from Amherst College in 1993 and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Maine School of Law in 1997.

**J. David Folds** is a corporate restructuring and bankruptcy shareholder with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC in Washington, D.C., and devotes a considerable portion of his bankruptcy practice to representing commercial and retail landlords in chapter 11 reorganization proceedings. In 2020 and 2021, he represented numerous landlords in national retail cases filed in Delaware, the Eastern District of Virginia, the Southern District of Texas and elsewhere. He also represents franchisors and franchisees in reorganization proceedings. Mr. Folds was recognized in *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers* for Business Bankruptcy in 2020. He serves as the *pro bono* shareholder in Baker Donelson's Washington, D.C., office and as a board member of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. Mr. Folds clerked for Judge William L. Stocks, Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. He holds degrees from the University of the South and the London School of Economics and Political Science, and he received his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

**Craig M. Geno** is a member of the Law Offices of Craig M. Geno, PLLC in Ridgeland, Miss., and his bankruptcy practice consists representing secured and unsecured creditors, unsecured creditors' committees, chapter 11 debtors-in-possession and bankruptcy trustees in chapter 7 and 11 cases. Additionally, he has served as a trustee in chapter 11 cases and is a subchapter V trustee. His practice areas also include commercial and corporate litigation. Mr. Geno is a frequent writer and lecturer on various bankruptcy topics. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Mississippi State Bar Association (for which he served as president of its Law Office Economics Section from 1993-94),

Mississippi Bar Foundation, Federal Bar Association (for which he served as the Southern District Vice President of the Mississippi chapter from 1989-90), and the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference (for which he served as president in 2001). In addition, he is a member of ABI, the Business Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association, and the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Geno is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, the Mississippi Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. He is listed in *The Best Attorneys of America* and as a “Top Fifty Attorney” in *Super Lawyers*, and his firm is listed in *U.S. News & Best Lawyers* “Best Law Firms.” Mr. Geno is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, served on its board of directors for eight years, and served as its president and chairman. He also served on the Mississippi State Bar as special counsel for the Committee on Character and Fitness from 1984-87, and as a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness from 1987-2013. Mr. Geno received his undergraduate degree in 1975 and his J.D. in 1978 from the University of Mississippi, during which time he served on the law school’s Moot Court Board.

**Richard R. Gleissner** is a practitioner with Gleissner Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, S.C., which he founded in 2007. He was admitted to the South Carolina Bar in 1990, the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 1991. In 1998, the State of South Carolina’s Supreme Court certified him as specialist in Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor Law, and he continues to be certified in this area of specialization. Mr. Gleissner is a member of the American Bar Association, the South Carolina Bar Association, ABI and the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association. In 2007, he taught commercial law and bankruptcy at the Charleston School of Law. Mr. Gleissner regularly lectures and gives seminars on various aspects of commercial and bankruptcy law for the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, the South Carolina Bar, the National Judicial College, Lorman Educational Services and Strafford Educational Services. He received his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina in 1978, his Masters in Public Administration in 1981 and his J.D. *cum laude* in 1990, and during law school he was awarded membership in the Order of Wig and Robe and the Order of the Coif.

**Elizabeth A. Green** is a partner with BakerHostetler in Orlando, Fla., and chairs its National Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group. She has represented debtors, creditors and committees in a wide range of industries. Ms. Green has represented numerous health care related entities, including skilled nursing facilities, hospitals, pharmacies, health care practices, health care CROs and trustees in chapter 11 cases nationally, and creditors and buyers of health care facilities in chapter 11 cases across the country. In addition, she often lectures on health care bankruptcy issues and has served as an expert witness and mediator in health care cases. Ms. Green is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and 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 and is ranked as a Star Individual in *Florida Chambers*. Ms. Green has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida Levin College of Law in advanced bankruptcy and served 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 admitted to the Order of the Coif.

**Matt Guill** is a director at Configure Partners, LLC in New York, a middle-market credit-focused investment bank providing debt-placement and capital-resolution advisory services to companies, sponsors, lenders and other stakeholders. He has advised a wide range of client, including the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico with respect to its \$100+ billion of liabilities, Hyundai Merchant Marine in a \$4+ billion debt and charter contract restructuring, M&G Chemicals in its \$2 billion restructuring, Pacific Drilling in its \$1 billion restructuring, and various ad hoc lender groups. Prior to joining Configure, Mr. Guill was with Millstein, Rothschild, and Greenhill. He received his undergraduate degree from Hampden-Sydney College, where he was captain of the basketball team, and his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School.

**Janet B. Haigler** is a practitioner with Haigler Law Firm LLC in Chapin, S.C., and has practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, creditor rights and commercial litigation for more than 25 years. In 2014, she was appointed by the Office of the U.S. Trustee as a chapter 7 panel trustee for the District of South Carolina. Ms. Haigler serves as a mediator for the Loss Mitigation/Mortgage Modification Program and for chapter 13 valuation disputes. She is certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court as a Specialist in Bankruptcy and Debtor-Creditor law, and she serves as the secretary for the J. Bratton Davis Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Recently, the American College of Bankruptcy announced that Ms. Haigler will be inducted as a Fellow of the College in October 2021. She volunteers for the CARE Program, providing financial literacy presentations to local schools and community groups.

