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Faculty Biographies

Michael J. Bargar is a partner in the Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Financial Restructuring practice of Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in Atlanta, where he represents trustees, creditors and debtors in all aspects of bankruptcy. With experience counseling trustees, he handles fraudulent-transfer and preferential-transfer lawsuits, as well as other avoidance actions arising under chapter 5 of the Bankruptcy Code. Trustees also look to Mr. Bargar for his advice in connection with § 363 asset sales, including sales of patents, motor vehicles, oil and gas wells, and improved and unimproved real properties. In February 2018, the U.S. Trustee appointed him to the Chapter 7 Panel of Trustees for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, a role in which he continues to serve. Mr. Bargar has experience representing creditors in bankruptcy matters and has successfully obtained stay relief for both mortgagees and landlords, as well as obtained judgments for creditors by prosecuting complaints to determine the dischargeability of debts. He files proofs of claim in chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases, and he defends against objections to proofs of claim, including objections to claims arising from the post-petition rejection of leases. He also works with individual and corporate debtors in chapter 7 and 11 bankruptcy cases, as well as individual and corporate debtors in loan workouts. In conjunction with his practice, Mr. Bargar is a Barrister of the Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, and he is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Prior to attending law school, Mike worked at National City Bank and then at his *alma mater*, Ashland University, where he received his B.A. He received his M.B.A. in banking and finance from Case Western Reserve University and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law, where he was executive notes and comments editor of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*. He also received the Emory University School of Law Transactional Law and Skills Certificate and the Dean's Award for Outstanding Performance in Mergers and Acquisitions.

Michael M. Beal is a practitioner with Beal, LLC in Columbia, S.C., and works primarily with distressed companies, committees and creditors in out-of-court restructurings, chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, and related litigation and transactional matters. He has led debtor restructuring engagements in manufacturing, distribution, hospitality, retail and commercial real estate; led creditor engagements or creditors' committee engagements in hospitality, commercial real estate, health care and manufacturing; and represented an indenture trustee in the chapter 9 restructuring of a toll road. He also has served as counsel to state and federal court receivers and bankruptcy trustees in numerous matters, including fraud cases. Mr. Beal enjoys mediating complex commercial and bankruptcy matters and is approved to serve as a Circuit Court Mediator by the South Carolina Board of Arbitration and Mediator Certification. He also has completed the ABI/St. John's University School of Law 40-hour Bankruptcy Mediation Training Program. Prior to founding Beal, LLC, Mr. Beal led the bankruptcy practice at McNair Law Firm and clerked for Hon. J. Bratton Davis, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Carolina. He is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2003-22 and in was featured in *South Carolina Super Lawyers* from 2008-21. Mr. Beal received his B.S. in 1981 from the College of Charleston and his J.D. in 1984 from the University of South Carolina.

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 his native 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 improvements 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, and for the last several years, he has co-chaired the Legislative Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. In addition, he is a frequent speaker to insolvency professionals on matters pertaining to bankruptcy, litigation and ethics. Judge Black 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.

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, concentrating on consumer fraud litigation. Ms. Burden has served on the faculty of the annual meeting of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the annual convention of the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees (NACTT), the Judge Joe Lee Biennial Bankruptcy Institute, the UK Biennial Consumer Bankruptcy Law Conference, the Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar, ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop, and other regional and local CLE programs. She serves on the Board of Directors of the NACTT Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education and is a contributor to www.considerchapter13.org. She also writes a blog for practitioners in the Eastern District of Kentucky at www.ch13edky.wordpress.com. Ms. Burden is a 2017 inductee 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. Joseph N. Callaway is a Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Greenville, appointed in January 2016. Previously, he practiced law at Battle Winslow Scott and Wiley in Rocky Mount and Raleigh, N.C., where he remained for more than 32 years and was the head of the firm's creditor rights and bankruptcy practice department for many years. While in private practice, he was licensed in and participated in cases before all levels of state and federal courts in North Carolina, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, he served as a chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee and was a certified specialist in business and consumer bankruptcy law for more than 20 years. Judge Callaway was regularly listed as an "Elite Business Attorney" and a *North Carolina Super Lawyer* in the area of bankruptcy law for numerous years. He also served as an officer and director of the Bankruptcy Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. Judge Callaway is a frequent speaker at bankruptcy and business law seminars on various bankruptcy and commercial litigation topics. He received his B.A. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1980 and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1983.

Hon. Kevin J. Carey is a partner in Hogan Lovells US LLP's Business Restructuring and Insolvency practice in Philadelphia and is a retired bankruptcy judge. He also is ABI's President and represents both companies and creditors in domestic and cross-border bankruptcy proceedings. Judge Carey was first appointed to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in

2001, then in 2005 began service on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (serving as chief judge from 2008-11). During that time, he authored more than 200 reported decisions, issued important rulings on key issues such as valuation, fiduciary duties and other complex chapter 11 and confirmation issues, and presided over such high-profile cases as Exide Technologies, Tribune Co. and New Century Financial. Judge Carey was the first judge to serve as global chair of the Turnaround Management Association and is an honorary member of the Turnaround, Restructuring and Distressed Investing Hall of Fame, as well as a Distinguished Fellow of the Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors. In addition, he is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the International Insolvency Institute, as well as a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy* and a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He also is a part-time adjunct professor in the LL.M. in Bankruptcy program at St. John's University School of Law in New York City. Judge Carey began his legal career in 1979 clerking for Bankruptcy Judge Thomas M. Twardowski, then served as clerk of court of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He received his B.A. in 1976 from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. in 1979 from Villanova University School of Law.

Benjamin R. Carlsen is managing lead counsel with McKesson Treasury, Bankruptcy, Credit, and Collections department in Atlanta. Previously, he was part of the finance and restructuring practice group at Troutman Sanders. He also clerked for Hon. Lamar W. Davis, Jr. in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia. Mr. Carlsen received his business degree from the University of Georgia and worked as a financial analyst for six years before attending law school at the University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as managing editor on the executive board of the *Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law* and was elected class president of his graduating class.

Hon. Jeffery W. Cavender is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, sworn in on March 2, 2018. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner in the financial restructuring practice of Troutman Sanders LLP, where he primarily represented corporate debtors and secured lenders in chapter 11 cases and mortgage servicers in consumer-related litigation and bankruptcy matters. Judge Cavender previously was a partner in the bankruptcy group of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (n/k/a Dentons LLP) and served as the general counsel for a national mortgage company. He chaired the Bankruptcy Section for the Atlanta Bar Association from 2017-18 and was a member of its board of directors from 2012-18. During Judge Cavender's tenure as chair, the Atlanta Bar Bankruptcy Section was named the national CARE chapter of the year and received the Pro Bono Award for Excellence and the Small Section of the Year Award from the Atlanta Bar. He is an active member of ABI, having previously served on the advisory committee for its Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. He currently serves as the chair of the Membership Services Committee for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and on the Federal Judicial Center's Bankruptcy Judges Education Advisory Committee. Judge Cavender received his undergraduate degree in history *summa cum laude* in 1990 from Berry College, and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1993, where he was a member of the *Georgia Law Review* and was inducted into the Order of the Coif.

