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2023 Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar

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.

Vincent F. Alexander, CFE is a partner in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP and a member of its Bankruptcy & Insolvency and Complex Business & Commercial Litigation practices. He has experience in bankruptcy reorganizations and liquidations, out-of-court restructurings, asset sales, and bankruptcy- and insolvency-related litigation. Mr. Alexander regularly represents debtors, equitholders, chapter 7 and liquidating trustees, and unsecured creditors' committees, as well as other creditors, in bankruptcy proceedings and related litigation. He also has experience successfully representing clients in complex litigation matters, including fraud, trade secret and restrictive covenants, breach of contract, unfair and deceptive trade practices, fiduciary issues, and sports and entertainment. Before becoming a lawyer, Mr. Alexander was a linebacker in the NFL with the New York Jets and Arizona Cardinals, and was a mortgage banker for a large national lender. He received his B.A. in economics and commerce in 2003 from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2009 from the University of Miami School of Law.

Stephenie B. Anthony is a founding member and the current managing member of Anthony & Partners, LLC, with offices located in Tampa and Bartow, Fla., and she is a trial lawyer focusing on creditors' rights, bankruptcy law and commercial litigation. She has represented lenders, fiduciaries and other parties-in-interest in chapter 11, 13 and 7 bankruptcy cases. In addition to general civil litigation, Ms. Anthony focuses on creditor/debtor litigation in breach-of-contract, foreclosure, replevin, lender-liability, and other loan-enforcement contexts. Her litigation experience includes representation in state and federal trial and appellate courts statewide. Ms. Anthony is a past president, chairman and secretary of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, having served on the Association's board for eight consecutive years. For two years following admission to the Florida Bar, she clerked for Hon. Alexander L. Paskay, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida. Ms. Anthony is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Middle, Northern and Southern Districts of Florida. She is a member of the Federal and Hillsborough County Bar Associations, the Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, ABI, the Central Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association and the Southwest Florida

Bankruptcy Professional Association. Ms. Anthony received her B.S. in finance/multinational business operations in 1994 from Florida State University and her J.D. in 1997 from Stetson University College of Law.

Paul J. Battista is a partner with Venable LLP in Miami, where he focuses his practice on complex commercial bankruptcy, financial restructuring and insolvency matters, both in and out of court, including bankruptcy-related litigation and transactional work. He regularly represents chapter 11 debtors in possession (DIP), creditors' committees, DIP lenders, purchasers of assets and trustees in large and complex restructurings, workouts, and bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings in Florida and throughout the U.S. Through his representations, Mr. Battista has gained significant bankruptcy- and insolvency-related experience in numerous types of businesses, and has been involved in most of the large bankruptcy cases filed in the Southern District of Florida and statewide. He also has developed substantial experience in the representation of franchisors in numerous franchisee bankruptcies around the country, and he has experience in litigating a wide variety of bankruptcy-related claims and issues at both the trial and appellate levels, including fraud claims, Ponzi schemes, professional negligence, bankruptcy avoidance actions and collection of judgments. As a complement to his bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice, Mr. Battista has represented lenders and borrowers in all aspects of secured lending. His background includes the representation of one of the nation's largest investment banking houses in the secondary mortgage market. Mr. Battista is admitted to practice in Florida, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and a *Chambers USA* Star Individual for 2022, and he has received Lawyer of the Year honors several times in *The Best Lawyers in America*. Mr. Battista is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his B.S. *magna cum laude* in accounting in 1983 from the University of Rhode Island and his J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1986 from Boston University School of Law.

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

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

Jake C. Blanchard is the managing attorney at Blanchard Law, P.C. in Largo, Fla., and focuses on bankruptcy law. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, where he served as a welder and firefighter. He was honorably discharged in March 2001. After completing his military service, Mr. Blanchard worked in collateral recovery to repossess collateral for a variety of lenders. As the owner of a well-regarded collateral-recovery firm in the Tampa Bay area for 10 years, he learned firsthand about the difficulties that often lead people to personal bankruptcy and business reorganization. When he decided to change his focus to the law, he knew that his knowledge in debt-collection procedures and property repossession would give him a firm foundation to assist his clients in reclaiming their financial lives. During law school, Mr. Blanchard was a judicial intern at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Tampa, Fla., and upon graduation became a partner at Reissman and Blanchard in Tampa, where he often assisted debtors in chapter 7, 13 and 11 bankruptcies, collection proceedings and foreclosures. He is licensed to practice in all Florida courts and in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Blanchard is the president of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association and BNI Success Masters, and is a former member of the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg West. He received his B.S. *summa cum laude* in management information services from the University of South Florida and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Stetson University College of Law, where he served as an articles and symposia editor for the *Stetson Law Review*.