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

**Amy Denton Harris, CPA** is a shareholder with Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Prosser, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., and has approximately 18 years of restructuring experience. She specializes in the representation of debtors, assignors, committees, creditors, trustees, assignees, purchasers and other parties in bankruptcy cases, assignments for the benefit of creditors and out-of-court workouts. Ms. Harris joined the firm in March 2003 and became a shareholder in 2010. She also serves as a subchapter V trustee. Ms. Harris is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and is a Fellow with the Litigation Counsel of America. She is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law for 2020 and 2021, is listed in *Chambers & Partners* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring from 2015-21, and is listed in *Florida Super Lawyers* from 2018-21. She also is one of only two Florida honorees of ABI's 2019 "40 Under 40" class. Ms. Harris received her J.D. with honors in 2002 from the University of Florida and interned for Hon. Paul M. Glenn and Hon. Michael G. Williamson in the Middle District of Florida.

**Hon. Barbara J. Houser** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas and ABI's Immediate Past President. She previously was with Locke, Purnell, Boren, Laney & Neely in Dallas and became a shareholder there in 1985. In 1988, she joined Sheinfeld, Maley & Kay, P.C. as the shareholder-in-charge of the Dallas office and remained there until she was sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in 2000. While at Sheinfeld, Judge Houser led the firm's representation of clients in a variety of significant national chapter 11 cases. She lectures and publishes frequently, is a past chairman of the Dallas Bar Association's Committee on Bankruptcy and Corporate Reorganization, is a member of the Dallas, Texas and American Bar Associations, and is a Fellow of the Texas and American Bar Foundations. Judge Houser served as a contributing author to Collier on Bankruptcy for many years and taught creditors' rights as a visiting professor at the SMU Dedman School of Law. She was elected a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy in 1994, and in 1996, she was elected a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference. In 1998, the National Law Journal named Judge Houser as one of the 50 most influential women lawyers in America. After becoming a bankruptcy judge, she joined the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and served as its president from 2009-10. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Judicial Service from the SMU Dedman School of Law in February, 2011, the William L. Norton Jr., Judicial Excellence Award in October 2014, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Alliance of Bankruptcy Inns of the American Inns of Court in October 2016. Judge Houser currently serves as a member of the executive board of the SMU Dedman School of Law, and in March 2017, Chief Justice John Roberts appointed her to serve as a member of the board of directors of the Federal Judicial Center, the education and research arm of the Third Branch. In June 2017, she was appointed to serve as the leader of a five-federal-judge mediation team in the Title III proceedings under PROMESA for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and four related governmental instrumentalities. Judge Houser received her undergraduate degree with high distinction from the University of Nebraska and her J.D. from Southern Methodist University Law School, where she was editor of its law review.

**Hannah W. Hutman** is a partner at Hoover Penrod, PLC in Harrisonburg, Va., where her practice focuses on representing both creditors and debtors in bankruptcy proceedings under chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13 and insolvency-related matters. In addition, she has represented creditors in collection matters, including restructuring obligations, asset liquidations and dispositions, and foreclosures. Ms. Hutman is a member of the panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Western District of Virginia and is a frequent presenter on a wide variety of insolvency-related topics. She also co-authored a chapter

in *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia* and currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Bankruptcy Law Section for the Virginia State Bar. Ms. Hutman is active in the Virginia network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and currently serves as the liaison for the Western District of Virginia. She is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, has routinely been listed in *Super Lawyers* as a "Rising Star" and selected as a member of Virginia's "Legal Elite," and was honored as one of ABI's "40 Under 40" in 2018. She received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Md., and her J.D. from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

**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 is the immediate past president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and a member of the *Pro Bono* Committee of the American College of Bankruptcy, as well as immediate past chair of its Judicial Outreach Committee. Judge Isicoff 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. After graduating from law school, she clerked for Hon. Daniel S. Pearson at the Florida Third District Court of Appeals before entering private practice. Judge Isicoff 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. She speaks extensively on bankruptcy around the country, and is committed to increasing *pro bono* service, diversity in the bankruptcy community and financial literacy. Judge Isicoff received her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 1982.

**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 non-bank), retail shopping center owners, equipment lessors, health care companies, insurance companies, general contractors and manufacturers. Mr. Joseph has represented lenders in distressed hotel loans in chapter 11 cases, as well as federal and state court receivership actions. Additionally, he has represented shopping center landlords in many of the large retail cases that have been filed in recent years. Mr. Joseph 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. He also 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, Texas and Virginia. 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.