Hon. Maria Ellena Chavez-Ruark is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maryland in Baltimore, appointed in 2020. Prior to joining the bench, she was a partner in the Bankruptcy and Re-

structuring practice group at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP in Baltimore, where she represented debtors, creditors' committees, secured creditors, unsecured creditors, landlords, lessors, purchasers of assets and trustees in complex insolvency proceedings, including chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors. She also represented parties in workouts, restructurings and complex commercial litigation, including fraudulent transfer, deepening insolvency, breach of fiduciary duty and preferential transfer litigation. Judge Ruark was admitted to practice in the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia and represented clients in state and federal courts throughout the U.S. She is a past president of the Maryland Bankruptcy Bar Association, a member of ABI, a past president of the Chesapeake Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, a former member of the global executive board for the Turnaround Management Association, and a past president of the *Pro Bono* Resource Center of Maryland. She is also a frequent speaker and author on various bankruptcy subjects. Judge Ruark was named to the *Lawdragon 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers* in 2020. She was also named one of "America's Leading Lawyers for Bankruptcy/Restructuring" by *Chambers USA* from 2015-20, named in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law from 2013-20, and selected for inclusion in *Maryland Super Lawyers* from 2010-20. In addition, in 2009, 2011 and 2020, she was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women in Business by *The Daily Record*, an annual award that recognizes leadership roles and outstanding professional, civic and mentoring achievements of professional women who reside and work in Maryland and who are making an impact on the state. Also in 2010, Judge Ruark was named one of the *Pro Bono* Resource Center of Maryland's "pro bono stars" for her exemplary service and commitment to providing *pro bono* legal representation to Maryland's under-represented citizens. In 2006, she earned the first annual Educator of the Year Award by Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service for her *pro bono* service in the State of Maryland. Judge Ruark served on her firm's *Pro Bono* Committee and Diversity and Inclusion Committee for many years, chaired the firm's Minority Attorney Resource Group in 2019 and 2020, and has mentored law students and young lawyers throughout her career. She received both her B.A. in accounting and her M.B.A. from Salisbury University and her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

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

Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. She currently co-chairs the Judicial Liaison Committee for the Florida Bar's Business Law Section. Judge Colton received her B.A. in commerce with distinction from the University of Virginia in 1979 and her J.D. from William & Mary Law School in 1982, where she served on its law review and was a national moot court finalist.

Richard P. Cook is the owner and managing attorney of Cape Fear Debt Relief, a boutique bankruptcy firm in Wilmington, N.C., that represents individuals and small businesses in chapter 7, 11 and 13 cases before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts in Eastern North Carolina. In February 2020, Mr. Cook was named a subchapter V trustee for the Eastern District of North Carolina. He is recognized by the North Carolina State Bar as a Board-Certified Specialist in both Business and Consumer Bankruptcy Law. Mr. Cook was selected as a "Rising Star" by *Super Lawyers* in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, and in 2020 he was honored as one of ABI's "40 Under 40." He formerly served on the board of the North Carolina State Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section Council from 2013-16 and as the Fourth Circuit Chair for the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys from 2019-21, and he is a regular speaker at state and national bankruptcy conferences. In 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021, Mr. Cook was recognized as a *Pro Bono* Honor Society Inductee by the N.C. *Pro Bono* Resource Center for providing more than 50 hours of *pro bono* legal services each year. Prior to founding Cape Fear Debt Relief, he was an associate with Butler & Butler, LLP in Wilmington, N.C., and prior to that, he was an associate with Brock & Scott, PLLC in Winston-Salem, N.C. Mr. Cook received his undergraduate degree and J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003 and 2007, respectively.

H. David Cox is the founding member of Cox Law Group PLLC in Lynchburg, Va., and practices bankruptcy law throughout the Western District of Virginia. Prior to entering private practice, he clerked for the late Hon. William E. Anderson. He co-edits the treatise *Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia*, co-authored the fourth edition of ABI's *Consumer Bankruptcy: Fundamentals of Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code*, and has lectured at numerous regional and national CLE programs. Mr. Cox is a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and he serves on ABI's Board of Directors. He received his B.A. in 1992 from Virginia Tech and his J.D. in 1995 from the University of Richmond - TC Williams School of Law.

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 thousands of chapter 13 cases assigned to 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 currently a board member at large for the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and serves on the Bench and Bar Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia, which she previously chaired. She also serves on the advisory board for ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and is a Barrister in the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. In the past, Ms. Davey served as president/officer for the Bankruptcy Section of the

Atlanta Bar Association, as co-chair of the Georgia Network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, and as president of the Metro Atlanta Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Group. She 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.

C. Edward Dobbs is a senior partner in the Atlanta office of Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs LLP and is the founder and architect of the firm's commercial finance, debt restructuring and ADR neutral services practice areas. He has practiced law for nearly 50 years and has been involved in documenting and closing syndicated commercial loans for banks and other financial institutions; representing financial institutions in debt restructurings, workouts, litigation and bankruptcy cases; and representing debtors, unsecured creditors and creditors' committees in bankruptcy cases. For more than 25 years, a sizeable part of Mr. Dobbs's practice has included service as a neutral in both arbitrations and mediations; over the last seven years, his service as a neutral has predominated. Mr. Dobbs is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers (for which he served as past president), American College of Civil Trial Mediators, Lawyers Foundation of Georgia and American Bar Foundation, and he is a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, a Master of the Bench in the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, 2013 recipient of the David W. Pollard (Lifetime Achievement) Award, the author of two legal books and numerous law review articles, as well as a forthcoming treatise on the mediation of commercial disputes, and a lecturer at each of the 10 ABI/St. Johns Law School's annual mediation courses. He also serves on the panel of neutrals (for both arbitration and mediation) maintained by the American Arbitration Association for commercial cases and is frequently called upon to serve as a mediator in complex commercial disputes. Mr. Dobbs received his A.B. in 1971 from Davidson College and his J.D. in 1974 from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was articles editor of the *Vanderbilt Law Review* and graduated Order of the Coif.