Prof. Elizabeth Ippolito Boals teaches evidence, criminal law and a variety of advocacy courses, and is the director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy, at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla. Prior to joining the Stetson faculty in 2020, she taught at American University Washington College of Law for 15 years, serving in administrative positions that included assistant dean of part-time and online education, director of its Criminal Justice Practice and Policy Institute, and associate director of its Weinstein Trial Advocacy Program. Prof. Boals has published a variety of advocacy case files and books on criminal law and procedure and expert testimony. She is the recipient of multiple teaching and community leadership awards and is a longtime member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) teaching faculty. Prof. Boals lectures frequently both domestically and abroad on topics related to evidence, expert witness testimony, eyewitness identification and trial skills. Before transitioning to a full-time teaching position, she was a labor and employment litigation attorney for the U.S. Department of Commerce and in private practice. Prof. Boals began her legal career as a public defender in the Office of the Public Defender in Alexandria, Va., where she handled a felony caseload from trials in circuit court through appeals to the Virginia Court of Appeals. She received her B.S. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and her J.D. from George Mason University Antonin Scalia School of Law.

Scott Bomkamp is a trial attorney in the Orlando, Fla., office of the U.S. Trustee Program. He oversees bankruptcy cases under every chapter of the Bankruptcy Code to ensure compliance with the law and to prevent fraud and abuse. Recently, Mr. Bomkamp was the U.S. Trustee's lead counsel in the liquidation of the Stein Mart chain of retail clothing stores. He is a frequent speaker and writer on emerging topics in bankruptcy law and published an article in the September issue of the *ABI Journal* regarding the controversial practice of bifurcating chapter 7 attorney fees. Mr. Bomkamp supervises the Jacksonville, Fla., chapter 7 trustee panel and is a fixture in the Jacksonville bank-

ruptcy community. He received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington and clerked for Hon. Russ Kendig in the Northern District of Ohio.

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.

Edward J. Comey is the career law clerk to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael G. Williamson of the Middle District of Florida in Tampa. Before joining Judge Williamson’s chambers more than 10 years ago, he practiced commercial litigation and creditors’ rights for nearly a decade in the Tampa office of a national law firm. Mr. Comey has served as the editor of the *Hillsborough County Bar Association Lawyer* magazine and as the chair and vice chair of the *Florida Bar Journal/News* Editorial Board. He received his undergraduate degree *magna cum laude* from the University of South Florida and his J.D. with highest honors from the Florida State University College of Law, where he served as an articles editor for the *Florida State University Law Review*.

Hon. Caryl E. Delano is Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa, initially appointed on June 25, 2008, and named Chief Judge on October 1, 2019. She also was appointed Presiding Judge of the Fort Myers Division in July 2012. In 2022, Judge Delano was appointed by the Eleventh Circuit to second 14-year term as a bankruptcy judge. In 2022, she was appointed to the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Committee to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts for a three-year term beginning in 2023. Previously, Judge Delano practiced before the bankruptcy courts of the Central District of California for 14 years. In 1994, she returned to Tampa and most recently practiced law with the firm of Addison & Delano, P.A., where she concentrated her practice on bankruptcy and commercial litigation. Judge Delano has represented debtors and creditors in numerous chapter 11 cases and related adversary proceedings. She served as the liaison

judge to the Middle District of Florida's Local Rules Lawyers' Advisory Committee from 2011-20 and is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Federal Rules Advisory Committee. In 2017, Judge Delano received the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association's Alexander L. Paskay Professionalism Award. In addition, she is a former executive director and past-president of the J. Clifford Cheatwood American Inn of Court. Judge Delano received her B.A. in English *cum laude* in 1976 from the University of South Florida and her J.D. in 1979 from Indiana University School of Law, having completed her final year of law school at Emory University School of Law.

Kathleen L. DiSanto is a shareholder with Bush Ross, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., where she focuses her practice on bankruptcy and insolvency matters. She also is an experienced litigator in state and federal courts throughout Florida. Ms. DiSanto began her career as the first law clerk to Chief Judge Caryl E. Delano of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. Prior to joining Bush Ross, she practiced at boutique bankruptcy firm in Tampa. Ms. DiSanto regularly represents debtors and assists them in navigating the complexity of business bankruptcies. She has helped more than 30 chapter 11 debtors successfully reorganize, including many closely held family businesses and individuals. She also is experienced in representing creditors and trustees in the bankruptcy process and has specialized expertise in defending trustees on *Barton* doctrine issues. Ms. DiSanto has been Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification since 2014 and has held an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell since 2015. She also was the youngest president of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. Ms. DiSanto received her B.S. in 2005 from the University of Virginia and her J.D. in 2008 from Stetson University College of Law. During law school, she interned with Hon. Alexander L. Paskay.

Daniel Etlinger is a partner with Jennis Morse Etlinger in Tampa, Fla., where he focuses his practice on transactional representation, particularly in commercial bankruptcies, corporate law, financial services and real property law. He was the first attorney to confirm a subchapter V bankruptcy in the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Etlinger has authored several articles on bankruptcy matters, including "Credit Bids in Bankruptcy Real Estate Sales with Multiple Creditors" in the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar's *ActionLine* journal. In addition, he serves as a frequent presenter, including as a panelist at a Florida Institute of CPAs presentation titled, "Re-Imagine Your Future Under Subchapter V: A Chapter 11 Survival Tool," and at a Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association presentation titled, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About TBE* (*But Were Afraid to Ask)." Mr. Etlinger has earned Avvo's and Martindale-Hubbell's highest ratings, Superb and AV-Preeminent, respectively. He received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and his J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh.

