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Faculty Biographies

Ido J. Alexander, CTCE is the founder of AlignX Law in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and is a bankruptcy and restructuring attorney with experience representing corporate and individual debtors, creditors and bankruptcy trustees in chapter 11 and 7 proceedings. In the last four years, he has focused on crypto/blockchain issues, representing bankruptcy trustees dealing with crypto-related assets, assisting crypto/blockchain companies in efforts to restructure debts, and advising and assisting in court proceedings that include crypto assets. Mr. Alexander is a Cryptocurrency Tracing Certified Examiner by CipherTrace and is trained in locating/tracing crypto assets. He also is a certified mediator and has presided over 200 cases. Mr. Alexander is a member of the Florida Bar Business Law Section's Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Task Force. Before forming AlignX Law, he co-founded Alexander + Somodevilla, PLLC, which became Leiderman Shelomith Alexander + Somodevilla, PLLC. As the managing attorney of the firm, he regularly represented clients — including trustees, debtors and creditors — in chapter 11 and 7 bankruptcy cases. Prior to that, he focused on federal equity receiverships at Damian & Valori, LLP in Miami, and began his career at the the firm of Markowitz, Ringel, Trusty & Hartog, PA, also in Miami. Mr. Alexander served as an officer of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida from 2011-17 and served as president from 2016-17. Fluent in English and Hebrew, he received his B.B.A. from Emory University Goizueta Business School, and his M.B.A., with an emphasis on finance and commercial bankruptcy law, and his J.D. from the University of Miami.

Brian R. Anderson is a partner in the Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy department at Fox Rothschild, LLP in Greensboro, N.C., where he concentrates his practice on bankruptcy, creditors' rights and commercial litigation. He regularly represents banking and financial institutions, credit unions, businesses, contractors, secured and unsecured creditors, trustees, executors and guarantors before state and federal courts. He also provides strategic counsel on a wide range of bankruptcy issues, including complex chapter 11 cases, avoidance actions, adversary proceedings and out-of-court workouts. Mr. Anderson is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. He also serves as a U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee and subchapter V trustee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina, and as a court-appointed receiver in the North Carolina court system. After graduating from law school, he clerked for Hon. Thomas W. Waldrep, Jr. in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Mr. Anderson received his B.S.B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. *cum laude* from American University Washington College of Law.

Hon. Denise E. Barnett is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis, appointed on Nov. 8, 2021. Prior to her appointment, she was a trial attorney with the U.S. Trustee Program in Tampa, Fla., from 2002-21. Judge Barnett also was an attorney in private practice from 1997-2002 in Jacksonville, Fla., where she represented consumer debtors, chapter 11 debtors, trustees and creditors. From 1995-97, she clerked for Hon. George L. Proctor, Chief Judge Emeritus of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida in Jacksonville. Judge Barnett taught as an adjunct professor from 1996-2000 in Jacksonville. She is a member of the State Bars of Florida and Minnesota. Prior to her appointment, Judge Barnett served on the board of directors of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association (TBBBA), specifically working with its Judicial Liaison Committee from 2016-21. She also served on the District Wide Steering Committee (MDFL) for several terms from 2013-19, and was a frequent speaker for several continuing legal education seminars. Since 2021, Judge Barnett has been a guest lecturer teaching bankruptcy law at the University of Memphis

Cecil C. School of Law. She also has helped prepare law students for the Duberstein Moot Court Competition, and welcomed high school and law students as interns in her judicial chambers. Judge Barnett received her B.S. in legal studies in 1990 from City University of New York John Jay College of Criminal Justice and her J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law (now known as Mitchell Hamline School of Law) in St. Paul, Minn., in 1995, where she was a member and an editor of the *William Mitchell Law Review*.

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

Sean M. Beach is a partner and co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group at Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Wilmington, Del. He represents debtors, secured lenders, bondholder groups, unsecured creditors' committees, court-appointed settlement monitors or trustees, special committees, boards and independent directors, and buyers and significant creditors in chapter 11 proceedings, both in and out of court. Mr. Beach is admitted to practice in Delaware, New York and New Jersey, and before the U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Delaware and New Jersey and the Southern District of New York, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He has been listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring since 2012 and in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2018 and 2019, and he is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Beach is a member of the Delaware, New York State, New Jersey State and American Bar Associations, ABI and the Turnaround Management Association. He received his B.A. from Rutgers University and his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law.

Katherine A. Bell is an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky in Louisville, where she leads the office's Financial Litigation Program, coordinates its community outreach efforts and co-manages the externship program. Her legal practice focuses on the collection of criminal and civil debt owed to the U.S., with an emphasis on bankruptcy and foreclosures. Outside of the office, Ms. Bell chairs the IWIRC KIT Network, which encompasses IWIRC insolvency professionals from Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee, and serves as board chair for Summerbridge Louisville, a six-week summer program for Louisville's bright but underserved middle school students. Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, she was a partner with Stites & Harbison, PLLC, where she represented banks, servicers and other financial institutions in complex collection matters and lender liability actions in state and federal court. Ms. Bell received her undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from the University of Louisville and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from the the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law.

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

Prof. Kara J. Bruce is a professor of law at the University of Oklahoma School of Law in Norman, Okla., where she teaches contracts, civil procedure, creditor/debtor law, business bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation skills, secured transactions and payment systems. Her research focuses on bankruptcy and commercial law, with particular emphasis on how the Bankruptcy Code and procedural rules are enforced. Prof. Bruce is a coauthor of the forthcoming Sixth Edition of the *Law of Bankruptcy* hornbook. She also coauthored the Fifth and Sixth Editions of *Problems and Materials on Secured Transactions*, and she is a contributing author to the *Bankruptcy Law Letter*, a member of the editorial advisory board for the *American Bankruptcy Law Journal*, and a former ABI Robert M. Zinman Scholar in Residence. Previously, Prof. Bruce was a professor of law at the University of Toledo College of Law and an associate in the Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP in Chicago. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from Tulane Law School.

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 the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the Turnaround Management Association and ABI, having previously served on the advisory board for ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. 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.

Joseph C. Celentino is an associate in the Restructuring & Special Situations Practice at Latham & Watkins LLP in Chicago. He represents debtors, creditors, sponsors and other stakeholders in complex chapter 11 cases. Mr. Celentino's practice specializes on in-court matters, with a particular focus on mass-tort cases. His recent mass-tort matters include *In re Boy Scouts of America* and *In*

re Imerys Talc America, Inc. Mr. Celentino previously practiced at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York, where he is licensed. Prior to that, he clerked for Hon. Neil M. Gorsuch. Mr. Celentino received his B.A. in 2013 in communication studies, legal studies and political science from Northwestern University, and his J.D. in 2016 from the University of Michigan Law School.

Elizabeth A. Childers is a bankruptcy attorney at Rountree Leitman Klein & Geer, LLC in Atlanta and she represents debtors and creditors in all chapters of bankruptcy. She also handles state court matters such as real estate disputes, evictions and commercial litigation. Ms. Childers has experience dealing with complex issues in bankruptcy matters and other litigation matters. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Georgia. Ms. Childers received her B.A. and B.S.M., both *cum laude*, in 2003 from Tulane University and her J.D. *cum laude* in 2007 from the University of Georgia School of Law.