**Hon. Benjamin A. Kahn** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina in Greensboro, sworn in on Feb. 3, 2014. Prior to his appointment, he was a member of Nexsen Pruet PLLC and clerked for Bankruptcy Judge Jerry G. Tart of the Middle District of North Carolina. Judge Kahn currently serves on the Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Education for the Federal Judicial Center and is one of the instructors for Phase I and Phase II Orientation for Newly Appointed Bankruptcy Judges. He serves as the judicial chair for ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and is a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, for which he serves on its executive committee and as chair of the Committee on the Court System and Bankruptcy Administration. Judge Kahn is a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy* and an inactive certified mediator with the State of North Carolina Dispute Resolution Commission. Prior to his judicial appointment, he was recognized as among the Top 10 *North Carolina Super Lawyers* across all practice areas for the two years immediately preceding his appointment, was elected to the Legal Elite Hall of Fame by *Business North Carolina Magazine* in 2014 as the category winner in North Carolina for Bankruptcy, and was included among Band 1 bankruptcy practitioners in North Carolina in *Chambers and Partners USA*. Judge Kahn received his B.A. in political science and history in 1990, and his J.D. with honors in 1993, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Demetra L. Liggins** is a partner in Thompson & Knight LLP's Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice Group in the firm's Houston office. She has nearly 20 years of experience in business finance and restructurings for a variety of large and small public and private companies. Ms. Liggins has led many of Thompson & Knight's representations of bankruptcy clients, working on both in-court and out-of-court restructurings. Her clients include health care systems, retail corporations, financial institutions, oil and gas companies, partnerships and private-equity funds, among others. Ms. Liggins is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy and finance-related topics, in addition to speaking on career goals, branding and mentorship to minority and female audiences ranging from established professionals to students. She is actively involved in numerous organizations, including serving as Southern Regional director and a former Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity; immediate past Houston Network chair of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC); a member of the Women's Business Alliance, Greater Houston Partnership; a member and former chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Houston Bar Association; a member of the Cumberland Law School Advisory Board; a member of the Women's Energy Network; and a Fellow of the American Bar Association, Houston Young Lawyers Foundation and Texas Bar Foundation. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Texas Super Lawyers* and *Texas Rising Stars* by Thomson Reuters, as a Law Firm Rainmaker by *Diversity & the Bar*, and to Houston's "Top Lawyers" by *H Texas* magazine. She has also been featured in *Law360's* Minority Powerbroker Q&A series. She also was recently featured as an honoree for the 2020 Houston Association for Women Attorneys Premier Women in Law and for the 2019 Texas Minority Counsel Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms. Liggins received her B.S. in business administration *cum laude* from Christian Brothers University in 1997 and her J.D. *cum laude* from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 2000.

**M. Christine Maggard** is a senior associate attorney in the Bankruptcy Division of Brock & Scott, PLLC in Virginia Beach, Va. She is licensed to practice in all courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia, the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Maggard began her legal career at the Office of the Virginia Attorney General in the Division of Debt Collection. With the exception of a stint

working in the Office's Correctional Litigation Section, her practice has focused on debtor/creditor relationships. Ms. Maggaard is a former president of the Virginia Creditors Bar Association and the past seminar chair and current president-elect of the Tidewater Bankruptcy Bar Association, and she will serve as the secretary for the Virginia Network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. She also is a member of the American Legal & Financial Network's Women in Legal Leadership's Social Media and Events Committee, and is an adjunct faculty member for Virginia Commonwealth University's Paralegal Studies Program. Ms. Maggaard is a frequent speaker at bankruptcy seminars and conferences, and she has lectured on landlord and tenant law, creditors' rights and practice in the Virginia General District Courts. She received her undergraduate degree in English and rhetoric and communications studies from the University of Virginia in 1986 and her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law in 1991.

**Kenneth W. Mann** is a managing director for the Special Situations practice at SC&H Capital in Easton, Md., where he provides distressed M&A, employee stock ownership plans (ESOP) and business valuation advisory for middle-market companies. Prior to joining SC&H Capital in 2020, Mr. Mann had served as the managing director of Equity Partners, providing going-concern solutions (debt, equity, entirety sale) to distressed businesses. His team has completed more than 600 transactions with troubled companies, including approximately 300 approved transactions in 70 bankruptcy court districts. Mr. Mann has personally handled investment banking services for hundreds of companies in a host of industries. In chapter 11 cases, he has served as investment banker, bid examiner and expert witness, and he has testified more than 100 times in support of transactions produced by the firm. Mr. Mann has been a speaker at events hosted by ABI and the Turnaround Management Association (TMA), Florida Bar, Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors (AIRA) and Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, and he has been an author for ABI, TMA, and various secured lender trade and general business publications. He was named "Distressed M&A Dealmaker of the Year" by M&A Advisors and a "Top 100 Restructuring Professional" by *Turnarounds & Workouts*. Mr. Mann currently co-chairs ABI's Financial Advisors and Investment Banking Committee, and he serves on the board of TMA's Chesapeake Chapter. Prior to joining Equity Partners, Mr. Mann's experience included investment banking, public relations and marketing consulting, and he has owned and exited several successful businesses. He holds Series 7, 63 and 79 licenses, and he has been a licensed real estate agent since 2008. Mr. Mann received his Bachelor's degree with honors in business administration with a marketing concentration from Salisbury University.