Jane H. Downey is a partner with Moore Bradley Myers Law Firm in Columbia, S.C., where she focuses her practice on consumer and business bankruptcy, debtor/creditor law, loan modifications and arbitration and mediation. She represents creditors, debtors and unsecured creditor committees in chapter 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 business and consumer cases, including bankruptcy litigation. She also is on the list of mediators with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina. Ms. Downey assists consumers with loan modifications both in and outside of bankruptcy. She is one of the five attorneys at Moore Taylor recognized in *Super Lawyers*, and she currently serves on the editorial board of *South Carolina Lawyer* magazine and the South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Committee. Ms. Downey volunteers with the South Carolina Bar's Ask-a-Lawyer Program and with Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE). Locally, she is an organizer of Open Streets Columbia through her appointment by the City of Columbia City Council to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Ms. Downey is a frequent speaker on bankruptcy topics, particularly those involving domestic law, and she has been listed in *Lawdragon's* Leading U.S. Bankruptcy Lawyer list. Ms. Downey serves on the editorial board of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. She received her undergraduate degree in 1987 from Furman University and her J.D. in 1990 from Emory Law School.

Ashley A. Edwards is a partner with Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP in Charlotte, N.C., and practice group leader for its Financial Restructuring and Insolvency Group. She 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 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. Ms. Edwards serves on the advisory board of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and on the Next Generation Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, as well as on the leadership team (called the council) of the North Carolina Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, and she is the vice chair of Credit Abuse Resistance Education's (CARE's) North Carolina chapter. She received her B.A. *cum laude* in 2005 from Wake Forest University and her J.D. in 2009 from Emory University.

John D. Elrod is a shareholder with Greenberg Traurig LLP in Atlanta, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. He regularly represents secured lenders, indenture trustees, creditor committees, estate fiduciaries and other parties in commercial bankruptcies, out-of-court restructurings and litigation. Mr. Elrod's industry experience includes insolvency matters in the automotive, health care, financial services, restaurant and retail sectors. He also has wide-ranging experience in litigation involving complex fraudulent transfers, corporate director and officer fiduciary-duty claims, and public finance matters. Mr. Elrod has broad experience in federal, state and bankruptcy courts throughout the U.S. He was a member of the winning team that received the Global M&A Network's Turnaround Atlas Awards, "Energy Services Restructuring of the Year (Mid-Markets)," for Shale Support Global Holdings in 2021, and he has been listed in *Georgia Super Lawyers* (2016-22). He also was a member of the winning team for The M&A Advisor's Turnaround Awards, "Sec. 363 Sale of the Year (\$25MM to \$100MM)," for the § 363 sale of Last Call Guarantor, LLC in 2017, and he has been listed in *Georgia Trend* magazine's "Legal Elite" from 2012-13 and 2015-16, and in *Chambers USA* from 2013-14. Mr. Elrod is a member of ABI and the Turnaround Management Association's Education Oversight Committee, as well as the Commercial Finance Association. He is admitted to practice in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. He received his B.A. in 1997 from the University of the South and his J.D. in 2001 from Samford University Cumberland School of Law.

Kimberly Field is general counsel at Aqua Finance, Inc. in Chicago, which provides financing programs for dealers and contractors. She previously was a member of senior management with Integra Credit, where she was responsible for legal regulatory and reputational risk management at a financial technology company. Ms. Field received her undergraduate degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1999 and her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

David E. Gordon is a shareholder with Polsinelli PC in Atlanta and leads Polsinelli's national distressed health care practice. He counsels on business bankruptcies and insolvencies with a distinct focus on health care industry restructuring. Mr. Gordon has represented health care providers, REITs, hospitals, lenders, landlords, health care systems, skilled-nursing and assisted-living facili-

ties, purchasers of distressed assets, secured and unsecured creditors, committees, trustees and other parties-in-interest in chapter 11 reorganization proceedings, receiverships and workouts throughout the U.S. His transactional experience includes representing purchasers in § 363 sales and representing various parties in problem loan workouts, bridge loans and other financings, forbearance agreements and other distressed transactions. Prior to joining Polsinelli, Mr. Gordon taught as an adjunct professor of law at the Emory University School of Law for more than seven years. He received his B.A. in 2003 from Georgetown University and his J.D. with honors in 2006 from Emory University School of Law.

Leanne Gould, CPA, ABV, CFF, ASA is the principal of Gould Consulting Services (GCS) in Atlanta, which she founded in 2018 to help counsel and their clients to understand complex financial and business valuation issues in a variety of disputed matters by listening, evaluating the facts and documents produced in the case, and explaining findings and opinions clearly and in a practical manner. She began her career in medical device manufacturing in new product development and operations. This experience formed the foundation for her understanding of the manufacturing process and data flow from the design, production, strategy development and launch of new products to overseeing day-to-day accounting, operations and financial issues. Ms. Gould transitioned into bankruptcy consulting advising distressed companies through the restructuring or bankruptcy process; a financial advisory role that benefited from her background and experience. During this time, she also provided litigation support services in commercial and bankruptcy disputes. Ms. Gould has served as financial advisor to chapter 7, 11 and 13 trustees, committees and creditors/claimants in matters before U.S. bankruptcy courts and has been appointed forensic accountant and independent accountant for arbitration panels and disputing parties. She provides expert reports and testimony in depositions, hearings and jury trials in matters before U.S. bankruptcy courts, U.S. district courts, superior and state courts, and arbitration panels across the nation on a variety of issues, including voidable transfers, conversion, misappropriation, disputed business valuation, lost profits and avoidance actions brought under §§ 544, 547 and 548 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and U.V.T.A., including assessments of reasonably equivalent value, solvency, asset-tracing and alter-ego. Ms. Gould received her M.B.A. from the University of Buffalo.

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

1996 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 1999 from George Washington University Law School.

Cheryl E. James is a staff attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Beverly M. Burden in Lexington, Ky. During her nine years with the trustee, she's covered cases in every division of the Eastern District of Kentucky and currently focuses on the Frankfort, Covington and Ashland divisions. Prior to joining the trustee's staff, Ms. James was a member of the staff of the late Judge Joseph M. Scott, Jr. and the late Judge Joe Lee in the Eastern District Bankruptcy Court. She worked with the judges on two occasions for a total of seven years. In between her service with the bankruptcy court, Ms. James was an associate on the bankruptcy and litigation teams at the law firm of Greenebaum, Doll & McDonald, PLLC (now Dentons Bingham Greenbaum). She worked as program manager for the National Association of Chief Information Officers's (NASCIO's) information architecture program prior to joining the bankruptcy court staff. Ms. James is a member of the John Rowe Chapter of the National Bar Association, the Kentucky Bar Association and ABI. In addition, she is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Lexington and a former board member of God's Pantry Food Bank and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky. Ms. James received her B.A. with honors in computer science from Transylvania University with a minor in math and her J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Hon. Stacey G. C. Jernigan is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas, initially appointed on May 12, 2006. Prior to her appointment, she practiced for 17 years in the Business Reorganization and Bankruptcy Practice Group of Haynes and Boone LLP in Dallas, where she represented debtors, committees and purchasers in large, complex chapter 11 cases and out-of-court workouts, particularly with regard to energy companies, regulated entities, real estate businesses and public companies. She was also an advisor to the California Legislature in Sacramento in connection with the California utility financial crisis in 2001. Judge Jernigan is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a Fellow of the Texas and Dallas Bar Foundations. She is a frequent author and has been recognized by *Chambers USA*, *D. Magazine* and *Texas Monthly Law & Politics*. Judge Jernigan received her B.B.A. *magna cum laude* from Southern Methodist University in 1986 and her J.D. from the University of Texas Law School in 1989.