James D. Decker, CIRA is the founder of JDecker & Company, Inc. in Atlanta, which is focused on corporate governance, transactional advisory and litigation support. As an independent director, he serves on the boards of middle-market private companies typically undergoing transformational events. Mr. Decker's board service has included the capacities of board chairman and chair of special committees and restructuring committees. He is qualified as an Audit Committee Financial Expert. In addition, he has also served as an arbitrator, testifying expert and liquidating trustee, and is well versed in the fiduciary obligations of directors. For the 30 years prior to founding JDecker & Company in 2019, Mr. Decker was an investment banker and advisor in the U.S. middle market, with a focus on advising clients in complex corporate finance transactions, mergers & acquisitions, recapitalizations and restructurings. He advised owners, boards, special committees, management teams and creditors across a wide range of industries and circumstances. In the course of his investment banking career, Mr. Decker originated and completed hundreds of transactions worth in excess of \$30 billion. These included restructurings, exclusive sales, acquisitions, special-situation financings, leveraged buyouts, loan placements, recapitalizations and valuations. He also recruited, developed and managed large teams of professionals at a variety of prominent institutions, including Guggenheim Securities, Morgan Joseph, Alvarez & Marsal and Houlihan Lokey. Mr. Decker is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and has twice received Turnaround of the Year Awards from The M&A Advisor. He is also a past director of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors (AIRA), a former co-chair of ABI's Investment Banking Committee and a former director of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA). Mr. Decker enjoys teaching and is a frequent speaker on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and financial restructuring. He maintains Series 7, 24 and 63 FINRA licenses. Mr. Decker received his B.A. in economics and geology from Vanderbilt University and his M.B.A. in business administration with a concentration in finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Jane H. Downey is Of Counsel with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC in Columbia, S.C., and has represented clients both in and outside of formal proceedings. She has experience in corporate restructurings, representing debtors, secured lenders, unsecured creditors and other parties in connection with bankruptcies, receiverships, out-of-court workouts and other related bankruptcy litigation. Ms. Downey has led corporate clients, landlords, doctors, car dealerships, farmers, realtors and developers, among others, through financial restructurings and reorganizations under chapters 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13. Ms. Downey is certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court as a me-

diator and arbitrator, and is currently on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina's list of mediators. She is a frequent speaker and author on bankruptcy topics and very active in her community. In 2022, Ms. Downey was voted as the "Best Bankruptcy Lawyer" in Lexington County, South Carolina by the readers of the *Lexington County Chronicle*. She also was selected to *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers list in 2020, 2022 and 2023, and she has been included in *South Carolina Super Lawyers* in bankruptcy since 2008. Ms. Downey has more than 30 years of experience in representing individual and business debtors and creditors in commercial and consumer bankruptcy matters. She is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Ms. Downey received her undergraduate degree in 1987 from Furman University and her J.D. in 1990 from Emory Law School.

J. Cory Falgowski is a partner with Burr & Forman LLP in Wilmington, Del., in the firm's Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy Practice group, where his practice focuses on representing secured creditors, corporate debtors, purchasers, trustees, vendors, consultants and other stakeholders in complex corporate bankruptcy cases and insolvency-related matters. He regularly handles high-stakes litigation, including fraudulent transfer and other avoidance actions, asset-sale disputes, stay-relief litigation, plan-confirmation objections, and receivership actions and other commercial and corporate disputes. His practice also spans transactional matters, including negotiating and documenting credit transactions and asset purchase agreements, as well as bankruptcy appeals. Mr. Falgowski has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Litigation-Bankruptcy (2022-23), named in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring (2014-23), and as one of *The Best Lawyers in America's* "Ones to Watch" for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2021). He received his B.A. with honors in 2001 from Johns Hopkins University and his J.D. in 2004 from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Robert J. Feinstein is the managing partner of the New York office of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, which he opened in 2011. He represents debtors, creditors' committees, equity committees, acquirers and examiners in business reorganizations and related litigation. He also has experience representing various constituencies in cross-border chapter 11 and chapter 15 cases. Mr. Feinstein's recent engagements include lead counsel to the official creditors' committees appointed in the chapter 11 cases of J. Crew, Whiting Petroleum, Ascena Retail Group, Ditech, Jevic Transportation, The Weinstein Company, Open Road Films, Cobalt International Energy, Bon-Ton Stores, A&P, Sports Authority, Aeropostale, AMF Bowling Worldwide, Reddy Ice Corporation, Coach Transportation and Circuit City Stores, and conflicts counsel to the creditors' committees appointed in the ResCap and Chrysler LLC cases. On the debtor side, he has represented Digital Domain Media Group, former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, and *Penthouse* magazine publisher General Media, Inc. in their chapter 11 cases. His cross-border representations include the Canadian receiver for Blockbuster Canada in its chapter 15 case and the Canadian monitor in the *Essar Steel* case. Mr. Feinstein is an adjunct professor in the St. Johns University LL.M. in Bankruptcy Program and an associate editor of the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, as well as a contributing editor of *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice 2d*. He has authored numerous articles, and frequently lectures on bankruptcy topics. Mr. Feinstein is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and is ranked among Bankruptcy/Restructuring attorneys by *Chambers USA*. He also has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law every year since 2018, and he was listed by *Lawdragon* as one of the 2022 "500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers" and one of

the 2020 “500 Leading Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers.” Mr. Feinstein received his B.A. from Lafayette College and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Boston University School of Law.

Hon. Elisabetta G. M. Gasparini is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Carolina in Charleston, appointed on June 27, 2022, after an extensive career as a trial attorney with the Office of the U.S. Trustee in both Region 4 (2012-22) and Region 2 (2009-12). During her tenure with Region 4 in Columbia, S.C., she served as chapter 11 regional coordinator in complex chapter 11 cases. In 2019, Ms. Gasparini received the Director’s Award for Excellence in Chapter 11 Complex Issues. While serving as a trial attorney for Region 2 in New York, she worked on numerous high-profile cases, including American Airlines, Blockbuster and Lehman Brothers. Prior to her service with the UST, Judge Gasparini was a member of the corporate restructuring groups for several firms in New York from 2001-09, where she worked on complex chapter 11 cases and mass-tort bankruptcies, and represented various defendants to preference actions. She previously clerked for her predecessor, Hon. John E. Waites, from 1999-2001. Judge Gasparini was born in Milan, Italy, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1987. She received her B.A. in 1996 from Wake Forest University and her J.D. in 1999 from the University of South 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 in the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi and the Western District of Tennessee. 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.

Hon. Tiffany Payne Geyer is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando, appointed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on March 25, 2022. Previously, she was a partner with BakerHostetler in Orlando and practiced primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors’ rights. Judge Geyer represented both corporate and individual debtors in chapter 11 cases and individuals in chapter 7 cases, and her clients included health care businesses and medical professionals, investment bankers and financial advisors. She also represented clients in the hospitality

sectors, assisted in representing debtors in the energy sectors, and negotiated multiple settlements of guarantor liability and assignments for the benefit of creditors. She also represented secured creditors, unsecured creditors, landlords and panel trustees. Judge Geyer has been listed in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Florida and in *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2020 for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. She began her legal career in Orlando clerking for Bankruptcy Judge Karen S. Jennemann, whose vacancy she filled upon her retirement, and she volunteered at a Florida nonprofit organization devoted to housing and educating young adults struggling with homelessness. Judge Geyer received her B.A. with honors in political science and public administration in 1998 from the University of Central Florida, and her J.D. in 2000 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she received the Book Award for Legal Drafting and was a member of a trial competition team.

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.