**Michael L. Martinez** is a member of Grier Wright Martinez, PA in Charlotte, N.C., and commonly represents federal equity receivers, chapter 11 trustees and chapter 7 trustees in fraud-based litigation. He also is a member of the subchapter V trustee pool in Charlotte. Mr. Martinez is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and the North Carolina State Bar, and he focuses his law practice on debtor/creditor litigation and business workouts, as well as on general corporate law. He has been recognized for his *pro bono* work representing consumer debtors, and he received the 2018 North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Section Outstanding Achievement in Pro Bono Award and the 2013 Legal Services of Southern Piedmont Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award. Mr. Martinez is a member of ABI's 40 Under 40 Class of 2020 and a co-managing editor of the *North Carolina Bankruptcy Practice Manual*, and he has been recognized as a "Rising Star" in business bankruptcy law by *North Carolina Super Lawyers* since 2018 and in Bankruptcy Law by *Business North Carolina's Legal Elite* since 2021. He received his B.A. from

the University of Florida in 2006 and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 2009.

**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 a former president of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT). He continues to serve on the NACTT advisory board and as chair of both the NACTT Mortgage Committee and the NACTT Public Relations Committee. He also serves as NACTT liaison officer with the National Association of Bankruptcy Clerks. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia, ABI, the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. He speaks frequently on bankruptcy topics for several professional organizations. Mr. Meredith received his A.B.J. and J.D. from the University of Georgia.

**Christine L. Myatt** is a member of the Bankruptcy/Finance Group at Nexsen Pruet, PLLC in Greensboro, N.C., and represents a wide variety of banking and financial institutions on real estate, construction, development and tax credit lending transactions, and in workouts, debt restructuring and bankruptcy. She also has experience representing farm credit institutions, trustees, creditors' committees, debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bondholders, guarantors and others in numerous bankruptcy and workout cases throughout the U.S. Ms. Myatt has served as a receiver in various state and federal Ponzi scheme matters on behalf of various creditors and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. With her financial background, she has led numerous investigations involving fraudulent wire transfers, financial fraud and embezzlement. Ms. Myatt is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and is certified in Bankruptcy Law by the North Carolina State Board of Legal Specialization. She has been named among North Carolina's "Legal Elite" in bankruptcy law by Business North Carolina for seven consecutive years and was first in votes in bankruptcy law for 2010. In addition, she has been named a North Carolina *Super Lawyer* for Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights Law (2009-20), a "Top 50 Woman Lawyer in North Carolina" (2012-20) in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2010, and one of the leading lawyers in North Carolina for Bankruptcy by *Chambers USA* (2012-20). Ms. Myatt received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Section in 2015 and was recognized as one of the "Leaders in the Law" by *Lawyers Weekly* in 2016. She currently serves as a bank director at Triad Business Bank, a *de novo* community bank established in 2020. Ms. Myatt received both her B.A. and J.D. from Wake Forest University.

**Jamie W. Olinto** is a partner with Adams and Reese LLP in Jacksonville, Fla., and focuses her practice in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights and commercial litigation. She represents banks and financial institutions, commercial landlords, leasing entities and other creditors in bankruptcy cases, handling every facet of what can arise for a creditor when a borrower or a company that is a party to a contract with the creditor files for bankruptcy. Ms. Olinto has litigated objections to use of cash collateral, obtaining adequate protection, the value of assets and claims, claim priority disputes, assumption and assignment of executory contracts, objections to disclosure statements and proposed plans of reorganization, preference and fraudulent transfer avoidance adversary actions,

and discharge and dischargeability complaints. She also advises clients in litigation regarding credit collection practices, including alleged violations of the TCPA. Additionally, Ms. Olinto represents businesses in litigation arising from contract disputes, such as shareholder disputes, breach of non-compete, nonsolicitation and nondisclosure agreements, and payment and performance disputes. She has represented companies and individuals in civil RICO cases, civil theft and fraud cases, as well as product-liability and defect claims, and environmental contamination and ADA compliance issues and disputes. Ms. Olinto received her B.S. in 2006 from the University of Florida and her J.D. in 2010 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, after which she externed for Judge Glenn of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida.

**Nisha R. Patel** is a partner at Dunlap Law PLC in Henrico, Va., where she represents debtors and creditors in bankruptcy in Virginia and Maryland and businesses in civil litigation. She is also a certified guardian *ad litem* for incapacitated adults in Virginia and regularly accepts appointments as guardian and conservator throughout the Richmond metro area. Ms. Patel was named one of ABI's "40 Under 40" insolvency professionals and has been recognized as one of Virginia's "Legal Elite" in Bankruptcy/Creditor's Rights. She is an alumna of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Next Generation program and serves on the Richmond Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee, the executive board of the Bankruptcy Section of the Richmond Bar Association, the advisory board for ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop, and the board of the IWIRC Virginia Network. Ms. Patel received her undergraduate degrees with honors from Michigan State University in 2008 and her J.D. from the University of Richmond in 2011.