James S. Feltman, CPA is a managing director in the Restructuring practice of Kroll, LLC in Miami, where his practice is focused on providing fiduciary, advisory consulting and expert witness testimony in the areas of insolvency, restructuring, money laundering, Ponzi schemes, asset-tracing and recovery, accounting and financial statement reporting issues, causes of action against officers, directors and third parties, securities fraud, misrepresentation, and hedging and trading in complex securities schemes. He has more than 30 years of experience in a broad range of litigation, forensic and investigative services, and he has led cross-border forensic and investigative engagements on behalf of U.S. and foreign government agencies and is an established expert in determining the

underlying fact pattern, establishing liability and determining damages in myriad engagements. Mr. Feltman has served as an appointed fiduciary with a branch of the U.S. Department of Justice for nearly 30 years. He also has been appointed as an advisor by both federal (U.S. district and U.S. bankruptcy) and state courts, served as an arbitrator and mediator, and has been appointed as a monitor by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC). He was named a Top 25 Consultant in the “Excellence in Client Service” category for 2015 by *Consulting Magazine*. Prior to joining Kroll, Mr. Feltman had more than 20 years of experience with Big 4 accounting firms, and was previously a partner at Mesirow Financial, Arthur Andersen LLP and KPMG LLP. He received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and his M.P.S. from Cornell University.

Lara Roeske Fernandez is a shareholder with Trenam Law in Tampa, Fla. She currently serves on the firm’s Executive Board and is a former practice group leader for the firm’s Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group. Ms. Fernandez is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and her clients include financial institutions, fiduciaries/trustees and private-equity groups in the areas of business reorganizations, trustee representation, bankruptcy litigation, commercial foreclosures and workouts, and loan modifications. Ms. Fernandez has served as a chapter 11 trustee and liquidation trustee. Prior to joining Trenam, she clerked for Hon. Alexander L. Paskay, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Emeritus of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, from 2001-04 and for a year after graduating from law school. Ms. Fernandez is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and listed in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers of America*, *Super Lawyers* and *Florida Super Lawyers*. She received both her B.A. and J.D. from Emory University.

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, 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.

Andrea S. Hartley is the chair of Akerman LLP’s Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group, in Miami. An experienced bankruptcy and creditors’ rights litigator, she counsels clients in the financial services, real estate, hospitality, restaurant, health care and retail sectors on business reorganizations and liquidations, assumption and rejection of leases/contracts, workouts, debt restructurings, assignments for the benefit of creditors, and creditors’ rights. She also has experience with fraudu-

lent conveyance and preferential transfer litigation. Ms. Hartley acts on behalf of corporate debtors, committees, lenders, secured and unsecured creditors, commercial landlords, suppliers, vendors, and purchasers of troubled companies and their assets, both in and out of bankruptcy court. She served as national chair of the 17,000-member Law Practice Division of the American Bar Association (ABA), and she is a past chair of the ABA Women Rainmakers and a Fellow of the ABA. She also served as only the third female president of the Dade County Bar Association in its then-95-year history. Ms. Hartley is admitted to practice in all Florida District Courts and in the U.S. Supreme Court. She received her B.S. in 1987 with honors from the University of Florida and her J.D. in 1990 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Andrew M. Hinkes is a partner with K&L Gates in Miami and co-chairs its Global Digital Assets, Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrencies practice. He also is an adjunct professor at the NYU Stern School of Business and the NYU School of Law, where since 2018 he has taught “Digital Currency, Blockchains, and the Future of the Financial Services Industry” to J.D./M.B.A. students. Since 2019, Mr. Hinkes has been involved in law reform focusing on digital assets, serving as an adviser for the Uniform Law Commission Uniform Commercial Code and Emerging Technologies Digital Assets Working Group, and as observer to the UNIDROIT Working Group on Digital Assets and Private Law. In 2020, he co-wrote *Digital Assets and Blockchain Technology: U.S. Law and Regulation*, a textbook covering U.S. legal and regulatory approaches to digital assets and related technology, published by Elgar. Mr. Hinkes is frequently quoted and cited in articles related to digital assets and blockchain technology, and regularly speaks at legal, industry, and academic conferences and symposia. 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.

Soneet R. Kapila, CPA, CFE, CFE, CIRA is a founding partner of KapilaMukamal, LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and ABI’s President-Elect 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.