Hon. Martin Glenn is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York in New York, initially sworn in on Nov. 30, 2006, and appointed Chief Judge on March 1, 2022. Previously, he was a law clerk for Hon. Henry J. Friendly, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, from 1971-72, and he practiced law with O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Los Angeles from 1972-85 and in New York from 1985-2006, where he focused on complex civil litigation including securities, RICO, financial and accounting fraud, and unfair competition. Judge Glenn is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the American Law Institute, International Insolvency Institute, New York Federal-State Judicial Council, New York City Bar, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and ABI. He is a past member of the Committee on International Judicial Relations of the U.S. Judicial Conference and the Bankruptcy Judge Advisory Group of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy* and a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy-related issues. Judge Glenn received his B.S. from Cornell University in 1968 and his J.D. from Rutgers Law School in 1971, where he was an articles editor of the *Rutgers Law Review*.

Katie S. Goodman is the managing partner of GGG Partners, LLC in Atlanta and has worked with both public and private companies, focusing in particular on middle-market firms in the Southeast. She specializes in assessing a company's situation, determining a course of corrective action that is tailored to each client's needs, and executing the plan. Ms. Goodman has a strong background

in finance, mergers and acquisitions and operations. She often assumes the role of director of reorganization or restructuring officer for companies with private-equity funding, and she serves as an adviser to owners, boards of directors and management teams. Ms. Goodman is experienced in dealing with companies in chapter 11 and has successfully worked with companies to restructure through approved plans of reorganization. She also has sold companies under § 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. In 2013, Ms. Goodman was appointed a chapter 11 trustee. She also serves as a federal and state court-appointed receiver and assignee in General Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors. Ms. Goodman has worked in many industries, including automotive, textiles, finance, telecommunications, restaurants and retail, commercial and residential contracting, general manufacturing, commercial distribution, publishing, government contracting, business-to-business distribution and consumer products companies. Prior to joining GGG Partners, dhr worked for a leveraged buyout fund, where she focused on assessing and acquiring middle-market companies, including acquisitions in the telecommunications, textile and industrial distribution industries. She also worked in the food-brokerage industry. Ms. Goodman received her B.A. from Lancaster University in Lancashire, England, and her M.B.A. in finance *summa cum laude* from Georgia State University, and she was an international scholarship student at Emory University in Atlanta.

Neil C. Gordon is a partner in the Atlanta office of Taylor English Duma LLP. He previously clerked for two years in Atlanta for U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Vining, Jr. followed by 42 years in private practice, with the last 39 years being exclusively in the areas of bankruptcy, business reorganization, fraud investigations and creditors' rights. Mr. Gordon represents trustees and receivers throughout the country, including in Delaware litigation that recently settled for approximately \$40 million. He chaired the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association from 1992-93, has been a panel trustee since 1994, and also serves as an SEC receiver. Mr. Gordon was first elected to the board of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees in 2000. He has held every office, including president (2011-12), and for eight years chaired its Amicus Committee. For 2021-23, Mr. Gordon has been named as one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers in the country. He also has authored or co-authored more than 80 scholarly articles and book chapters on bankruptcy law related topics and is making his 200th seminar presentation. Mr. Gordon previously co-chaired ABI's Legislation Committee and served on the Chapter 7 Subcommittee for the ABI Commission for the Reform of Consumer Bankruptcy Law from 2017-18. He also served on the Steering Committee for Pro. Lois Lupica's published study on the Costs of BAPCPA, commissioned by ABI and NCBJ. Mr. Gordon is a Lifetime Member of ABI, a Master of the Bench in the W. Homer Drake, Jr., Georgia Bankruptcy American Inns of Court, a full member of the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers, and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He received his B.B.A. with a focus on real estate and urban land studies in 1976 from the University of Florida and his J.D. in 1979 from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Linda B. Gore is a chapter 13 standing trustee in Gadsden, Ala. She previously clerked for Hon. L. Chandler Watson, and in March 1991, she was appointed the chapter 13 trustee and chapter 12 trustee for the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Alabama. Ms. Gore has taught business law for Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Ala., and she is an active member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT), having served as president, president-elect, vice president, treasurer and secretary; she currently serves on its board. In addition, she serves on the editorial board for the *NACTT Quarterly* and is an author of its case notes section. Ms. Gore has

served as a subchapter V trustee since 2020. She received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Tennessee at Martin and her J.D. from Cumberland School of Law.

Hon. Jennifer H. Henderson is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, initially sworn in on Feb. 16, 2015, and named Chief Judge on Oct. 1, 2022. Previously, she was a partner with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP's Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Distressed Investing Practice Group in Birmingham, Ala., where she represented debtors and creditors in bankruptcy cases, out-of-court workouts and restructurings and bankruptcy-related litigation. Judge Henderson clerked for Hon. Thomas B. Bennet and is listed as a 2014 Alabama Super Lawyers "Rising Star." She received her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Birmingham-Southern College in 2001 and her J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Alabama School of Law in 2004, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and a special works editor for the *Alabama Law Review*.

Jonathan Hickman is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal in Charlotte, N.C., and serves as co-head of the firm's North American Commercial Restructuring (NACR) practice for the Southern Region. He specializes in advising companies and senior lenders in distressed situations. Mr. Hickman's areas of concentration include the development and evaluation of strategic business plans, treasury and liquidity management, operational restructuring and bankruptcy filing preparation. With more than 25 years of management and corporate restructuring experience, he has advised numerous clients in both financial advisory and interim-management roles, including acting as CEO, CRO and COO. He has worked with clients across a wide range of industries, including distribution, manufacturing, automotive, retail, E&P, oilfield services, mining, financial services and construction. Mr. Hickman most recently served as CRO of GT Real Estate Holdings, leading the real estate holding company through a successful chapter 11 process. Prior to that, he served as financial advisor to Belk, Inc., advising this retailer through its successful pre-packaged bankruptcy; as CRO of a global manufacturer of heat transfer equipment, assisting the company through a successful out-of-court restructuring; and as CRO of GST AutoLeather, leading the global automotive supplier through a successful chapter 11 sale process. Mr. Hickman is a member of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) and has served on the board of the Carolinas Chapter of the TMA and on the board of directors of the Central Piedmont Community College Foundation. He received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University.

Andrew M. Hinkes is a partner with K&L Gates's Payments, Banking Regulation, and Consumer Financial Services group and co-chair of the firm's Digital Assets industry group in Miami. He also is an adjunct professor at the NYU Stern Business School and the NYU School of Law, where he teaches "Digital Currency, Blockchains, and the Future of the Financial Services Industry." Since 2019, Mr. Hinkes has been involved in law reform, serving as an adviser for the Uniform Law Commission Uniform Commercial Code and Emerging Technologies Digital Assets Working Group, and an Observer to the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law. He also is a co-chair of the ABA Business Section Uniform Commercial Code Emerging Technology Subcommittee. In 2020, Mr. Hinkes co-authored *Digital Assets and Blockchain Technology: U.S. Law and Regulation*, a leading textbook covering legal and regulatory approaches to digital assets and related technology, published by Elgar. He was nominated as one of *Coindesk's* Most Influential People in Blockchain in 2017. Mr. Hinkes received his A.B. *cum laude* in 2000 from Washington University in St. Louis and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2005 from the University of Miami School of Law.

James R. Irving is the managing partner of the Louisville, Ky., office of Dentons US and co-chairs its Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy practice group, where he focuses on bankruptcy and restructuring matters, purchasing distressed businesses and their assets, as well as commercial litigation. He has experience representing debtors, creditors' committees, foreign representatives in chapter 15 bankruptcy cases, liquidating trustees, and parties acquiring assets in distressed situations. Mr. Irving is an ABI director and is a member of ABI's inaugural 2017 class of 40 Under 40. He also was named one of *Louisville Business First's* Forty Under 40 in 2019 and was selected for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Program in 2018. In addition, Mr. Irving received the Chicago Bar Association's Exceptional Young Lawyer Award in 2013. His experience with matters of juvenile justice through his *pro bono* work has led to opportunities to teach CLEs and edit publications on the subject for the American Bar Association. He received his B.A. in 2005 in history and political science from Williams College and his J.D. in 2008 from Vanderbilt University Law School.