**Joseph V. Pegnia** is a managing director of B. Riley Advisory Services in Atlanta and has 23 years of experience as a fiduciary and turnaround advisor. He has advised companies, lenders, bondholders, trade creditors and equityholders in both out-of-court and in-court proceedings. Mr. Pegnia has experience in bankruptcy courts and Federal District Court. He has been involved in more than 30 chapter 11 cases and multi-state federal receiverships, including some of the largest cross-border chapter 11 cases during the financial crisis, such as Abitibi Bowater Holdings and Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. Mr. Pegnia currently serves as financial advisor in the *Fresh Acquisitions* chapter 11 case and to a 600-resident continuing care retirement center. Recently, he served as receiver of a 100-bed skilled nursing facility, as CRO in the chapter 11 case of RMH Franchise Corp., valued a multibillion-dollar claim in the Westinghouse Electric Co. chapter 11 case, and acted as financial advisor to the chapter 11 trustee in the *Alliance Medical Holdings* chapter 11 cases. Prior to joining B. Riley Advisory Services, Mr. Pegnia was a partner and shareholder with GGG Partners and a managing director with FTI Consulting. He began his restructuring career with Ernst & Young LLP and before that was an asset-based lender. Mr. Pegnia has addressed numerous professional organizations on issues relating to bankruptcy, creditors' rights and corporate fraud. He was awarded the Turnaround of the Year Award by the Atlanta Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association for both a freight audit and management billing company in 2014 and a golf course management company in 2013. Mr. Pegnia previously served as president of the Atlanta Chapter of the Risk Management Association and attained the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America. He received his B.S. in business and finance from Miami University in 1992 and his M.B.A. in finance from Xavier University Williams College of Business in 1996.

**John Pharr** is president of Strand Hospitality Services in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He previously was general manager of the Holiday Inn Downtown on the oceanfront in Myrtle Beach and has been at

the helm of Strand since 1984, which has managed more than 350 different hotels since its inception. Mr. Pharr was named Hotelier of the Year by the Myrtle Beach Hospitality Association, which represents hundreds of hotels and more than 75,000 rooms along the grand strand. He is a retired colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, during which time he worked with the Air Force on lodging and hospitality projects worldwide. He also served as an Air Force Academy Admissions Counselor. Mr. Pharr is member of the Myrtle Beach Rotary Club and served on the board of National Golf Course Management, one of the largest golf course management companies in the U.S. He has served on the board of Myrtle Beach National Companies for more than 35 years and serves on the appointed board for the Michigan State University School of Hospitality Business and the advisory committee for the Real Estate Investment Management Program. He was formerly on the board of directors of the American Hotel and Lodging Association and is a former member of the Wingate Inns Presidents Advisory Council. Mr. Pharr and Strand have been involved in almost 60 receiverships or bank-owned properties over the past 10 years. A licensed real estate broker in North Carolina and South Carolina, he received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and his M.B.A. from Webster University.

**Grace E. Robson** is a partner in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., office of Markowitz Ringel Trusty & Hartog, P.A. She 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. Ms. Robson focuses her practice on corporate reorganization and bankruptcy, debtor/creditor relations and litigation. She has been involved in all facets of reorganization-related representations, including pre-filing consultation, filing complex corporate bankruptcy cases, post-bankruptcy financing, and asset-purchase agreements. Ms. Robson contributed to ABI's publication *Individual Chapter 11* (2018) and has written articles for the *ABI Journal*. She is an active member of the ABA, currently serving as a co-chair of the Secured Creditors Subcommittee of its Business Law Section, Business Bankruptcy Committee. In addition, she serves on the board of directors of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida, and she is the Broward Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, the Broward Chair of the CARE Program Committee, and a chair of the Wellness Committee. Ms. Robson is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* annually since 2013. She 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.

**Margaret N. Rosenfeld** is a partner with K&L Gates LLP in Raleigh, N.C., has more than 20 years of corporate and securities law experience both within the U.S. and internationally. Her practice includes public company reporting, corporate governance, public and private financings, security token and digital asset offerings, blockchain technology matters, corporate investigations (internal and government), mergers and acquisitions, and intellectual property protection and licensing. Ms. Rosenfeld is one of two female attorneys in North Carolina to be ranked within the category of Corporate/M&A law by *Chambers USA: Americas Leading Business Lawyers*, having first been listed in 2013. She has assisted public companies, underwriters and directors with initial public offerings and secondary financings on numerous stock exchanges in the U.S. and internationally, public reporting requirements both pre- and post-Sarbanes-Oxley, corporate governance issues, and internal and external corporate investigations, including interaction with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the NYSE and Nasdaq. She also has experience assisting emerging growth companies as well as mature companies with legal, business and strategic planning, from contractual assis-