Elena Paras Ketchum is a shareholder with the law firm of Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., and is heavily involved in the firm's insolvency, transactional and commercial litigation practices. In the insolvency arena, she is chiefly noted for her representation of debtors in possession in chapter 11 cases in such industries as trucking, manufacturing, construction, retail, restaurant, health care, printing and grocery. Ms. Ketchum has been lead counsel in successful out-of-court workouts of loans totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and she represents clients in negotiating and documenting such complicated transactions as workout and loan modification agreements and agreements related to asset sales. On the transactional side, she has represented numerous buyers and sellers in connection with complex stock and asset sales and borrowers and guarantors in commercial loan transactions. Ms. Ketchum is well versed in Chapter 727 of the Florida Statutes dealing with "Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors," having represented assignor and assignees. She previously was an assistant state attorney with the State Attorney's Office for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, where she was assigned to the Felony division. Ms. Ketchum currently serves on the Local Rules Lawyers Advisory Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, is a past chair of the District-Wide Steering Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, and is a past president of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association. She is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and listed in *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers*. Ms. Ketchum received her B.A. from Agnes Scott College and her J.D. in 1997 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Hon. Erik P. Kimball is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in West Palm Beach, appointed in 2008. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a member of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Department at Hale and Dorr (now WilmerHale) in the firm's Boston office, where he specialized in corporate bankruptcy, workouts and debt restructuring, and spent considerable time on *pro bono* representations of individual debtors. Judge Kimball left Hale and Dorr to become a vice president at Colonial Management Associates Inc., a Boston-based mutual fund advisor, where he oversaw all fixed-income defaults for the firm's municipal department. Thereafter, he was a shareholder with the Florida firm Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A., where his practice focused on representing institutional investors and indenture trustees in connection with defaults of publicly traded debt securities. He later returned to Boston as a vice president in the Investment Department at Columbia Management Advisors, an affiliate of Bank of America, where he supervised all fixed-income defaults and assisted in the management of its Municipal Department. From 2003 until his judicial appointment in 2008, Judge Kimball was a shareholder at Akerman Senterfitt in the firm's Orlando office, where he represented secured creditors, indenture trustees, institutional investors, corporate debtors and other parties in bankruptcy, receivership and debt-restructuring matters. Prior to his appointment, Judge Kimball was a member of the Board of Governors and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation of Municipal Analysts, an organization of more than 2,000 municipal credit analysts whose primary goal is to provide educational programs for municipal finance professionals. During his long association with the NFMA, he assisted in writing and presenting on numerous topics relevant to municipal finance. Judge Kimball is a recipient of the Denis Maguire *Pro Bono* Award of the Boston Bar Association. He received his his B.A. from

the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1987 and his J.D. from Boston College Law School in 1990.

Robert D.W. Landon, III is a shareholder with Kenny Nachwalter, P.A. in Miami and advocates for clients in the federal and state trial and appellate courts and in arbitration, as well as before government departments and regulators. Regardless of the forum, he advocates for decision-makers to interpret and apply the contracts, statutes and regulations that are critical to the client's business interests in a just manner. Mr. Landon focuses on the health care, financial services, real estate, hospitality, professional sports, film distribution and software development industries, including both publicly traded and privately held companies. He has chaired and co-chaired numerous court cases and arbitrations through trial and to final judgment and final award, including a federal court trial lasting 90 days with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake. The Florida Supreme Court recognized Mr. Landon for his *pro bono* service through the Eleventh Judicial Circuit's Put Something Back program. In addition, he has served on the Civil Procedure Rules Committee of the Florida Bar and on the Ad Hoc Committee of the Dade County Bar Association, which produced the first draft of the *Complex Business Litigation Rules of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit*. Mr. Landon is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* under Commercial Litigation. He received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School.

Angelina E. Lim is a partner with Johnson Pope Ruppel & Burns, LLP's Creditor/Debtor Rights Department in Tampa, Fla., where she handles all aspects of bankruptcy representation, such as creditors' rights, debtors' rights, chapter 11s, subchapter Vs, complex chapter 7s, foreclosure defense and prosecution, and other state court insolvency matters, including receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors. She has represented debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, assignees, assignors, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, and worked with all types, from individuals to large corporations and banking institutions. Previously, Ms. Lim practiced in New York with Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson and Dewey Ballantine, LLP, and she clerked for Bankruptcy Judges Michael G. Williamson in Tampa, Fla., and Cornelius Blackshear in the Southern District of New York. She is a member of the Florida, New York and New Jersey Bars, and she is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida, the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the District of New Jersey. Ms. Lim is a member of IWIRC, ABI, and the Asian Pacific American, Clearwater and Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Associations, and she has been listed as one of Florida's Legal Elite by *Florida Trend* magazine for many years. In 2021, she received a *Pro Bono* Award from the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit *Pro Bono* Committee. Ms. Lim received her B.S. in 1985 from the University of Southern California and her J.D. in 1993 with high honors from Rutgers University Law School, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif and served as executive editor of the *Women's Rights Law Reporter*.

Justin M. Luna is a partner and chairs the Bankruptcy Department of Latham, Luna, Eden & Beaudine, LLP in Orlando, Fla., and advises clients in restructuring matters across Florida and the southeast. He regularly represents public and private companies, significant secured creditors, investors and asset-purchasers in troubled company financings and restructuring transactions, including out-of-court workouts and formal insolvency proceedings. Mr. Luna is also a federal and Florida trial attorney who represents companies and individuals litigate fraudulent transfers, preferences, and complex commercial, banking and financial technology matters. He has advised participants in the

financial restructurings of: Caesars Entertainment Operating Co., Aeropostale Inc., Furniture Country Gallery, The Vue at Lake Eola, Gooding's Supermarkets, MGM Resorts LLC and many others. Mr. Luna has experience representing clients in a wide range of industries, including financial services, entertainment, hospitality, health care, retail, manufacturing, aviation, information technology, biomedical, real estate and logistics. He is AV-Rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been named a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers*, chosen as a Next Generation Participant by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and named as a finalist of the Top 40 Under 40 by the *Orlando Business Journal*. He also is a frequent speaker and author on a variety of topics across the bankruptcy and banking spectrum. Mr. Luna is a current board member for the Orlando City Foundation and the Middle District of Florida Bankruptcy *Pro Se* Clinic. He received his B.S. *magna cum laude* from the University of Florida, Warrington College of Business and his J.D. from the University of Florida, College of Law.