Diana Santos Johnson is an associate with Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey PLLC in Winston-Salem, N.C. She joined the firm in 2021 and is part of its bankruptcy team. Prior to joining WWBB, Ms. Johnson was a staff attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. She also served as an associate at Bolton Law Group, P.A., where she represented individual and small business debtors in bankruptcy proceedings in the Middle District of North Carolina. Ms. Johnson received her B.A. in Spanish from Wake Forest University, where she was a Volunteer Service Corps Member and received a Certificate in Spanish Interpreting, and her J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law, where she was a staff member of the *North Carolina Central Law Review*.

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 has served 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, CPA, CFF, CFE, CIRA is a founding partner of KapilaMukamal, LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and ABI's President. For more than 25 years, he has concentrated his efforts in

the areas of consulting in insolvency, fiduciary and creditors' rights matters. Mr. Kapila is a federal bankruptcy trustee and serves as an examiner, CRO, chapter 7 and 11 trustee, subchapter V trustee, liquidating trustee, corporate monitor (SEC appointments), and as a state and federal court-appointed receiver. He has been appointed in numerous matters in the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. As a trustee plaintiff, Mr. Kapila has managed complex litigation in significant cases. He advises and represents debtors, secured creditors and creditors' committees in formulating, analyzing and negotiating plans of reorganization. As a recognized expert in fraudulent conveyance, Ponzi schemes and insolvency issues, Mr. Kapila has provided expert testimony and litigation-support services to law firms involving complex insolvency issues and commercial damages. He has worked in conjunction with the SEC, FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office, and he has served both as a consultant and expert witness for litigation matters in state and federal courts. Mr. Kapila has spoken to various groups, including ABI, New York Law School, St. Thomas University Law School, and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT), Receiver's Forum, Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Turnaround Management Association, University of Miami School of Law, Florida International University School of Law, American Bar Association and the National Business Institute on topics related to insolvency, underperforming businesses and insolvency taxation. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a past-president and past-chairman of the Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors, for which he serves on its board of directors. Mr. Kapila has served on the advisory boards of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop and Caribbean Insolvency Symposium. He also co-authored ABI's *Fraud and Forensics: Piercing Through the Deception in a Commercial Fraud Case* (2015). Mr. Kapila received his M.B.A. in 1978 from Cranfield School of Management.

Pamela P. Keenan is a shareholder with Kirschbaum, Nanney, Keenan & Griffin, P.A., in Raleigh, N.C., where she practices in the areas of commercial/business litigation, creditor bankruptcy, and creditors' rights. She is licensed by both the North Carolina State Bar and the State Bar of Texas, and is admitted to practice in all North Carolina District Courts, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fourth and Fifth Circuits, the U.S. Tax Court, the U.S. Claims Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Keenan is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, the American Bar Association, ABI and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, and she has served in various capacities with both the North Carolina Bar Association's Bankruptcy Council and the North Carolina Creditors Bar Association. She has also served as a contributing editor for the *North Carolina Bankruptcy Manual* and as a member of the Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Ms. Keenan received her B.A. with highest honors from the University of Texas-Arlington and her J.D. from Southern Methodist University, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Barbara C. Leon is a managing attorney with Arkovich Law in Tampa, Fla., and has been a Florida licensed attorney for 20 years. Her practice includes bankruptcy, foreclosure defense, consumer collections litigation, debt defense and student loans. Ms. Leon previously worked in consumer bankruptcy practice for approximately five years, then spent some time in creditor practice before returning to bankruptcy. She then spent about another five years representing both individual and corporate debtors in chapters 7, 11 and 13 before joining Arkovich Law. Ms. Leon received her J.D. with honors from Stetson University College of Law in 2002, where she served as an editor on *Stetson's Law Review* and interned with the U.S. Attorney's office. She also clerked for a federal magistrate judge.

Brienne M. Letourneau is a partner in White & Case LLP's Global Commercial Litigation Practice in Chicago, where she strategically partners with businesses and institutions to help them achieve favorable outcomes in their most complex and high-stakes matters. She has experience representing clients in a variety of disputes, including fiduciary litigation (asset-management claims, director and officer liability and other corporate governance issues), class actions, contract disputes, business torts and professional liability. Ms. Letourneau has represented a wide array of public and private companies, including leading wealth-management and financial-services companies and multinational consumer-facing businesses, as well as prominent higher-education institutions, directors, officers, trustees, and other individual and corporate fiduciaries. She has broad experience representing clients as plaintiffs and defendants before state and federal courts and arbitral tribunals throughout the country, from pre-litigation dispute resolution and early dispositive motion practice to trial and appeal. She also has advised and defended clients in connection with government subpoenas and investigative demands. In 2022, *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* and *Chicago Lawyer* named Ms. Letourneau among the "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty to Watch." In 2021, she was recognized by *Crain's Chicago Business* as a "Rising Star in Law," and was named to *The American Lawyer's* list of 2021 Midwest Trailblazers. Ms. Letourneau maintains a *pro bono* practice representing indigent clients and nonprofit organizations in civil actions, and advising and counseling nonprofit organizations on legal issues that impact their institutional missions. She is a member of the Chicago Bar Association and the National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA). Ms. Letourneau received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Hon. Christopher M. Lopez is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Texas in Houston, appointed on Aug. 14, 2019. He previously was a member of the Business, Finance & Restructuring Group of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and focused on representations ranging from top global corporations in mega-restructurings to middle-market debtor and creditor representations. Judge Lopez lectures across the country on bankruptcy issues. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Judge Lopez currently serves as a council member of the State Bar of Texas Bankruptcy Law Section, an advisor to the State Bar of Texas Young Lawyers Committee, a member of the Nominations Committee for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, and a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference. He received his B.A. in psychology in 1996 from the University of Houston, his M.A. in religion in 1999 from Yale Divinity School and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 2003.

Jennifer B. Lyday is a partner at Waldrep Wall Babcock & Bailey PLLC in Winston-Salem, N.C. She has represented secured creditors, distressed businesses, unsecured creditors' committees and trustees in business bankruptcy cases. Ms. Lyday is currently on the panel of subchapter V chapter 11 trustees for the Middle District of North Carolina. She has served as Secretary of the Bankruptcy Section Council for the North Carolina Bar Association and has also chaired its Communications Committee, which is responsible for a blog for all North Carolina bankruptcy lawyers. Ms. Lyday has presented at many CLE programs sponsored by ABI and the Federal Bar Association, North Carolina Bar Association, International Women's Insolvency & Reorganization Confederation and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. She is a member of the North Carolina State Bar, the North Carolina Bar Association, the Turnaround Management Association, ABI (for which she serves as a Fourth Circuit *Volo* author) and the International Women's Insolvency & Reorganization Confederation (IWIRC) Carolinas Network, for which she serves on its Network Board. She also is vice chair of News on the International IWIRC Board. Ms. Lyday was named an ABI "40 Under 40" honoree in 2021 and received the *Pro Bono*

Award for the Bankruptcy Section of the North Carolina Bar Association in 2022. She received her B.A. in 2006 from Wake Forest University and her J.D. in 2009 from the William & Mary School of Law, where she was lead articles editor of the *William & Mary Law Journal* from 2008-09.