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. He also is the chair of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Judge Education for the Federal Judicial Center, for which he serves as one of the instructors for Phase I and Phase II Orientation for Newly Appointed Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Kahn is a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on the Bankruptcy Rules, and is chair of its Forms Subcommittee. In addition, he is a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, for which he previously served on the Executive Committee and currently serves as chair of the Committee on the Court System and Bankruptcy Administration and on the Nominating Committee. Judge Kahn is a contributing author and member of the board of editors for *Collier on Bankruptcy* and serves as the judicial chair of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. 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 is certified as a specialist in business and consumer bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification, for which he served as a member of its board of directors until his appointment to the bench. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Kahn was a

certified mediator in North Carolina and was recognized as among the Top 10 North Carolina *Super Lawyers* across all practice areas for the two years immediately preceding his appointment, 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*. He 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.

Soneet R. Kapila is a founding partner of KapilaMukamal, LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. For more than 20 years, he has concentrated his efforts in the areas of consulting in insolvency, fiduciary and creditors' rights matters. Mr. Kapila has been appointed in Federal District Court, bankruptcy court and Florida State Court, and has served in the roles of CRO, SEC corporate monitor, examiner, chapter 11 trustee of operating businesses, liquidating trustee and receiver, among others. He also is ABI's President-Elect. Mr. Kapila represents other bankruptcy trustees, debtors and both secured and unsecured creditors in and out of bankruptcy court. He also regularly advises clients about the insolvency implications involved in business transactions and operation of distressed businesses. As a trustee plaintiff, Mr. Kapila has managed complex litigation in significant cases. As a fiduciary, he has advised and represented debtors and creditors' committees in formulating, analyzing and negotiating plans of reorganization. Recognized as an expert in fraudulent conveyance, Ponzi Schemes and insolvency issues, Mr. Kapila has provided expert testimony and extensive litigation support services to law firms involving complex insolvency issues and commercial damages. He is a sitting trustee on the panel of U.S. Bankruptcy Trustees for the Southern District of Florida, and he has served in numerous matters in both the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida as a chapter 7, chapter 11 and subchapter V trustee. Mr. Kapila has conducted numerous forensic and fraud investigations, and has worked in conjunction with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Attorney's Office. He has also provided a wide variety of tax services to clients throughout his career; consulting with and offering tax-planning strategies and ideas to bankruptcy trustees is also a significant part of his responsibilities. Mr. Kapila co-authored *Fraud and Forensics: Piercing Through the Deception in a Commercial Fraud Case* (ABI 2015). He received his M.B.A. in 1978 from Cranfield School of Management.

Angela M. Kirby is a sole practitioner with Kirby Law, LLC in Columbia, S.C., where she practices in the areas of estate planning, probate administration and litigation, trust administration and litigation, guardianships and conservatorships, fiduciary appointments, business succession planning, special and supplemental needs trusts, elder law, probate and trust mediation, estate and gift taxation and prenuptial agreements. Prior to attending law school, she was an accountant at KPMG Peat Marwick. Ms. Kirby is a former associate probate judge for Richland County. The Supreme Court of South Carolina has designated her as a Certified Estate Planning and Probate Specialist based on her years of experience and passing an additional complex examination that tested her abilities in this particular field of law. As a former CPA, Ms. Kirby brings her accounting and financial experience to each estate plan that she works on for her clients. As a former associate probate judge, she spent more than five years on the bench overseeing complex probate issues. She has represented hundreds of personal representatives and heirs, and has been involved in all aspects of probate administration and litigation. Ms. Kirby has been listed in *Super Lawyers* for several consecutive years. She also received the Midlands Legal Elite award in the field of estate planning for several consecutive years. Ms. Kirby is a member of the advisory board for the Midlands Technical College paralegal program and speaks annually for the South Carolina Bar on various estate-planning and probate topics. She

received her B.S. in business administration *cum laude* in 1986 from the College of Charleston, her Master's with honors in professional accountancy in 1987 from Clemson University College of Business and Behavioral Science and her J.D. in 1993 in estate planning and probate from the University of South Carolina Law School.

Suzanne A. Koenig, CTP is the founder and CEO of SAK Management Services, LLC in Riverwoods, Ill., a health care management firm and consultancy. She is experienced across several segments of the health care industry, including post-acute, senior housing and long-term care, with expertise in the areas of operations improvement, staff education, quality assurance, marketing and census-development. Ms. Koenig is one of the most frequently appointed patient care ombudsmans by courts across America. Her experience includes court-appointed service as an examiner, receiver, chapter 11 trustee and patient care ombudsman; health care bankruptcy filings under chapters 11 and 7, particularly since the enactment of BAPCPA in 2005; leadership of more than 500 facilities to cultivate teams that restore quality care and fiscal soundness; consulting and advising clients involved with bankruptcy proceedings, restructurings and workouts, as well as turnaround management scenarios; and executive positions in marketing, development and operational efficiencies and management for numerous regional and national health care providers. Ms. Koenig testified before the Illinois House of Representatives as an industry expert in funding issues facing the long-term care industry, was a member of the Negotiating Team Task Force in Arizona who designed and negotiated the contract between the State and counties for delivery of indigent health services, was the only non-lawyer and non-Attorney General invited by the National Association of Attorneys General to participate on the "Patient Care Ombudsman" panel addressing the PCO's interaction with the States in their role as patient care monitor, served as a member of the board of directors of both ABI and the Summit Healthcare REIT, Inc., and co-chaired ABI's Health Care Insolvency Committee. In addition, she was elected to the Global Turnaround Management Association's board of trustees, co-chaired the Steering Committee of the Midwest Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA), served on the board of directors for the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign, and was elected officer and director for several long-term care provider associations. Ms. Koenig is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and a Licensed Social Worker in multiple states. She is a frequent speaker for leading health care industry associations and business affiliates, where she conducts continuing education and training programs. Ms. Koenig received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her M.S. from Spertus College.