Aleida Martinez-Molina is a partner with AXS Law Group PLLC in Miami. After beginning her career in New York in the creditors' rights group of an AmLaw 100 international law firm, she returned to Florida to cast a wider net and further develop her own multifaceted practice. Through the years, Ms. Martinez-Molina has gained highly specialized experience in niche practices and industries, including hospitality, aviation and maritime law, which overlap with her core financial reorganization practice. In addition to her financial reorganization practice, she serves as one of six subchapter V trustees in the Southern District of Florida. She also acts as outside general counsel to various highly successful businesses in the hospitality and cruising sectors. Throughout her career, Ms. Martinez-Molina has represented foreign investors, foreign governments, government-owned entities and multinational corporations in cross-border disputes. She is fully bilingual in Spanish and English and communicates well in Portuguese and French. Ms. Martinez-Molina is a member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees' Membership Committee, a board member of Legal Services of Greater Miami and serves on its Audit and Budget Committee, and a member of Human Rights Watch-Miami, and the Cuban American and American Bar Associations. She received her A.B. from Princeton University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.

Hon. Catherine Peek McEwen is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida in Tampa, appointed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 22, 2005, and an adjunct professor at Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. She is the first female judge appointed in her district. Prior to becoming a judge, she was in private practice for almost 23 years in Tampa, concentrating on commercial litigation with an emphasis on representing parties in bankruptcy cases, and was a solo practitioner from 2001 until she was appointed to the bench. Judge McEwen was elected into the American Law Institute in 2012. Among her other honors are the Stetson University College of Law Distinguished Alumnus Award (2007), Hillsborough County Bar Association Jimmy Kynes *Pro Bono* Service Award (2008), the Stetson University College of Law J. Ben Watkins Award (2009), the Florida Association for Women Lawyers Leaders in the Law inaugural class designation (2010), the Tampa Bay Hispanic Bar Association's Luis "Tony" Cabassa Award (2012), the Hillsborough Community College Outstanding Alumnus Award (2012), the George Edgecomb Bar Association's Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award (2015), the inaugural Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award (2016), the Stetson Lawyers Alumni Association Ben C. Willard Award (2016), the University of South Florida Distinguished Alumna Award (2016) and the Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. Judge Don Castor Justice Award (2016). In 2017, she was appointed by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. to be the nonvoting bankruptcy judge observer

at the Judicial Conference of the U.S. for a two-year term ending Sept. 30, 2019. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Judge McEwen was a sportswriter from 1975-79 for the *Tampa Tribune* and the *Tampa Times*. She received her B.A. in political science from the University of South Florida in 1979 and her J.D. *cum laude* from Stetson University in 1982.

Hon. Mindy A. Mora is U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in West Palm Beach, appointed on April 6, 2018. She practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial finance, and securitized real estate finance and litigation from 1982-2018 prior to her appointment to the bench by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Mora is a Fellow of both the American College of Bankruptcy and the American College of Commercial Finance Attorneys. She previously chaired the Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, which represents the interests of more than 5,000 business lawyers within the State of Florida. Throughout much of her legal practice, she has been active in the development of Florida's commercial laws, most recently as a member of The Florida Bar Business Law Section task force that prepared draft Florida legislation adopting a modified version of the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act. Judge Mora is a member of NCBJ (National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges) and has served on its Technology, New Member and Education Committees. She also participates as a member of the Business Law Sections of both the American Bar Association and The Florida Bar, the Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of South Florida, and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Judge Mora regularly lectures on commercial law and bankruptcy topics to lawyers and other judges throughout the U.S. From 2018-20, Judge Mora served as the judicial chair of the Local Rules Committee, which promulgated the proposed amendments to the Local Rules for consideration by the bench of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. She received her B.B.A. from George Washington University in 1979 and her J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1982.

Nicole M. Noel is a shareholder at Kass Shuler, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., where she has been practicing in the fields of bankruptcy, creditors' rights and insolvency, real estate, consumer and business litigation since 2009. She heads the Bankruptcy practice group for the firm and handles cases throughout the state of Florida in all districts. Ms. Noel is a member of ABI, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association (TBBBA), The Florida Bar and the American Legal and Financial Network. She formerly chaired the Bankruptcy Practice Group for the American Legal and Financial Network (ALFN) and the Case Law Update Subcommittee for the Real Property Finance and Lending Committee of the Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section of the Florida Bar. Ms. Noel is the secretary for the TBBBA for the 2022-23 Bar year. She recently authored a chapter on bankruptcy in *Florida Foreclosure Law*, published by Fastcase. Ms. Noel is active in the community and is an adjunct professor at St. Petersburg College and Hillsborough Community College, teaching bankruptcy, business law and civil litigation. She participated in the 2016 NextGeneration program, held during the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ), and she was honored to become a Fellow for the Florida Bar Leadership Academy. In addition, she has been named one of ALFN's Junior Professionals and Executives Group (JPEG)'s standout young professionals to watch in 2016. Ms. Noel received her undergraduate degree from Florida State University and her M.B.A. and J.D. from Stetson University School of Business Administration and Stetson University College of Law, respectively.