Nicholas Maietta, CIPP/US, CIPM, CIPT is an associate with King & Spalding LLP's Data, Privacy, and Security Practice in Washington, D.C. He focuses on privacy and security compliance and regularly advises clients on related regulatory and transactional matters, where he draws on previous experience working as a management consultant and from time spent in the technology sector and government. He also regularly helps clients prepare for, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity incidents. Mr. Maietta served as a Marine officer and is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He also chairs the board of USA Weightlifting, the national governing body for the sport of weightlifting in the U.S. Mr. Maietta received his B.S. in engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, his M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and his J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

Gary W. Marsh is a partner in the Atlanta office of Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP and is a veteran restructuring attorney focused on all aspects of bankruptcy, workouts, debtor and creditor law, and general commercial litigation. He represents debtors and creditors in chapter 11 cases, out-of-court restructurings and litigation. He also represents court-appointed receivers, examiners and trustees. Mr. Marsh's practice primarily involves representing financial institutions and servicers in and out of court in enforcing their rights and remedies. He also analyzes and defends against preference and fraudulent conveyance actions, represents buyers of assets out of bankruptcy, and represents landlords and other parties who have leases or contracts with debtors. Mr. Marsh has particular industry experience with health care, energy and real estate insolvencies. He also acts as a mediator and arbitrator in cases involving any type of dispute. Mr. Marsh is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights by the American Board of Certification, for which he has served as director, and is an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law, business litigation, creditors' rights and debtor/creditor law at Emory University School of Law. He is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, a director of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute and the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*, and a master of Emory University's Lamar Inn of Court. Mr. Marsh received his B.A. in 1982 from American University and his J.D. in 1985 from Emory University School of Law.

Jason S. Mazer is a founding shareholder with Cimo Mazer Mark PLLC in Miami, where he regularly represents individual, corporate and municipal policyholders, as well as third-party claimants in all manner of disputes with insurance carriers. Having tried insurance coverage and bad-faith cases to policyholder verdicts, he also routinely negotiates with insurance carriers to achieve cost-effective and client-focused outcomes. Mr. Mazer's industry experience includes financial, professional, health care, hospitality, manufacturing, retail, aviation, food services, construction, agriculture, media, entertainment and technology. Experienced in policyholder insurance recovery, insurance coverage litigation, insurer bad faith and unfair insurance practices, he also represents bankruptcy trustees, receivers and court-appointed fiduciaries in complex business litigation involving director and officer, error and omission, and commercial general liability insurers. Additionally, Mr. Mazer represents health care providers and hospitals in reimbursement disputes with commercial payors. In addition, he is a frequent teacher, accomplished author and media consultant on insurance law and unfair insurer practices. Mr. Mazer previously served as a volunteer in the Department of Justice Civil Rights Di-

vision, prosecuting pattern or practice employment discrimination cases. He then joined the Miami office of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, briefly representing management in labor and employment disputes. In October 1999, Mr. Mazer joined the newly-formed Ver Ploeg & Lumpkin, P.A. and was elected a shareholder in 2004. In 2018, he joined forces with longtime collaborators David C. Cimo and Marilee A. Mark to form Cimo Mazer Mark PLLC. Mr. Mazer received his B.A. from Tufts University in 1994 and his J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 1998, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

Hon. Pamela W. McAfee is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Raleigh, appointed on Jan. 7, 2022. Prior to taking the bench, she was a creditors' rights attorney, commercial litigator and mediator for 13 nonconsecutive years and served as a law clerk or career law clerk for four bankruptcy judges over 14 nonconsecutive years. Judge McAfee has spoken and written on a variety of bankruptcy topics, served on the Local Rules Committee for the bankruptcy court and the Local Civil Rules Subcommittee for the district court, and was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law and a moot court coach at Campbell Law School. In 2016, she was recognized by the North Carolina Bar Association with the Citizen Lawyer Award for her work with HopeLine, a suicide prevention hotline, and for her mentoring activities with law students and young lawyers. Judge McAfee received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

John W. McCollum, CFA is chief investment officer with Argent Financial Group in Atlanta, which he joined in 2015. He is responsible for overseeing investment strategy and portfolio management for Heritage Trust Co. and Argent Trust Co., for which he chairs its Investment Committee. He also supports corporate strategy and development activities for Argent. Mr. McCollum has more than 25 years of trust and investment experience and has served as a director and member of the investment committee and chief investment officer for Heritage Trust Co., an Argent Financial Group company based in Oklahoma City. Prior to Heritage, he served in multiple roles at Dell Computer Corp. and Dell Financial Services. Mr. McCollum received his Bachelor's degree in political science from Vanderbilt University and his M.B.A. from the University of Texas.

S. Alan McKnight, Jr., CFA is an executive vicepresident and serves as the chief investment officer for Regions Asset Management in Atlanta, where he is responsible for overall investment strategy, portfolio and risk management, and portfolio construction for approximately \$50BN in assets under management. In addition, he is responsible for the development and execution of investment policies, strategy and tactics, and is chairman of the company's Investment Working Group. Mr. McKnight serves as the chief spokesperson on portfolio strategy, asset allocation and overall markets for the bank with such media outlets as CNBC, Bloomberg, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN Money and Thomson Reuters. Prior to joining Regions in 2015, he was a managing director and head of Institutional Investments for SunTrust. He also served as the CIO for SunTrust Institutional Investment Advisors, as well as a portfolio manager with Equitable Asset Management and Morgan Stanley. Mr. McKnight is a member of the CFA Institute. He received his Bachelor's degree in economics from Washington and Lee University and his M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Michael D. Mueller is chair of the Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice at Williams Mullen in Richmond, Va. He focuses his practice on financial restructuring matters, insolvency law and dis-

tressed transactions. Mr. Mueller represents all types of creditors in commercial collection matters and insolvency proceedings, including bankruptcy, receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors. He represents lending institutions, secured creditors, creditors' committees, trustees, receivers, landlords, and asset- and debt-purchasers. Mr. Mueller has assisted financial institutions by structuring and implementing in-court and out-of-court debt restructuring. He has bankruptcy experience in claims prosecution, debtor-in-possession financing, dischargeability of debts, executory contracts and leases, fraudulent conveyances, involuntary petitions, officers' and directors' liability, plan confirmation and preference actions. He also has experience in lender liability and UCC matters in state and federal courts. Mr. Mueller's experience has spanned numerous industries, including retail, food and beverage, equipment manufacturing, real estate, energy, coal and car dealerships. His bankruptcy law work has been recognized by several publications, including *Virginia Super Lawyers* for Bankruptcy Law (2010-present), *Virginia Business* as a member of their "Legal Elite" for Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights (2005-present) and in *The Best Lawyers in America*© (2021-present). He previously served on the board of governors for the Virginia State Bar's Bankruptcy Law Section, and he is a former chair of the Richmond Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and the Virginia Bar Association's Bankruptcy Law Section. In addition, he is a former board member and president of the Virginia Business and Financial Turnaround Association. Before entering private practice, Mr. Mueller clerked for Hon. Ross W. Krumm, the former U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge in the Western District of Virginia. He received his B.S. *magna cum laude* from Edgewood College and a G.C.S. from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and his J.D. from the Washington & Lee University School of Law.

Tara E. Naful is special counsel with Best Law, P.A. in Charleston, S.C. and is a certified specialist in Bankruptcy–Debtor/Creditor Law by the South Carolina Supreme Court. She represents clients in out-of-court restructurings and workouts, and in insolvency-related matters in state and federal courts. Ms. Naful has been included in the *U.S. News* "Best Lawyers" ranking for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2011, and in 2022 she was recognized as Lawyer of the Year, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, in Columbia. She is an active member of the Carolina's Chapter of IWIRC and serves as an Associate Editor for the *ABI Journal*. Ms. Naful is a frequent author and speaker on bankruptcy, ethics, and other issues impacting insolvency professionals, and she is admitted to practice in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. She received her B.A. in 1989 from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the University of South Carolina in 1992.