Jessica C. Lauria is a partner in White & Case LLP's Financial Restructuring and Insolvency Practice in New York, where she represents clients in a wide variety of in-court and out-of-court restructuring matters. Her work includes providing advice on complex questions relating to governance in the corporate restructuring context, as well as, among other things, analysis, strategic advice and negotiation of all aspects of corporate restructurings, including debtor-in-possession financing arrangements, cash-collateral usage and exit financing facilities; formulation of legal and financial strategies for negotiating and implementing plans of reorganization; negotiating debt and equity documents for reorganized companies; strategic advice and negotiation of sale documents and pleadings in connection with § 363 and other complex asset sales; strategic planning for debt-restructuring alternatives and chapter 11 filings; preparing debtors for chapter 11 filings; and structuring exit strategies for chapter 11 proceedings. She also has extensive experience representing clients in connection with mass tort chapter 11 proceedings. Ms. Lauria is listed in *The Deal's* "Top Women in Dealmaking for

Restructuring” for 2021, *Crain’s New York Business* “Notable Women in Law” for 2021, *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2020 and 2021, *Global Restructuring Review’s* 40 under 40 list for 2016, *Turnarounds & Workouts’* Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyers for 2015, and *Chambers USA for New York Bankruptcy/Restructuring* as an “Up and Coming” lawyer. She is admitted to practice in Illinois and New York. Ms. Lauria received her B.A. in political science from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and her J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School.

Joshua J. Lewis is senior counsel to PNC Bank, National Association in Atlanta, where he supports the bank’s commercial lending workout teams. He joined PNC in 2021 in connection with PNC’s acquisition of BBVA USA, where he had served as the sole workout attorney since 2016. Prior to his in-house career, Mr. Lewis spent more than a decade as a practicing bankruptcy and creditors’ rights attorney in Louisiana and Georgia, where he focused primarily on the representation of regional and national banks. He received his B.B.A. from the University of Georgia in 1999 and his J.D./B.C.L. from Louisiana State University in 2005.

Joseph J. Luzinski is a senior managing director of Development Specialists, Inc. in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He has spent more than 35 years in the workout business, serving as a financial advisor, consultant and fiduciary in advising, managing and administering matters involving public and private company workouts and restructurings, both out of court and in chapter 11 and 7 bankruptcies, as well as receiverships, assignments, and federal and state court proceedings. Mr. Luzinski has been CRO, CEO, CFO, president, director, trustee, liquidating trustee, plan agent, receiver and assignee to public and private companies involved in loan workouts, distressed situations and crisis situations. His financial advisory services include engagements involving investigations, fraud assessments, interim management, litigation support and expert witness engagements. His areas of industry expertise include banking, finance, real estate, aviation, retail, franchising, food service, manufacturing, media, law firms, wealthy individuals, fraud, Ponzi schemes and forensic matters. Mr. Luzinski’s specific areas of focus include operational analysis, financial analysis, valuation assessment, budgeting and planning, crisis-management, turnaround strategy, litigation strategy and litigation support. He also makes presentations to key stakeholders, including lenders, creditors’ committees and equity sponsors, and has court experience with testimony and litigation support for contested hearings or trials. Mr. Luzinski has been recognized for several M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards and as a Top Financial Professional in the *South Florida Legal Guide*. He has published articles on relevant business issues and spoken on business panels related to the insolvency profession, and he is frequently quoted in South Florida periodicals on bankruptcy and business matters. Mr. Luzinski received his B.S. from Florida Atlantic University.

Kelsey A. Makeever has been a staff attorney for the Office of Melissa J. Davey, Standing Chapter 13 Trustee, in Atlanta since October 2019. Previously, she worked as a courtroom attorney at one of the largest consumer bankruptcy firms in Georgia, where she represented debtors in chapter 13 bankruptcies. Ms. Makeever is actively involved in the bankruptcy bar of Georgia by volunteering her time to sit as a board member of the Metro Atlanta Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Group. She received her B.S. in history and political science *cum laude* from Florida State University in 2014 and her J.D. from Florida State University in 2017.

Sylvia Mayer is the sole proprietor of S. Mayer Law PLLC in Houston and is an arbitrator, mediator and attorney with nearly 30 years of legal experience in courts nationwide. As a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and a TMCA Credentialed Advanced Mediator, she serves on several arbitration and mediation rosters for civil, commercial, consumer, employment and health care disputes. As an experienced neutral, Ms. Mayer has served as arbitrator and mediator for disputes involving a wide variety of issues spanning a breadth of industries, including avoidance actions, banking, bankruptcy, business divorces, business separations, civil litigation, collections, commercial leasing, commercial litigation, construction, consumer, contracts, corporate governance, corporations, credit, director and officer liability, distribution, employment, energy, exploration and production, fiduciary duties, finance, financial services, fraud, fraudulent transfers, health care, hospitality, insolvency, insurance, landlord-tenant, lender liability, limited liability companies, manufacturing, mechanics and vendors liens, natural gas, oil and gas, oilfield services, partnerships, pharmaceutical, personal injury, pipelines and transportation, preference actions, professional liability, real estate, retail, royalties, sales, secured transactions, securities, surety bonds, telecommunications, torts, transportation and wholesale. She is listed on the American Arbitration Association (AAA) Arbitrator and Mediator Rosters, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (Texas) (NADN) Arbitrator and Mediator Rosters, American Health Law Association (AHLA) Arbitrator and Mediator Rosters, International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR) Panels of Distinguished Neutrals, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Arbitrator Roster, New ERA ADR, Inc. Neutrals Roster, Court Call ODR Roster for Arbitrators and Mediators, Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) Balanced Billing Arbitrator and Mediator Rosters, Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services Balanced Billing Arbitrator Roster, Virginia Bureau of Insurance Balanced Billing Arbitrator Roster, Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner Balanced Billing Arbitrator Roster, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware, Register of Mediators and Arbitrators, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Qualified Alternative Dispute Resolution Provider and Credentialed Advanced Mediator with Texas Mediator Credentialing Association (TMCA). Ms. Mayer is the founder and chair of the Houston Pro Bono Joint Initiative and sits on the State Bar of Texas ADR Council. In addition, she is a member of the ABI and the American Bar Association, ArbitralWomen, Association of Attorney Mediators, American Health Law Association, Association of Women Attorneys, Academy of Cami-Appointed Masters, Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce, Houston Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers, State Bar of Texas, Texas Association of Mediators and the Texas Mediators Credentialing Association. Ms. Mayer received her B.A. in theater *cum laude* in 1987 from George Washington University and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Houston Law Center.