Shirley R. Palumbo is a bankruptcy senior counsel and general counsel at NextEra Energy Resources, LLC in Juno Beach, Fla. She provides transactional structure and court representation on restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy on matters related to distressed investments. Ms. Palumbo represents businesses and individuals on bankruptcy-related issues of national or international scope on behalf of creditors, debtors, trustees, third-party purchasers and financial institutions. She also has knowledge of the cryptocurrency ecosystem and players involved. Ms. Palumbo is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and has received Martindale-Hubbell's highest ranking. She is a member of the Florida and Puerto Rico (federal) Bars and is admitted to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Palumbo is a member of ABI and INSOL, and she is a member of the Southern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association and the Judicial Liaison of the Florida Bar's Bankruptcy/UCC and Communications Committee. She received her J.D. from St. Thomas University and her LL.M. in international law from the University of Miami.

Leanne M. Prendergast is a partner with FisherBroyles, LLP in Jacksonville, Fla., and has more than 20 years of experience in commercial litigation and bankruptcy. She represents creditors, debtors, trustees, receivers and assignees at the trial and appellate levels. Ms. Prendergast practices in state and federal courts throughout Florida. She has earned the designation Certified E-Discovery Specialist from the Association of Certified E-Discovery Specialists and is a member of Women in E-Discovery. Ms. Prendergast is active in the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and is its immediate past chair of the Florida Board, as well as a four-time delegate to IWIRC's Annual International Leadership Conference. In 2016, she was recognized as an Unsung Shero by the Women's Center of Jacksonville. Ms. Prendergast received her J.D. from the University of Florida College of Law.

Brian G. Rich is a partner with Berger Singerman LLP in Tallahassee, Fla., and leads complex chapter 11 negotiations and out-of-court reorganizations. He has overseen numerous large-scale cases with claims ranging from \$100 million to over \$1.5 billion. Mr. Rich represents bankruptcy trustees in fraud-related cases where he fights for victims of Ponzi schemes and rampant real estate fraud. He also advises real estate developers in real estate workouts and restructurings and represents clients seeking to purchase assets from troubled entities and loan portfolios. During the most recent economic crisis, Mr. Rich devoted a substantial portion of his practice to representing developers and borrowers in out-of-court restructuring matters throughout Florida, which included loan negotiations, deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure and settlements of guarantee claims. He received his B.S. in business administration with a concentration in finance from Temple University and his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law.

Luis E. Rivera, II is a shareholder in GrayRobinson's Fort Myers, Fla., office and focuses his practice on complex business litigation, bankruptcy, creditors' rights and insolvency matters. He is one of only 10 attorneys in Florida who is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and one of only two court-appointed fiduciaries who administers chapter 7 bankruptcy cases in Southwest Florida. Mr. Rivera's bankruptcy experience includes the representation of lenders, individuals and financial institutions in both consumer (chapter 7 and 13) and chapter 11 reorganization cases, as well as involuntary and discharge proceedings. He also has experience in a variety of business and general civil litigation matters, including contract disputes, real property litigation, mortgage foreclosure, landlord/tenant disputes

and title insurance litigation. In addition to his work with clients, Mr. Rivera uses his financial and legal experience throughout his community and has most recently been appointed by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Loyola University New Orleans, where he was an Ignatian Scholar, and his J.D. from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*.

Dana L. Robbins is an associate with Burr & Forman LLP in Tampa, Fla., where she serves in its Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy Practice Group. She represents a diverse array of clients, including banking institutions, municipalities, real estate developers, title insurance groups and retail shopping centers in commercial bankruptcy cases, as well as in business litigation, commercial litigation, appeals and general civil litigation. Ms. Robbins' practice includes all aspects of corporate restructuring, bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings, including § 363 sales, and preference and fraudulent transfer litigation. Prior to joining Burr & Forman, she clerked for the Chief Judge Caryl E. Delano in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, where she assisted with complex bankruptcy and state law issues. She has also served as a trial court staff attorney in the Office of Court Counsel for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, where she advised circuit court judges on substantive and procedural issues in trial and appellate cases. Ms. Robbins is actively involved in several professional organizations, including serving on the boards of the Federal Bar Association's Tampa Bay Chapter, and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* as a "One to Watch" for Insurance Law since 2021, and for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Litigation - Banking and Finance for 2023, and she was listed as a *Florida Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" from 2021-22. Ms. Robbins received her B.S. from the University of Tampa, her M.B.A. from Stetson University and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law. She also studied abroad at the University of Oxford.