Lisa M. Norman is a shareholder with Andrews Myers, P.C. in Houston, where her practice is centered on all aspects of commercial litigation, with an emphasis on commercial bankruptcy, financial litigation, contract disputes and construction law. She has trial experience in the Texas state courts, federal courts and arbitration, and has successfully argued appeals before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Texas Supreme Court and multiple Texas Courts of Appeals. Ms. Norman's commercial bankruptcy practice focuses on creditors' rights and acquisitions within the bankruptcy context, and she has managed cases from inception through final disposition, including depositions, briefs/motions, mediation, arbitration and trial. She also represents financial institutions in all aspects of business litigation, both as a plaintiff and a defendant, and as a creditor in bankruptcy proceedings, ensuring that property and financial interests are adequately protected, lien priority positions are retained, and the recovery of the maximum allowed by law is handled efficiently. Ms. Norman is Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and she has been recognized

as a “Top Lawyer” by *Houstonia* magazine and as a “Texas Rising Star” in *Texas Monthly*. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas’s Litigation, Construction and Bankruptcy Sections, the Houston Bar Association’s Commercial/Consumer Law, Construction Law and Bankruptcy Sections, and she is a Master of the Bench of the Moller/Foltz Inns of Court. She is also a member of the National Association of Credit Managers, the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Subcontractors Association. Ms. Norman received her B.A. in 1999 from the University of Texas at Austin and her J.D. in 2002 from the University of Houston College of Law.

W. Harrison Penn is an attorney with Penn Law Firm, LLC in Columbia, S.C., and is a certified specialist in Bankruptcy Law with the South Carolina Supreme Court, as well as a member of the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association and ABI. He regularly represents complex individual and business clients of varying sizes in chapters 7, 9, 11 and 12, including debtors, creditors, creditor committees, receivers, trustees and other plan-appointed representatives. Mr. Penn has represented clients in various small businesses and industries, including real estate developments, builders, landscape companies, golf courses, trucking companies, manufacturers, hospitals, doctors, grocery store chains, restaurants, churches and automobile dealers. He previously clerked for Hon. David R. Duncan in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Carolina. Mr. Penn is a 2015 Leadership Columbia graduate and volunteers his time serving as guardian *ad litem* for special needs youth, and through programs such as the South Carolina Bar’s *Pro Bono* Program, Ask-a-Lawyer and the South Carolina CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) program. Since being admitted to practice in 2008, he has represented clients in many large and complicated bankruptcies in the District of South Carolina. Mr. Penn received his B.A. in government in 2001 from Wofford College and his J.D. in 2008 from Charleston School of Law.

Edward J. Peterson, III is a partner with Johnson Pope Bokor Ruppell & Burns, LLP in Tampa, Fla., where he specializes in the representation of debtors and creditors in out-of-court workouts and bankruptcy cases and proceedings throughout the Southeast. He also has experience representing creditor committees and specializes in commercial litigation in all courts, including litigation involving directors and officers. Mr. Peterson is actively engaged in various representations in Alabama and Florida. In addition, he has represented both assignors and assignees in assignments for the benefit of creditors. Mr. Peterson appears regularly in state courts in connection with civil litigation arising out of loans secured by real estate in the Florida panhandle and elsewhere. He was president of the Turnaround Management Association of Florida and a past president of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, has published articles on bankruptcy issues, and has spoken on multiple occasions on insolvency issues in Florida and Alabama. Over the past three years, Mr. Peterson has filed numerous subchapter V cases. He received his B.A. in economics in 1995 from Kenyon College and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1999 from the University of Alabama, where he was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

John Rao is a senior attorney with the National Consumer Law Center, Inc. in Boston, where he focuses on consumer credit, mortgage-servicing and bankruptcy issues. He also has served as a panelist and instructor at numerous bankruptcy and consumer law conferences, has served as an expert witness in court cases, and has testified in Congress on consumer matters. Mr. Rao is a contributing author and editor of NCLC’s *Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice* and a co-author of NCLC’s *Mortgage Servicing and Loan Modifications, and Home Foreclosures*. He also is a contributing author to *Col-*

lier on Bankruptcy and the *Collier Bankruptcy Practice Guide*. Mr. Rao served as a member of the federal Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules from 2006-12, appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts. He also served as a commissioner on ABI's Commission of Consumer Bankruptcy from 2017-19. Mr. Rao is a conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the editorial board of *Collier on Bankruptcy*, a board member of the National Consumer Bankruptcy Rights Center, and a former board member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and ABI. In 2017, he received the Excellence in Education Award from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Mr. Rao is a graduate of Boston University and received his J.D. from the University of California.

Rebecca F. Redwine is a partner with Hendren, Redwine & Malone, PLLC in Raleigh, N.C., and focuses her practice on debtor representation in chapter 11 and chapter 7 bankruptcies for both businesses and individuals. She also counsels clients experiencing insolvency, assists in workouts, routinely serves as local counsel and is a certified mediator. Ms. Redwine has served as unsecured creditors' committee counsel and has been appointed as examiner and as a receiver in various proceedings. She is admitted to practice in the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina in the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Redwine serves on the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina and as chair of the Bankruptcy Law Specialty Committee for the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization. She holds various leadership roles with ABI, the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), the American Board of Certification and the North Carolina Bar Association. She is a frequent presenter at bankruptcy conferences and is a guest lecturer in bankruptcy classes at the University of North Carolina School of Law and Campbell University School of Law. Ms. Redwine earned a Phi Beta Kappa key from North Carolina State University, where she received her B.A. in 2004, and was an honor student at the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she received her J.D. in 2007.

Prof. Carla L. Reyes is an associate professor of law at SMU Dedman School of Law and a Fellow of the Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity at the SMU Lyle School of Engineering in Dallas. She is a nationally recognized leader on issues raised by the intersection of business law and blockchain technology. Prof. Reyes served as the chair of the Texas Work Group on Blockchain Matters from September 2021 through November 2022. She also was named an American Bar Foundation Fellow in June 2021 and as one of the Women of Legal Tech 2020, an honor bestowed by the American Bar Association Legal Technology Resource Center. Prof. Reyes currently serves as the associate research director of the Permanent Editorial Board of the UCC, the research director for the Uniform Law Commission's Technology Committee and an expert member of the UNIDROIT Work Group on Best Practices for Effective Enforcement, and she was an advisor to Joint ALI/ULC Drafting Committee on the Uniform Commercial Code and Emerging Technologies, as well as an expert member of the UNIDROIT Work Group on Digital Assets and Private Law. Prior to joining SMU Dedman School of Law, Prof. Reyes served Michigan State University College of Law as an assistant professor of law and director of the Center for Law, Technology & Innovation. Prior to teaching law, she was an associate in the Blockchain Technology and Digital Currency industry group at Perkins Coie LLP. Prof. Reyes contributes to blockchain technology initiatives at the Institute for CryptoCurrency and Contracts (IC3) as faculty, Stanford CodeX as a RegTrax Curator, MIT's Cryptoeconomic Systems program, the University College London's Blockchain Research Centre as a Research Associate and the American Bar Association. She received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Whitworth Univer-

sity, her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Duke University School of Law, her LL.M. in international and comparative law from Duke University School of Law, and her M.P.P. from Duke University.