tance such as with licensing agreements, distribution agreements, franchise agreements, employment agreements and joint-venture agreements to assistance with public and private debt and equity financing. She is particularly known for assisting companies facing transformative changes as they balance legal and business concerns. Before joining K&L Gates, Ms. Rosenfeld practiced with a full-service business firm in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina, as well as with two global law firms in London, Frankfurt and Tokyo. Since December 2013, she has served in a voluntary capacity as the Honorary German Consul for Eastern North Carolina, a joint diplomatic appointment by the U.S. State Department and the Federal Republic of Germany that involves representing the interests of German companies in North Carolina and North Carolina companies in Germany, as well as assisting U.S. and German citizens in some legal and consular issues related to Germany. Ms. Rosenfeld received her B.A. in 1992 summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Rutgers University, and her J.D. with highest honors from George Washington University Law School in 1997, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was special projects editor of its law review.

**Jay M. Sakalo** is a partner in the Business Finance & Restructuring and Corporate Practice at Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price & Axelrod, LLP in Miami, and represents clients throughout the financial spectrum, from structuring and restructuring complex financings on behalf of lenders, to representing secured creditors and purchasers in bankruptcy proceedings. He focuses on the representation of private-equity funds, hedge funds, alternative lenders, borrowers and issuers. As the practice group leader for the firm's Business Finance & Restructuring and Corporate Practices, Mr. Sakalo has experience in the real estate finance, hospitality, health care, aviation and gaming industries. He is a frequent speaker on restructuring and bankruptcy topics, and has been listed in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida Super Lawyers* and *Florida Trends Legal Elite*, among others. Mr. Sakalo is a member of ABI and the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, The Florida Bar's Business Law Section and the United Way of Miami-Dade's Finance and Administration Committee. He received his B.S.B.A. with honors in finance from the University of Florida in 1995 and his J.D. with honors in 1998 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Hon. Gregory R. Schaaf** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky in Lexington, initially appointed on Oct. 1, 2012, and named Chief Judge on Oct. 1, 2019. Prior to his appointment, he practiced in the areas of commercial reorganizations, including bankruptcies and workouts, and commercial transactions, including energy-related matters. He represented debtors, creditors' committees, trustees and individual creditors. Judge Schaaf is a CPA and worked as a solicitor in London from 1997-99, handling corporate matters and real estate transactions for English, Russian and American clients. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Judge Schaaf received his B.B. in accounting and his B.S. in law enforcement administration from Western Illinois University in 1984 with high honors, and his J.D. in 1991 from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and participated in its national moot court team and on its moot court board, as well as on the school's *Journal of Mineral Law and Policy*.

**Hon. Sage M. Sigler** is a Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, appointed in March 2018. She succeeded Hon. Mary Grace Diehl, for whom she clerked after graduating from law school. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Sigler

was a partner in Alston & Bird LLP's Bankruptcy Group. She is an active member of ABI, IWIRC, TMA and the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, and she is a volunteer presenter for the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) program. Judge Sigler was an honoree in ABI's inaugural class of "40 Under 40" in 2017. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of Florida in 2001 and her J.D. in 2006 from Emory University School of Law, where she was a member of the executive board of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

**Maria Tsagaris Starks** is a partner with McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC in Roswell, Ga., and manages the firm's national proof-of-claim portfolio. She routinely advises real estate and mortgage banking professionals regarding laws affecting creditor rights in the areas of bankruptcy, loss mitigation and other areas of the default servicing industry. Ms. Tsagaris Starks works with top servicers and lenders to provide on-site training courses on bankruptcy laws affecting the mortgage industry. She received her undergraduate degree in 2002 from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. in 2005 from Mercer University Law School.

**Teri L. Stratton, CIRA** is a managing director with Piper Sandler Companies restructuring group, TRS Advisors in El Segundo, Calif. Prior to joining Piper Sandler in 2010, she spent 10 years at Macquarie Capital Advisors (and predecessor firms) in the restructuring group. Prior to her investment banking career, Ms. Stratton had eight years of experience in corporate banking, serving in both credit administration and special assets. She is a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor, a board member of the Turnaround Management Association, and a member of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Association and ABI. Ms. Stratton received her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Los Angeles and her M.B.A. in finance with honors from the Anderson School at UCLA.

**Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States** is Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in St. Louis, initially appointed on March 17, 2003, and named Chief Judge on Feb. 1, 2013. She is the first African-American appointed to the bankruptcy bench in the Eighth Circuit. Judge Surratt-States began her legal career as law clerk to now-retired Bankruptcy Judge James J. Barta. In 1993, she was an associate at Campbell & Coyne, P.C., where her work focused on bankruptcy, commercial litigation and foreclosures. She then moved to Ziercher & Hocker, P.C. in 1998, where she became partner. The firm later merged with Husch Blackwell, where she was a partner in its insolvency practice group until her appointment to the bankruptcy court. In 1997, Judge Surratt-States was appointed to the Panel of Bankruptcy Trustees for the Eastern District of Missouri, and in 1999, she served as the chapter 7 trustee for Family Company of America, then the third-largest grocery store chain in St. Louis. Judge Surratt-States serves on the Board of Catholic Charities of St. Louis and is a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of St. Louis, an international association of professionals dedicated to serving their community. She also is a member of the Missouri Bar, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, the Mound City Bar Association, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). Judge Surratt-States received her B.A. *cum laude* from Oklahoma City University in 1988 and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1991.

**Jonathan M. Tibus, CIRA, CDBV** is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal in Atlanta, where he specializes in developing and implementing performance-improvement and restructuring plans

for underperforming companies. He has more than 24 years of experience in interim management and financial advisory roles, primarily in the restaurant and retail industries, and has managed numerous in-court and out-of-court restructuring efforts. Mr. Tibus has served in a number of recent interim-management roles wherein he had overall strategic, financial and operational responsibility for stabilizing the companies and managing their restructuring processes. He also has experience advising lenders, creditors and other stakeholders, and has served as restructuring advisor to the lenders of Garden Fresh and e-brands restaurants, advisor to franchisees of Wendy's and various YUM! Brands (KFC, Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, A&W, LJS), and advisor to the unsecured creditors' committee of a chain of furniture retail stores. In these roles, he has provided operational analysis and restructuring advisory, including detailed operating analyses, overhead analyses and bankruptcy-related analyses to help frame and manage negotiations. Over his career, Mr. Tibus has worked with clients across a broad range of industries, including retailing, restaurants, health care, construction, and general manufacturing of textiles, carpet, steel, tobacco and heavy equipment. Prior to joining A&M, he was a manager in the restructuring practice of a Big Five consultancy. Mr. Tibus is a member of ABI, the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors (AIRA) and the Turnaround Management Association (TMA). He received his bachelor's degree from Florida State University and his M.B.A. from the University of Florida.

**Mark Vitner** is a managing director and senior economist for Wells Fargo's Corporate and Investment Bank in Charlotte, N.C., where he is responsible for tracking U.S. and regional economic conditions. He writes for the department's weekly and monthly economic reports and also produces regular publications on residential and commercial construction, regional economies and issues impacting small business. Mr. Vitner joined a Wells Fargo predecessor institution in 1993. His commentary has been featured in the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg* and many other publications. He also makes frequent guest appearances on CNBC and many other major networks. He is a member of NABE and its inaugural Certified Business Economist class, and he has been active in the Charlotte community, co-founding the NABE Charlotte chapter, The Charlotte Economics Club. He also recently served as board chair for the Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community and chaired the Economic Advisory Council for the California Chamber of Commerce for three years. Mr. Vitner is a member of the Blue Chip economic forecasting panel and serves on the Joint Advisory Board of Economists for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He received his B.B.A. in economics from the University of Georgia and his M.B.A. from the University of North Florida, and he has completed further graduate work in economics at the University of Florida. He also completed the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) Advanced Training in Economics program at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Brian R. Walding** is the founder of Walding, LLC, a boutique bankruptcy law firm in Birmingham, Ala., that spans the Southeast representing distressed businesses and creditors. In his commercial practice, he represents both debtors and creditors, including banks and other financial institutions. Mr. Walding also serves in court-appointed and fiduciary roles; he serves on the subchapter V panel of trustees in the Northern District of Alabama, and is a chapter 7 trustee in the Middle District of Alabama. He previously worked at a large Birmingham law firm. Mr. Walding has been a member of ABI since 2003, has been rated AV by Martindale-Hubbell since 2009, and has achieved numerous other accolades and awards during his legal career. He is the Alabama editor for Thomson Reuters' *Bankruptcy Exemption Manual* and also serves as adjunct professor at the University of Alabama, where he teaches an undergraduate course in negotiation. Mr. Walding received his undergraduate

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**Michael H. Weaver** is a partner in Rogers Townsend, LLC's Columbia, S.C., office and handles commercial finance as well as workouts, bankruptcy and creditors' rights matters. His experience in the hospitality industry includes engagements representing franchisors, franchisees and secured lenders. He also has experience advising chapter 11 debtors, trustees, creditors and unsecured creditor committees with a variety of bankruptcy matters, including debtor-in-possession financing, use of cash collateral, preferential and fraudulent transfer litigation, dischargeability and automatic stay issues, bankruptcy sales and acquisitions, lease assumption or rejection, claim objections, plan confirmation issues and other aspects of bankruptcy and restructuring efforts. Mr. Weaver is a past president of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association and has been a member of ABI since 2004. He received his B.S. in business administration from the University of North Carolina and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina.