Hon. Peter D. Russin is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of Florida in Fort Lauderdale, appointed on Aug. 14, 2020. Prior to his appointment, he was co-founder of Meland Russin Budwick in 1993, a boutique commercial litigation and bankruptcy firm in Miami, where he routinely represented corporate debtors, secured lenders, creditors' committees and trustees in insolvency proceedings, as well as asset-purchasers in bankruptcy. He also counseled clients through out-of-court workouts and private debt restructuring. Judge Russin successfully prosecuted and defended avoidance actions, including preference and fraudulent conveyance actions, in state and federal courts, and he has written and lectured extensively on insolvency and commercial litigation topics. AV-rated Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, Judge Russin was listed in *Chambers USA* (2005-16), *Chambers & Partners* for creditors' rights, *The Best Lawyers in America*, as a Top Lawyer in the *South Florida Legal Guide*, and in *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite and *South Florida Super Lawyers*. he also was a Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediator. Throughout his career, Judge Russin has written and lectured extensively on insolvency and commercial litigation topics. He also is a past president of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida. Judge Russin received his B.A. with departmental honors in 1985 from Tulane University of Louisiana and his J.D. in 1988 from George Washington University Law School.

Jonathan A. Semach is an associate with the Law Offices of Buddy D. Ford, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., where he focuses on debtor representation. He has represented more than 100 chapter 11 debtors as either first or second chair. His clients have ranged from small mom-and-pop businesses to large multistate corporations with annual gross revenues in excess of \$20 million. Mr. Semach was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2008 and was selected as a *Super Lawyers* Rising Star in 2017 and 2018. Mr. Semach specializes in business and consumer bankruptcy, debtor/creditor rights, debt negotiation and commercial litigation. He is a member of ABI, the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar, the Hillsborough County Bar Association and the Florida Bar. Mr. Semach received his B.A. in 2005 *cum laude* in classical studies from the University of Florida, Gainesville and his J.D. *cum laude* in 2008 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Bradley S. Shraiberg is a founding partner of Shraiberg Page P.A. in Boca Raton, Fla., where he focuses on advising companies experiencing financial difficulties, purchasers of and investors in distressed companies, and lenders to and creditors of such companies. He also regularly advises officers and directors of companies involved in debt restructuring on matters relating to corporate governance and fiduciary duty. During his career, Mr. Shraiberg has represented retail, manufacturing, construction, aerospace and other companies requiring financial and operational restructuring. He has experience with complex reorganizations, and some of the companies that he has recently confirmed plans of reorganization for, or negotiated a structured, consensual dismissal, include Enclave at Hillsboro, LLC, Atlantic Coast Refining, Inc., Jade Winds Association, Inc., Tuscany Energy, LLC, Auburn Trace, Ltd. and Mile Marker, Inc. Mr. Shraiberg also represents national retailers, landlords and developers in their capacity as creditors within various insolvency proceedings, as well as their litigation associated with complex commercial matters, such as Office Depot, Miller-Coors, B/E Aerospace, KLX, Inc., Fiserv Securities, Anasca Homes, BBX Capital, Duffy's Sports Group and Sterling Development Corp. Due to the current economic conditions, a large portion of Mr. Shraiberg's clients are development companies and/or their principals. He has experience restructuring developers' financing and finding alternative financing and/or angel investors. He also has negotiated with all of the major financial institutions, and has amassed a network of investors that are interested in investing in or purchasing distressed assets. Mr. Shraiberg is a member of the Florida Bar and is licensed to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida. He is an active member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, ABI and the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida, for which he is a past director and the past chairman of the local rules committee. Mr. Shraiberg has been recognized as a top bankruptcy and restructuring lawyer by *Chambers & Partners USA* since 2011, and as a top bankruptcy lawyer by *Super Lawyers* since 2012 and *Florida Trend's* Legal Elite since 2011. He received his B.A. in 1994 from the University of Miami and his J.D. *cum laude* in 1997 from the University of Miami School of Law.

R. Scott Shuker is a bankruptcy partner with Shuker & Dorris, P.A. in Orlando, Fla., and practices primarily in the areas of bankruptcy and creditors' rights. He has represented corporate debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, asset-purchasers and trustees in bankruptcy cases of corporate and individual debtors. He also has represented several chapter 11 trustees in Ponzi scheme cases and has experience in fraudulent-transfer litigation. Prior to entering law school, Mr. Shuker was a corporate banking officer for Southeast Bank, N.A. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, was named the 2010 Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year (Orlando) by *The Best Lawyers in America* and ranked as a top bankruptcy attorney by *Chambers USA* for over