Robert M.D. Mercer is a sole practitioner with Mercer Law, LLC in Atlanta. In his more than 20 years of practice, he has represented just about every major player in chapter 11 cases, including post-confirmation trustees, creditors' committees, chapter 11 debtors, indenture trustees, receivers, asset-purchasers, directors and officers, pre-petition lenders and debtor-in-possession lenders. Mr. Mercer has appeared in bankruptcy courts around the country, including the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern District of New York and the District of Delaware. In addition, he has represented clients in sophisticated insolvency and commercial litigation in state and federal courts. Previously, Mr. Mercer was 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 been listed in *Chambers USA's Guide to America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and as a "Georgia Superlawyer" by *Atlanta* magazine, and his engagements have included avoidance actions in con-

nection 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.

David J. Molton is a partner at Brown Rudnick LLP in the firm's Litigation & Arbitration and Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring Practice Groups and is the chair of its Cross-Border, Mass Tort, and Restructuring Litigation. He focuses his practice on complex financial, commercial and mass tort litigation matters in federal, state and bankruptcy courts in the U.S., and he represents foreign liquidators, official committees of creditors, unofficial ad hoc committees of creditors and interested parties in financial fraud and mass tort-related litigations and bankruptcies in the U.S. and in foreign jurisdictions. Mr. Molton is a Fellow of INSOL International, a worldwide federation of national associations for lawyers, accountants and other professionals who specialize in financial fraud, asset-tracing and recovery and insolvency in domestic and cross-border cases. Previously, he clerked for Hon. J. Edward Lumbard of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Earlier in his career, he served as an assistant district attorney in and for the Office of the District Attorney for New York County, where he was assigned to the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York under Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr. As a prosecutor, Mr. Molton supervised joint federal/state law enforcement task force teams and investigations for the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force and the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, and he prosecuted cases involving racketeering enterprises and organized crime narcotics conspiracies and distribution networks, and efforts to locate, seize and effectuate the forfeiture of proceeds and assets connected to those criminal activities both in the U.S. and abroad. Mr. Molton is admitted to practice in New Jersey and California, and before the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third and Ninth Circuits; the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of New York, the District of New Jersey, and the Northern Districts of Illinois and California; and the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts. He received his B.A. *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in 1979 from Brandeis University, and his J.D. *cum laude* in 1982 from New York University School of Law, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

Robert A. Musiala, Jr. is the co-leader of the Blockchain Practice at BakerHostetler in Columbus, Ohio. He has been working in the blockchain and cryptocurrency market since 2012 and has extensive experience in cryptocurrency investigations and regulatory compliance, including having worked with a U.S. national security community client, advising blockchain clients on compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act, GDPR, SEC and CFTC regulations, alternative trading system applications, and as the court-appointed receiver to investigate and secure assets related to a cryptocurrency fraud scheme. Mr. Musiala invented one granted blockchain patent and another pending blockchain patent. In his practice, he works directly with technical teams to design solutions that meet legal and regulatory requirements. Mr. Musiala received his B.A. in creative writing (with honors) and international studies from Northwestern University in 2000, his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School in 2003 and his M.S.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago Liataud Graduate School of Business in 2011.

Edward E. Neiger is a co-managing partner at ASK LLP in New York, where his practice focuses on representing unsecured trade creditors in complex bankruptcy cases and prosecuting and defending large preferences and fraudulent conveyance actions. Prior to joining ASK, he founded Neiger LLP, where he represented clients in the bankruptcy cases of Lehman Brothers, American Airlines and General Motors, among others. Previously, Mr. Neiger was in the bankruptcy group of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, where he worked on behalf of such debtors as Enron, Lehman Brothers, GM and PG&E, and he represented thousands of victims of Boy Scout sexual abuse and more than 100,000 victims of Purdue Pharma. He is on the board of 2EndTheStigma and works to help those suffering from addiction, including those incarcerated, get the help they need. At the same time, he fights to hold those responsible for the opioid crisis, especially governments and elected officials, accountable. In the past, Mr. Neiger helped Holocaust survivors recover monetary damages from the German government, including his own grandfather (all of his grandparents are Holocaust survivors and came to the U.S. as refugees after the Second World War). He is a member of the New York City Bar Association's Imperfect History Committee, which explores and uncovers the racist roots of the NYC Bar Association, and in 2020, he was honored as one ABI's "40 Under 40." Mr. Neiger is the author of the *New York Law Journal's* "Mass Torts Roundup" and "Bankruptcy Update" columns. He received his J.D. in 2004 from Fordham University, where he served on its law review.

Patricia A. Redmond is an Insolvency and Restructuring shareholder in Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.'s Miami office. She lectures locally and nationally on various aspects of bankruptcy, particularly on chapter 11 issues, and is frequently quoted in *The Miami Herald* and other business publications. Ms. Redmond's bankruptcy practice concentrates on creditors' rights and corporate restructuring in bankruptcy court and in out-of-court workouts. She also has experience representing creditors' committees, secured creditors and debtors in chapter 11 cases. Ms. Redmond is the recipient of The Florida Bar's 2019 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award and the American Bar Association's 2017 Jean Allard Glass Cutter Award. She also is a Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Ms. Redmond has been recognized with the highest ranking in *Chambers USA*, as a "Top 100 Florida Super Lawyer" and "Top 50 Women Florida Super Lawyer" by *Florida Super Lawyers*, and as the "Miami Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law Lawyer of the Year" by *The Best Lawyers in America*. She served as ABI's president from 2013-14 and chaired the selection committee of ABI's inaugural "40 Under 40" program, and she has been an adjunct professor of law at the University of Miami School of Law since 1999. Ms. Redmond received her B.A. in 1975 from the University of Miami and her J.D. in 1979 from the University of Miami School of Law.

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

of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida and was the Broward Chair of the *Pro Bono* Committee, the Broward Chair of the CARE Program Committee and chair of the Wellness Committee. Judge Robson received her B.A. *cum laude* from the State University of New York at Albany in 1994 and her J.D. from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1997.