**Nancy J. Whaley** is an attorney serving as a chapter 12 and 13 trustee for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta. She is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is a past-chair for ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. Ms. Whaley is a member of the Northern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court's Bench and Bar Committee, and she 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 the Atlanta Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Georgia. She also served as president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and of the GAWL Foundation. Ms. Whaley has served on the State Bar of Georgia Executive Committee, is a member of the Board of Governors and currently chairs its Investment Committee. In addition, she is a director for the Association of Chapter 12 Trustees and a member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, for which she is their representative to its Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. She also serves as Treasurer for NACTT Foundation. Ms. Whaley retired from the Air Force Reserve 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.

**James C. White** is a practitioner with J.C. White Law Group PLLC in Chapel Hill, N.C., and represents debtors in bankruptcy, taking on banks, large financial institutions and other corporations. He has been recognized by his peers as one of the top civil litigation lawyers in the state in *Super Lawyers*, as well as one of the top business bankruptcy lawyers in the state in the *Legal Elite* and *The Best Lawyers in America*. In addition, *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* named him a Leader in the Law, recognizing him as an influential individual within the state's legal community. Mr. White is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and serves as a bankruptcy trustee in small business cases in the Middle District of North Carolina. He is also an NCDRC Certified Mediator focused on mediating bankruptcy and financial litigation cases. Before forming JC White Law Group, Mr. White was an attorney at one of the state's largest law firms handling business litigation and bankruptcy. He has appeared on "CBS This Morning," WRAL and News 14 Carolinas, and stories about his cases have been featured on "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and CNN. In addition, he has been published in *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly*, *The News & Observer*, *The Triangle Business Journal*, and in newspapers and on news websites across the country. Mr. White received his B.A.

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**Alice L. Whitten** is managing counsel and senior vice president in the Wells Fargo Legal Department in its Irving, Texas, office. She leads a team that provides guidance and support for consumer bankruptcy operations across the Wells Fargo enterprise, including mortgage, automobile, credit cards and student lending, and supports FCRA, SCRA & MLA across the consumer lending enterprise. She has been with Wells Fargo since 2014. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Ms. Whitten served as a standing chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Texas for four years and was senior vice president – associate general counsel with AmeriCredit Financial Services Inc. (now known as GM Financial), where she provided legal support for bankruptcy and default services operations. Ms. Whitten is admitted to practice in Texas and co-chairs the NACTT Automobile Committee, and she is a board member for the NACTT Academy. She was a council member of the Bankruptcy Law Section Counsel of the State Bar of Texas from 2013-15, and a committee member of the Committee on Case Administration and the Estate for the ABI Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy (2018-19). Ms. Whitten received her J.D. *cum laude* from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio and a degree from the University of Minnesota – Carlson School of Management.

**Jeremy S. Williams** is a partner in with Kutak Rock LLP in its Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights group in Richmond, Va., where he represents both debtors and creditors in all aspects of bankruptcy, including transactional matters and litigation in federal and state courts. His practice includes creditors' rights litigation, complex loan workouts, chapter 11 reorganizations and contract disputes, as well as complex business litigation, having represented large and small businesses as well as individuals. Mr. Williams has served as co-counsel and lead counsel for debtors in numerous bankruptcies, including Alpha Media Holdings Inc., Le Tote Inc., Intelsat S.A., Pier 1 Imports Inc., Toy "R" Us Inc., Gymboree Corp., Penn Virginia Corp., Patriot Coal Corp., Movie Gallery Inc. and On-Site Sourcing Inc. He also represents landlords, vendors and financial institutions in national bankruptcy cases, including CarbonLite Holdings, Forever 21, Bertucci's, Charming Charlie, Radio Shack and Haggen Holdings. Mr. Williams represents asset-purchasers, preference defendants, secured creditors and other interested parties in numerous bankruptcy cases around the country. He also regularly serves as counsel for chapter 7 and 11 trustees. Mr. Williams received his B.A. from the University of Virginia and his J.D. from George Mason University School 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.

**Eric M. Wilson** is a solo practitioner with Eric Wilson Law, LLC in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and specializes in consumer bankruptcy, typically on behalf of debtors in chapter 13 and 7 cases. He has handled consumer bankruptcy cases since 1997. Mr. Wilson is a member of NABCA and ABI and is a graduate of Max Gardner's Consumer Defense Academy. He is currently serving a second four-year term as chairman of the Board of Education for the Tuscaloosa City Schools. Mr. Wilson received his B.A. in economics from Vanderbilt University in 1993 and his J.D. from the University of Alabama in 1996, where he served as senior editor of the *Alabama Law Review*.

**April A. Wimberg** is a partner at Dentons Bingham Greenbaum in Louisville, Ky., and serves as co-chair of the firm's Integration Executive Council. Her practice focuses on commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and her representations include debtors, creditors, committees, trustees and other interested parties involved in litigation arising out of corporate insolvencies. In addition, Ms. Wimberg has served in a variety of government positions, including city attorney and commissioner for the Executive Branch Ethics Commission for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She received her B.A. in political science in 2000 from the University of Kentucky and her J.D. in 2013 from the University of Louisville.