10 years. His notable representations include as debtor's attorney in the chapter 11 reorganization cases of Planet Hollywood International, Inc., Transit Group, Celebrity Resorts, Appliance Direct, Hudson's Furniture, FoodFirst Global Restaurants, Inc., DM World Transportation, Inc. and 1069 Restaurant Group, LLC. A Fellow in the Litigation Counsel of America, Mr. Shuker received his B.S. in finance in 1986 with high distinction from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. with high honors in 1993 from the University of Florida College of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Frank P. Terzo is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights and Health Law Practice of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where his practice is devoted to a wide range of insolvency matters, including the representation of corporate and consumer clients in complex workouts, bankruptcies, assignments for the benefit of creditors and receiverships. He also has also represented creditors' committees and chapter 11 and 7 trustees, and his practice encompasses both the prosecution and defense of all forms of complex bankruptcy litigation, including preferences, fraudulent transfers and complex contested matters. Over the last several years, Mr. Terzo has represented a significant bank syndication that had a secured claim against one of the largest Florida-based HMOs. The parent company operated Medicare Advantage HMOs and PFFSs in Florida, Texas and Nevada and generated over \$1 billion in revenue. His representation of the bank group produced a significant recovery, and funds are still being recovered through various sources, including state receivers and a liquidating trustee in bankruptcy court. Prior to practicing law, Mr. Terzo spent 18 years in the health care industry, successfully starting up, managing and operating various public companies. His experience in health care businesses has provided numerous opportunities to represent trustees and committees in hospital, nursing home, diagnostic center and HMO cases, as well as appointments as a patient care ombudsman throughout Florida. Because of his past experience in managing public companies and raising both debt and capital offerings, he has devoted much of his attention in the last several years to representation of both lending institutions and creditors' committees in all aspects of insolvency and workout matters, most recently in the health care and time-share/condominium fields. Mr. Terzo is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, named as a "Super Lawyer" by *Florida Super Lawyers* magazine, described as a "Top Attorney" in the *South Florida Legal Guide*, and listed in the 2009-2023 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America* and the 2012-2022 editions of *Chambers & Partners USA*. He currently serves on the Bankruptcy Faculty Advisory Board of St. John's University School of Law in New York and on the advisory boards of ABI's Caribbean Insolvency Symposium, Alexander L. Paskay Bankruptcy Seminar and Health Care Program. Mr. Terzo is a former adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at Nova Southeastern University School of Law. He received his B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and his J.D. with honors from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

Scott A. Underwood is an attorney with Underwood Murray PA in Tampa, Fla., and has experience in some of the most complex bankruptcy cases and distressed business situations. He has represented distressed businesses, chapter 11 debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bankruptcy trustees, creditors' committees, landlords, liquidating trustees and parties acquiring and selling assets from bankruptcy cases. Mr. Underwood's debtor-side representative experience crosses many industries. He has represented chapter 11 debtors in the health care industry, hospitality, real estate, utilities, waste-management, technology and manufacturing. In addition to representing debtors, he has represented large secured creditors, asset-purchasers, bondholders, debtor-in-possession lenders, trustees, business owners, creditors' committees and professional fiduciaries. His representative and transac-

tional bankruptcy experience measures in the billions of dollars. Beyond core chapter 11 matters, Mr. Underwood represents clients in various high-stakes insolvency related litigation matters. He has been involved in substantial director and officer litigation, bond disputes, technology products liability litigation and other commercial disputes. He also has experience with assignments for the benefit of creditors, having represented assignees, assignors, asset-purchasers and creditors in such proceedings throughout Florida. Mr. Underwood is a member of ABI (for which he served as past chair of its Real Estate Committee) and the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida and Business Law Section of the Florida Bar, where he is an active member of its Bankruptcy/UCC Committee and its study groups. A frequent speaker on bankruptcy topics, he has been listed in *Chambers USA* since 2012, in *Florida Super Lawyers* since 2009, as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Tampa in 2019, and as one of *Florida Trend Magazine's* Legal Elite since 2013. He was also selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2018, 2019 and 2020 editions) in Bankruptcy & Creditor Debtor Rights and Insolvency & Reorganization Law, and is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Underwood received his B.A. in 1998 from the University of Florida and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2003.

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

Aaron A. Wernick is a sole practitioner with Wernick Law, PLLC in Boca Raton and specializes primarily in chapter 11 debtor representation. He has successfully confirmed more than 95 percent of his chapter 11 reorganizations. Mr. Wernick is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification, and serves on its board of directors. He is licensed to practice in all federal courts in Florida, as well as the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He also is licensed to practice in California and Wisconsin and is admitted to the federal courts in California. Mr. Wernick is experienced in handling complex restructuring, insolvency and bankruptcy cases. He has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* as well as in local news sources on bankruptcy matters, and he has served on various moderating panels, most recently at the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees on the subject of secured transactions and the UCC. Mr. Wernick is listed in *Super Lawyers* and has a 10/10 rating on Avvo. After graduating from college, he was on the faculty at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, for a year, having previously studied Mandarin for four years. In law school, he was a teaching assistant, conducting classes for law students visiting from various Asian countries. Mr. Wernick then worked for

a private-equity group, specializing in the acquisition of distressed assets, where he discovered his passion for the bankruptcy world. After acting as a plaintiff's lawyer in a FINRA arbitration, where the brokerage firm filed chapter 11, he was hooked on the chapter 11 process. Mr. Wernick received his undergraduate degree *cum laude* in 1994 from the University of Pennsylvania and his J.D. in 1999 from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

J. Ryan Yant is a shareholder with Carlton Fields, P.A. in Tampa, Fla., where he focuses on bankruptcy and creditors' rights law, and he has substantial courtroom experience. He has represented both debtors and creditors in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 bankruptcies, and has handled associated contested matters and adversary proceedings, with an emphasis on personal and corporate chapter 11 debtor representation. In court, Mr. Yant has handled all aspects of client representation and case management from beginning to end, including hearings, depositions, mediations and negotiations with opposing parties. He also has drafted all documents necessary for representation, including complaints, answers, plans, disclosure statements, confirmation orders, motions, responses, objections, applications and proposed orders. Prior to joining Carlton Fields, Mr. Yant clerked for Hons. K. Rodney May and Roberta A. Colton of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* as one of its Ones to Watch, Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, from 2021–23. Mr. Yant 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.