Damien Riehl is vice president of Litigation Workflow & Analytics Content at vLex in Minneapolis, and has experience in complex litigation, digital forensics and software development. A coder since 1985 and for the web since 1995, he has clerked for the chief judges of state and federal courts, practiced in complex litigation for over a decade, and has led teams of cybersecurity and world-spanning digital forensics investigations as well as legal-software development. An appointee of the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Connected and Automated Vehicles, Mr. Riehl has helped recommend changes to Minnesota statutes, rules and policies, all related to connected and autonomous vehicles. As a leader of the legal-data standard SALI, he has expanded a taxonomy of 10,000 legal elements regarding the legal industry’s AI and data-analytics development. Previously, Mr. Riehl was with Fastcase, where he helped lead the design, development and expansion of the company’s various products, integrating AI-backed technologies to improve legal workflows and to power legal data analytics. He received his B.S. in music education from North Dakota State University and his J.D. from Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

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*.

Thomas E. Spahn is counsel with McGuireWoods in Tysons Corner, Va., and practices as a commercial litigator. He was selected as the 2013 and the 2020 metro-Washington DC “Lawyer of the Year” for “Bet the Company Litigation” by *The Best Lawyers in America*, and in 2018, *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* selected him for inclusion in the inaugural Virginia Lawyers Hall of Fame. Mr. Spahn has served on the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and he is a member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He has spoken at more than 2,200 CLE programs throughout the U.S. and in several foreign countries, and he has made available to the public more than 13,000 pages of his ethics and privilege materials. Mr. Spahn received his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from Yale University and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Richard A. Steadman, Jr. is senior attorney of Steadman Law Firm, P.A. in North Charleston, S.C. He focuses his practice primarily on chapter 7, 13 and subchapter V filings, but has had a wide range of experience in other fields of law through his more than 40 years of law practice. Mr. Steadman is a member of the South Carolina Bar and the South Carolina Bankruptcy Law Association, and he is a Master in the J. Bratton Davis Inn of Court. He received his undergraduate degree in 1976 from Wofford College and his J.D. in 1981 from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

J. Ellsworth Summers, Jr. is a partner with Burr & Forman LLP in Jacksonville, Fla., where he practices in the firm's Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy Practice Group. His practice focuses on assisting lenders in commercial loan litigation in bankruptcy, federal and state courts. Mr. Summers has experience with workouts, business reorganizations and liquidations, distressed-asset acquisitions, special counsel assignments and adversary proceedings. He has represented secured lenders, creditors' committees, local governments, trustees, trade creditors, landlords, unsecured creditors, bondholders, homeowners' associations, § 363 asset purchasers and other stakeholders in a variety of business chapter 11 cases. Mr. Summers has trial experience in federal and state court as a commercial litigator. He represents clients in complex commercial litigation, shareholder and partnership disputes, homeowner association disputes, tax disputes, contract litigation, receiverships, lender liability, commercial evictions, and other real estate-related litigation. In his business practice, Mr. Summers assists clients with purchasing and selling assets, and regularly advises on the impact of insolvency on complex financial transactions. He has appeared before state and federal courts in 13 states, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Virginia. Mr. Summers is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has routinely been named in *Florida Super Lawyers*, *Florida Legal Elite* and *Florida Best Lawyers*. Prior to private practice, he clerked for Hon. Stephen C. St. John, Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Summers received his B.A. *cum laude* from Hampden-Sydney College and his J.D. *cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law, where he was a member of the *Stetson Law Review*.

John A. Thomson, Jr. is special counsel with Adams and Reese LLP in Atlanta. He has advised clients on commercial litigation and bankruptcy matters for more than 30 years. Mr. Thomson represents clients in matters related to commercial finance and debtor/creditor issues. He has served in a broad range of roles in the bankruptcy courts, including counsel to secured financial institutions, indenture trustees, commercial trade creditors, life insurance companies, private-equity investors, and purchasers of distressed debt in all facets of commercial bankruptcies. Mr. Thomson has served as counsel to a number of unsecured creditors' committees, and served as a chapter 11 trustee for a health care operating company. His litigation work has included litigating matters in actions arising out of breach of contract, shareholder disputes, valuation of real and personal property collateral, the appointment of receivers, declaratory judgment actions related to bond issues, leases of commercial property, real estate development ventures, repossession of commercial collateral and execution of judgments. In addition to his litigation and transactional skills, Mr. Thomson is a graduate of the ABI's Mediation Training at St. John's University, and he is qualified as a mediator in disputes arising out of bankruptcy and creditors' rights matters. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a past president and chairman of the board of the Southeast Bankruptcy Law Institute, and the former chair of the Atlanta Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section from 2013-14. He also is a Master of the W. Homer Drake Inn of Court and a member of the Bankruptcy and Litigation Sections of the Georgia Bar Association, as well as a member of the ABI's Finance and Banking, real Estate and Asset Sales Committees. Mr. Thomson is listed in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring: Georgia (2019-22), *The Best Lawyers in America* for Banking and Finance Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency & Reorganization Law and *Georgia Super Lawyers* for Bankruptcy: Business, Business Litigation (2010-23). He received his A.B. in economics in 1981 from Davidson College and his J.D. in 1986 from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Patricia B. Tomasco is a partner in Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP's Houston and New York offices and has more than 30 years of experience solving corporate insolvency problems. She

represents debtors and creditors in some of the largest bankruptcy cases filed in the U.S. and in cross-border insolvency matters. Ms. Tomasco frequently represents clients in the energy, telecommunications and high-tech industries in both reorganizations and litigation. Her current and recent representations include counsel to Moby S.p.A in chapter 15 proceedings and litigation, Ad Hoc Tort Claimants Committee in *Alto Maipo SpA*; counsel to plaintiffs in *Northlight European Fundamental Credit Fund v. Intralot Capital Luxembourg, S.A.*, Certain Shareholders in *Grupo Aeromexico, S.A. de C.V.*, *Cinemex USA Holdings, Inc.* (lead counsel for chapter 11 debtors), Kingfisher Midstream, LLC in the chapter 11 cases of Alta Mesa Resources, Inc.; Ad Hoc Committee of Unsecured Bondholders in Sanchez Energy, Inc., Official Unsecured Creditors Committee of Halcon Resources, Inc.; Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in EXCO Resources, Inc.; counsel to the Ad Hoc Committee of First Lien Lenders in Vanguard Natural Resources, Inc.; and debtors' counsel in SH-130 Concession Co., LLC., Westmoreland Coal Co., iHeartMedia, Inc., Linn Energy LLC, Berry Petroleum, Midstates Petroleum Co., Inc., El Paso Children's Hospital, AF Global and Ameriforge Group, Inc., Light Tower Rentals, and equity sponsor in Francis' Drilling Fluids, Inc. Ms. Tomasco recently completed a three-year term as chair of the Complex Case Committee for the Southern District of Texas, a function created by Judges Jones and Isgur to review and improve complex case procedures and to provide a liaison between complex case practitioners and the courts. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers of America* and is listed in *Super Lawyers*. Ms. Tomasco was named Best Business Bankruptcy Lawyer by the *Austin Business Journal*. She is admitted to the New York and Texas Bars, as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Federal, Fifth and Sixth Circuits, the U.S. District Courts for the District of Columbia, the Eastern District of Michigan, the Southern District of New York, the District of Arizona, and the Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Districts of Texas, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Tomasco received her B.A. from Rice University and her J.D. from South Texas College of Law.

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.