John H. Rowland is a shareholder in the Nashville, Tenn., office of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC and is the immediate past chair of its Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Group. He represents a variety of clients in complex business reorganizations, restructurings and financing transactions. Mr. Rowland regularly counsels companies facing financial challenges, and he is experienced in representing various constituencies, creditors and individuals in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. He also represents buyers and sellers of distressed assets, parties who wish to proceed outside of bankruptcy, and lenders seeking to provide chapter 11 debtor-in-possession and exit financing. Mr. Rowland is a frequent presenter on bankruptcy-related topics. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2005 for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Bankruptcy Litigation, named the *Best Lawyers' 2017 Nashville Litigation - Bankruptcy* "Lawyer of the Year," listed since 2008 in *Mid-South Super Lawyers* and selected as "Best of the Bar" in the *Nashville Business Journal* in 2005. Mr. Rowland was president of the Midsouth Commercial Law Institute from 2010-11 and chair of the Bankruptcy Court Committee of the Nashville Bar Association in 2004, and he is a member of the American, Tennessee (Executive Committee Member, Commercial, Bankruptcy, and Banking Law Section) and Nashville Bar Associations. He received his B.A. with honors in 1986 from Alma College and his J.D. in 1989 from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Alexandra Shipley is an associate with McGuireWoods in Chicago and focuses her practice in the areas of insolvency and restructuring. She represents a wide range of clients in all stages of bankruptcy, restructuring and workout matters. She also serves as a restructuring and insolvency resource for the firm's CBD team. Prior to joining McGuireWoods, Ms. Shipley practiced with the Tulsa office of an Oklahoma law firm, where she gained experience in various areas of civil litigation and bankruptcy. She is a board member of the Chicago Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, and she is admitted to practice in Illinois, Oklahoma, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Illinois and the Eastern and Northern Districts of Oklahoma. Ms. Shipley received her B.S. in ballet with high distinction in 2011 from Indiana University and her J.D. in 2015 with highest honors from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was assistant managing editor of the *Oklahoma Law Review*.

Hon. Sage M. Sigler is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge 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 and the Bankruptcy Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, and she enjoys being 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 the executive symposium editor of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

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

Prof. Lindsey Simon is an assistant professor of law at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Ga., where she teaches courses in bankruptcy and secured transactions. Her research focuses on the bankruptcy system, drawing concepts from bankruptcy structure and procedure to address broader institutional design challenges. Prof. Simon’s articles have been published in the *Administrative Law Review*, *Cardozo Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal* and *North Carolina Law Review*. Her most recent scholarship addresses the intersection between mass torts and bankruptcy, including an article on nondebtor relief in chapter 11 forthcoming in the *Yale Law Journal*. Prof. Simon has assisted academics, judges, members of Congress and many other stakeholders on the subject of mass-tort bankruptcies, and her commentary in connection with the Purdue Pharma, Boy Scouts of America and USA Gymnastics bankruptcies has appeared in various media outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *The Economist*, NPR and Reuters. Before coming to UGA in 2018, she was an associate at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where her practice involved a mix of commercial litigation and corporate restructuring matters. She represented corporations, committees and individuals in state and federal litigation, both in and out of the bankruptcy context. Prof. Simon also practiced at a litigation boutique in Chicago and clerked for Hon. Beverly B. Martin at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Additionally, she taught as an adjunct professor at the Georgia State University College of Law. Prof. Simon is an active member of ABI, where she serves as a member of its Diversity Working Group. She previously served as vice chair and community service co-chair for the Georgia Network of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and as vice president of the board of directors of the Georgia Latino Law Foundation. Prof. Simon received her B.Mus. *magna cum laude* and her M.Ed. from Vanderbilt University, and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law.

Laura L. Smith is counsel in the Dallas office of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, where she concentrates her practice on commercial bankruptcy. She regularly represents debtors, lenders, creditors and trustees under chapters 11 and 7. Ms. Smith’s practice also includes litigation and adversary proceedings. She has experience representing lessors, landlords, financial institutions, official committees and trustees in chapter 11 and chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Ms. Smith is chair of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and a member of The Honorable John C. Ford American Inn of Court and the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers. She previously clerked for Hon. Stacey G. C. Jernigan of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas. Ms. Smith received her B.S. *summa cum laude* from Boston University and her J.D. *cum*

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Lisa P. Sumner is a member of Nexsen Pruet's Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights Practice Group in its Raleigh, N.C., office. Throughout her years of practice in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, she's represented financial institutions, private equity and trade creditors in out-of-court matters, bankruptcy proceedings and litigation in state and federal courts. Ms. Sumner's representative engagements include distressed loan workouts, collections, appointing receivers, involuntary bankruptcy petitions, contested chapter 11 and 12 plan confirmations, § 363 sales, and defending preference and fraudulent-transfer actions and lender-liability claims. The varied industries involved in her cases include commercial real estate, retail, manufacturing, construction, agricultural and health care. Ms. Sumner received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1991 and her J.D. from Duke University in 1994.

Dr. Suzanne Thomas is associate provost of Educational Planning and Effectiveness at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C., and directs the university's continuous quality-improvement strategies, as well as champions stewardship and accountability in the academic enterprise. Both the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Enrollment Management (including University Admissions, University Financial Aid and the Registrar) report to her. By centralizing institutional effectiveness and institutional research and reporting, the university can make data-informed decisions, develop targeted improvement plans, demonstrate accountability, and determine how to allocate resources to MUSC's best advantage. Dr. Thomas is the liaison to the university's accrediting body (SACSCOC) and represents the educational enterprise to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. She received her Bachelor's degree from Auburn University and her Ph.D. in experimental psychology/behavioral neuroscience from the University of South Carolina. She also is a graduate of the Harvard Leadership Development Institute.

Andrew R. Vara is the U.S. Trustee for Regions 3 and 9 in Cleveland, which encompass 10 field offices in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. He has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice for 29 years, serving as a trial attorney, Assistant U.S. Trustee in Cleveland and Wilmington, Del., and the acting assistant U.S. Trustee in both the Southern District of New York and Western District of Michigan. Following law school, Mr. Vara clerked for Hon. Laurence Howard, Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Grand Rapids, Mich. He also is a regular faculty member and lecturer at training seminars held at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. Mr. Vara has been a panelist at numerous ABI conferences, including its Annual Spring Meeting, Winter Leadership Conference, Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop and Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. He was a member of the ABI's Ethics Task Force and chaired ABI's Ethics and Professional Compensation Committee. Mr. Vara served as a presenter on U.S. and international insolvency law at forums sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program in Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in political science from Duke University and his J.D. with honors from The Ohio State University in May 1991, where he was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif.

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

served as president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) from 2018-19, having also previously served as a four-year member of the board of governors and as co-chair of its Legislative Committee, secretary and president-elect of that organization. Judge Waites was appointed by Chief Justice Roberts as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System in 2013, serving until 2019. He also served as member of the Administrative Office's Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group from 2008-11 and as chair from 2011-13. Judge Waites was inducted as a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy in 2018. He also chaired ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop from 2016-18 and was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Henry McMaster, Governor of South Carolina, in May 2022. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Waites was a partner at Nexsen, Pruet, Jacobs & Pollard. He also served as the first U.S. Trustee for the Region Four, Fourth Circuit and District of Columbia from 1987-92, and as the estate administrator for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina. From 1980-84, he practiced law in Columbia, S.C. Judge Waites received his undergraduate degree from Davidson College and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina.

Jill C. Walters is a partner with Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP in Raleigh, N.C., and has more than 15 years of experience representing and counseling clients in the corporate insolvency, distressed lending, and restructuring and bankruptcy contexts, including in complex chapter 11 cases. She also represents student loan lenders and colleges and universities in litigation and ancillary issues related to debt and insolvency, student loans and alternative payment arrangements. Ms. Walters has bankruptcy litigation experience centered on the prosecution and defense of preference actions, fraudulent transfers and dischargeability contests. Her experience spans multiple sectors, including health care, education, transportation, hospitality and manufacturing, and she also has experience in agricultural cases, including chapter 12 proceedings. Ms. Walters received her B.A. in 2004 from Lake Forest College and her J.D. in 2007 from Michigan State University.

Jeffrey W. Warren is a founder and president emeritus of Bush Ross, PA in Tampa, Fla. He has a nationally recognized legal practice in chapter 11 reorganization cases, both as a courtroom counsel and as an out-of-court negotiator and problem-solver. Mr. Warren is admitted to practice in Florida, the U.S. District Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He also has been inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and was a contributing editor for the *ABI Journal*. Mr. Warren is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and is a certified circuit mediator by the Florida Supreme Court. He is the author of several chapters for publication of the Florida Bar and numerous articles regarding creditors' rights issues. In 2008, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association presented Mr. Warren with the Douglas P. McClurg Professionalism Award. He has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1995 and received "Lawyer of the Year" recognition in the fields of Bankruptcy Creditor/Debtor Rights and Bankruptcy Litigation in 2011 and 2013, respectively. He has also been named to Florida's "Legal Elite" by *Florida Trend Magazine* since 2005. Mr. Warren has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Florida Lawyers every year since 2007 and as a Top 10 Florida Lawyer in 2008, 2009, 2013, 2014 and 2015 by *Florida Super Lawyers Magazine*. He also is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Warren received both his B.S. in 1969 and his J.D. in 1972 from the University of Florida.

Jeffrey R. Waxman is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Group of Morris James LLP in Wilmington, Del., and represents debtors, official committees of unsecured creditors, official committees of equity holders, secured creditors, plan administrators, purchasers of assets, and a wide variety of creditor constituencies and interested parties in chapter 11 cases. He also represents chapter 7 trustees and plaintiffs and defendants in bankruptcy-related preference and fraudulent transfer litigation. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Waxman clerked for Hon. Mary F. Walrath of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, and for Hon. Michael J. Kaplan of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York. He is admitted to practice in Delaware and Pennsylvania, and before the U.S. District Courts for the District of Delaware and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Waxman co-chairs Morris James' Small Businesses and Start-Ups Group, which provides a full range of legal services to assist small business owners to organize and transition their ideas to full-fledged businesses. The practice focuses on addressing issues that are of particular concern to entrepreneurs including initial corporate governance, employment, financing, tax issues and liquidity. He also has been listed as a "Top Lawyer" in *Delaware Today* for 2015, received ABI's Medal of Excellence in Bankruptcy, and is a member of the Order of the Barristers. Mr. Waxman is a member of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section, ABI (for which he serves on its Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop advisory board), the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court and the Delaware State Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section (for which he served as past chair). Mr. Waxman received his B.A. from Temple University in 1995 and his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1998.

Megan S. Webster is a partner in Mayer Brown's Chicago and New York offices and a member of its Litigation & Dispute Resolution practice. Her broad national practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, investigations, responding to federal and state regulators and enforcement authorities, and compliance counseling. She also counsels companies on risk management, litigation avoidance strategies and general strategic decisions on multidisciplinary matters. Prior to joining Mayer Brown, Ms. Webster spent more than a decade in various high-level in-house counsel positions at large global banking and financial services firms. Most recently as vice president and associate general counsel, she led a team responsible for U.S. personal and commercial banking disputes and investigations at BMO Financial Group. Before joining BMO, she spent a decade at HSBC, where she held several positions, including senior vice president and associate general counsel. In her in-house roles, Ms. Webster managed a diverse docket of consumer and commercial matters across business lines, including class action and individual litigation, federal and state government investigations and enforcement actions, and internal investigations. She also served as lead counsel responsible for domestic antitrust litigation and transactional matters. During her tenure as in-house counsel, Ms. Webster managed some of the most significant litigation, investigations, and state and federal exam and enforcement matters for her clients. She began her career in private practice at a large international law firm. Ms. Webster received her B.B.A. with honors from the University of Kentucky, her M.B.A. from DePaul University and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law, where she was a member of the Order of Barristers, president of the DePaul College of Law Moot Court Society, and article and note editor of the *DePaul Business Law Journal*.

David S. Weidenbaum has been a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Atlanta since 2006. Previously, he clerked for Bankruptcy Judge Mary Grace Diehl, represented chapter 13 trustees and was in private practice, where he represented debtors and creditors. Mr. Weidenbaum received

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David A. Wender is a financial restructuring and workour partner with Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP in Atlanta, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy and restructuring, representing a broad range of clients in complex bankruptcy cases, out-of-court workouts, debt restructurings, asset-dispositions and claims-reconciliation procedures. He represents purchasers, sellers and other parties in bankruptcy § 363 sales, debtors in possession, secured and unsecured creditors, and creditors' committees. He also has experience representing financial institutions, officers, directors and other entities in complex litigation and transactional engagements in state and federal courts throughout the U.S. Mr. Wender serves as the firm's head of Corporate Debt Advisory – Financial Restructuring Group. In addition to being recognized by several leading legal service rankings, he was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy in 2022. Prior to joining Eversheds Sutherland, Mr. Wender was a partner in the financial restructuring and reorganization group of a major U.S. law firm. Prior to this role, he clerked for Hon. Mary F. Walrath of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. Mr. Wender 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.

Kristi S. Williams is a partner at Lefkoff, Rubin, Gleason, Russo & Williams, P.C. in Atlanta, where she specializes in creditors' rights law. For 11 years, she has represented creditors in bankruptcy, real and personal property foreclosures, collection matters and real estate closings. Before representing creditors, Ms. Williams represented consumer debtors. She is a member of the bankruptcy and creditors' rights sections of the State Bar of Georgia and the Atlanta Bar Association. Ms. Williams is an advisory board member of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and is an active member of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and the National Creditors Bar Association. She received her B.B.A. in accounting with honors from Georgia Southern University and her J.D. with honors from Georgia State University College of Law.