Nicolette C. Vilmos is a partner in the Orlando and Tampa, Fla., offices of Berger Singerman LLP in the firm's Dispute Resolution and Business Regulatory Teams. She focuses her practice in the areas of complex business litigation, including bankruptcy, intellectual property, banking law, lender liability, shareholder and business disputes, real estate workouts, noncompete litigation and landlord/tenant matters. Ms. Vilmos's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice includes the representation of secured

lenders, purchasers of assets from troubled companies, fiduciaries, creditors' committees, and other stakeholders in multi-party disputes and reorganizations. In the area of intellectual property, she has litigation experience in state and federal courts and has represented clients in cases relating to patent infringement, trademark infringement, trade dress infringement, copyright infringement, anti-cybersquatting, theft of trade secrets, unfair competition, the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, deceptive and unfair trade practices, tortious interference, breach of contract and/or breach of restrictive covenants, and other related claims. Ms. Vilmos counsels clients on various privacy and data-security issues, from systemwide network intrusions and ransomware attacks to cyber extortion, fraudulent wire transfers, email account compromises, stolen computer hardware and employee misconduct. She is president of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation and a member of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop Advisory Board, the American Intellectual Property Law Association and the Federal Bar Association in Orlando. In addition, she is a graduate of Leadership Orlando, a member and mentor of the Central Florida Inns of Court, a visiting bankruptcy law professor at the FAMU School of Law and a real property adjunct professor at Valencia Community College. Ms. Vilmos has been listed in *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers from 2022-23, as a *National Law Review* Go-To Thought Leader in 2022, among America's Most Honored Lawyers in 2022, as one of Florida's Legal Elite by *Florida Trend Magazine* from 2021-22, in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Bankruptcy, and in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law in 2023. She is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and received the Women of Achievement Award from the Women's Executive Council of Orlando. Ms. Vilmos received her B.A. *cum laude* in 1998 from Stetson University and her J.D. *cum laude* in 2000 from Stetson University College of Law.

Matthew L. Warren is a finance partner in King & Spalding LLP's Chicago office, where he advises clients on restructuring matters with a particular emphasis on distressed debt and insolvency issues. He represents lenders and bondholders, as well as companies, in connection with restructuring and insolvency-related matters. Specifically, he helps clients navigate distressed-credit scenarios, including default planning and response strategies; out-of-court restructurings, including exchange offers, debt-to-equity conversions and rescue financing; chapter 11 proceedings, including prepackaged, prearranged and free-fall bankruptcies; distressed acquisitions and debtor-in-possession financings; and cross-border bankruptcies. Mr. Warren advises lenders and bondholders in maximizing recoverable value and helps distressed companies navigate through difficult circumstances. He is a member of ABI's 2019 class of "40 Under 40" emerging leaders. He also was recognized for his work in Bankruptcy and Restructuring by *Chambers USA* 2019, and *Turnarounds & Workouts* named him a 2018 Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyer. Mr. Warren is an ABI member, teaches as an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the DePaul College of Law, and regularly speaks and writes on bankruptcy topics. He received his B.S. *summa cum laude* from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Arizona.

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 serves on ABI's Board of Directors. She also is a past chair of ABI's Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop. Ms. Whaley is a member of the Northern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court's Bench and Bar Committee and served on the Executive Committee and co-chaired the Community Service Committee for the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. She is a past chair of the Atlanta Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section and the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Georgia. Ms.

Whaley served as president of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and of the GAWL Foundation. She has served on the State Bar of Georgia's Executive Committee, is a member of its board of governors and currently chairs its Investment Committee. Ms. Whaley is on the board of directors for the Association of Chapter 12 Trustees, and she is a member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and is their representative to the 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.

Rory D. Whelehan is the owner of Whelehan Law Firm, LLC in Greenville, S.C., where he focuses on all aspects of civil litigation, creditors' rights, debt restructuring, foreclosure, bankruptcy and insolvency. He is certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court commission on CLE and Specialization as a specialist in bankruptcy and debtor-creditor law. He also is also certified by the North Carolina State Board of Legal Specialization as a business bankruptcy law specialist and a consumer bankruptcy law specialist. Mr. Whelehan has spent his entire career focused in the bankruptcy, insolvency and creditors rights arena. He regularly appears in state, bankruptcy and federal courts in South Carolina and North Carolina, and has represented all constituents in chapter 7, chapter 11, chapter 12 and chapter 13 cases, including secured creditors, unsecured trade creditors, creditors' committees and debtors. Mr. Whelehan's representative clients include financial institutions, life insurance companies, trade creditors, landlords, bankruptcy trustees, and individual creditors and debtors. He also has represented litigants in bankruptcy appeals both at the federal district court level in North Carolina and has appeared at the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va. Moreover, he has experience in all facets of related insolvency litigation, including commercial collections, guaranty lawsuits, preference and fraudulent transfer defense, and state law foreclosure and receiverships. In addition, he is certified by the South Carolina Supreme Court Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification as a mediator and arbitrator, and he completed the mediation training course sponsored by ABI and St. John's University School of Law. Over the course of almost 30 years, Mr. Whelehan's insolvency experience has involved numerous financially distressed industries, including aviation, textile, asbestos, big-box retail and petroleum/convenience stores. In addition to his litigation work, he has provided advice and assistance in workouts and debt restructurings for various financial institutions and life insurance companies. He also has provided bankruptcy legal opinions in connection with various sophisticated financial transactions, including nonconsolidation, fraudulent transfer and automatic stay opinions. Mr. Whelehan's practice includes commercial debt collection and ancillary remedies, such as attachments, garnishments and the appointment of receivers. He received his B.A. and B.S. in 1986 *magna cum laude* with honors and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of South Carolina, and his J.D. in 1989 from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Harris B. Winsberg is a partner with Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP in Atlanta, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights, commercial finance, lender finance and financial services. He represents clients from a wide array of industries, including health care, real estate, retail, diamond and jewelry, food and beverage, energy, media, hospitality, transportation and financial services. Mr. Winsberg represents financial institutions, private credit funds, insurers, boards of directors, creditors and other parties in all aspects of corporate restructurings, including workouts, bankruptcies, corporate governance matters, distressed-asset sales and insolvency-related litigation. He has experience in a wide array of industries, including health care, real estate, retail, diamond and jewelry, food and beverage, energy, media, hospitality and transportation.

He also has experience in representing clients in mass tort bankruptcies. Mr. Winsberg is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and was listed as “Lawyer of the Year” in Bankruptcy and Creditor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law in 2023 in *The Best Lawyers in America*, and he was named in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring - Georgia from 2005-23. He has been a director of the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, a member of the editorial advisory board for the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Master of the Bench of the W. Homer Drake Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, an advisory board member of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*, and a past chair of the Georgia Bar’s Bankruptcy Section. Mr. Winsberg received his B.A. with honors from the University of Florida and his J.D. with honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

J. Ryan Yant is a shareholder with Carlton Fields, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., where he focuses on bankruptcy and creditors’ rights law. In bankruptcy, he predominantly represents creditors in all case aspects. Mr. Yant has a robust practice representing merchant cash advance providers inside and outside of bankruptcy court, with a special focus of pursuing nondischargeability actions relating to merchant cash advance agreements, having tried cases in both Florida and Georgia. Prior to joining Carlton Fields, he clerked for Hons. K. Rodney May and Roberta A. Colton in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida after beginning his practice as a debtor’s attorney with a focus on personal and corporate chapter 11 debtor representation. Mr. Yant has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* as one of its Ones to Watch for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2021. He received his B.S. *cum laude* in 1986 from the University of Florida, his M.B.A. with honors in 2013 from Stetson University and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2013 from Stetson University College of Law.