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# Southwest Bankruptcy Conference 2021

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Hon. Martin R. Barash** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California in Woodland Hills and Santa Barbara, sworn in on March 26, 2015. He brings more than 20 years of legal experience to the bench. Prior to his appointment, Judge Barash had been a partner at Klee, Tuchin, Bogdanoff & Stern LLP in Los Angeles since 2001, where he counseled parties in chapter 11 cases and litigated chapter 7 and chapter 11 bankruptcy cases. He first joined the firm as an associate in 1999. Earlier in his career, Judge Barash worked as an associate of Stutman, Treister & Glatt P.C. in Los Angeles. He also has served as an adjunct professor of law at California State University, Northridge. Following law school, Judge Barash clerked for Hon. Procter R. Hug, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1992-93. He is a former ABI Board member, for which he served on its Education Committee, and he is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Financial Lawyers Conference. In addition, he is a judicial director of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum and a frequent panelist and lecturer on bankruptcy law. Judge Barash received his A.B. *magna cum laude* in 1989 from Princeton University and his J.D. in 1992 from the UCLA School of Law, where he served as member, editor, business manager and symposium editor of the *UCLA Law Review*.

**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 Taskforce on Veterans and Servicemembers Affairs, and he routinely volunteers and speaks at its seminars and other programs. On a local level, Mr. Berman is a member of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association and the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum. He also guest lectures at the University of Florida College of Law and Stetson University College of Law, both in the advanced bankruptcy courses. Additionally, Mr. Berman serves as the Judge Advocate and Parliamentarian to the Coronado Yacht Club in Coronado, Calif., and volunteers in providing *pro bono* bankruptcy and insolvency services and training for U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General officers and staff, along with representation of service members and their families in need. He received his B.S. in multinational business operations from Florida State University and his J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Jeffrey Bjork** is the global vice chair of the Restructuring and Special Situations Practice at Latham & Watkins in Los Angeles, where he represents public and private companies, creditors and investors in all aspects of restructuring. Widely recognized as a leading U.S. restructuring lawyer, he is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and was named one of the "Outstanding Restructuring Lawyers" for 2020 by *Turnarounds & Workouts*. With more than 20 years in practice, Mr. Bjork represents debtors, creditors, sponsors, boards of directors and investors in all aspects of restructuring distressed companies. He regularly advises companies on successful strategies to address mass-tort and legacy liabilities, including asbestos, environmental and product-related liabilities, and he has represented clients in numerous mass-tort bankruptcies. Mr. Bjork has been named a leading

restructuring lawyer by *IFLR1000* for Restructuring and Insolvency, and in the 2020 *Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America*, *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy Insolvency, *The International Who's Who for Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers* and *The Legal 500* for Municipal Bankruptcy, among others. He is a member of the Pepperdine University Board and a frequent lecturer, speaker and writer on restructuring, bankruptcy and insolvency topics. Mr. Bjork received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1995 from Pepperdine University and his J.D. with distinction from Emory University School of Law in 1998.

**Jacklyn Branby** is a judicial law clerk to Hon. Daniel P. Collins of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona in Phoenix. She received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 2012 and her J.D. from Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in 2020.

**Jason S. Brookner** is a partner with Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C. in Dallas and chair of its Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Department, where he represents and advises companies, buyers, creditors, trustees, committees, lenders and other constituents in all aspects of distressed, insolvency and restructuring scenarios. He has broad experience representing debtors, trustees, committees, individual creditors and sellers/purchasers of assets. Mr. Brookner has obtained successful outcomes in complex cases in many industries ranging from oil and gas, manufacturing, distribution and health care to poultry- and meat-processing, metals-trading and restaurants (including fast casual and quick-service). He has been listed in *Chambers & Partners USA* as one of the leading bankruptcy/restructuring lawyers in Texas every year since 2005. He also was recently recognized for his important role in the *Life Partners Holdings, Inc.* case, which was named the 2017 "Turnaround of the Year" in the large company category by the Turnaround Management Association. Mr. Brookner received his B.A. from the University of New York at Binghamton and his J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law, where he was the articles editor of the *Hofstra Property Law Journal*.

**Hon. Trish M. Brown** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Oregon in Portland, appointed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Dec. 3, 1999, and reappointed on Dec. 3, 2014. She previously was a shareholder with Farleigh, Wada & Witt, P.C. and a partner with Lane, Powell, Spears, Lubersky LLP. While in private practice, Judge Brown focused on bankruptcy and corporate reorganization, representing primarily creditors in all types of bankruptcies, defending preference and other avoidance actions and pursuing nondischargeable debts for creditors; loan workouts and foreclosures; and real estate transactions, and she also acted as a mediator and arbitrator in all aspects of debtor/creditor, real estate and contract disputes. She is licensed to practice in Oregon, Washington and Virginia, and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. Judge Brown served as treasurer of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2017-19 and is a member of the Oregon State Bar. She also has served as a Pro Bono Clinic speaker since 1997 and has given CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) presentations. In addition, she has been an editor and author of *Oregon State Bar CLE on Bankruptcy* (1989) and Supplements (1992 and 1995). Judge Brown received her B.S. in 1978 from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and her J.D. *cum laude* in 1981 from Washington and Lee University School of Law.

**Louis M. Bubala, III** is Of Counsel with the Kaempfer Crowell in Reno, Las Vegas and Carson City, Nev. He represents individuals and businesses in and out of bankruptcy throughout Nevada. Mr. Bubala became sponsorship chair for ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference in 2019 and a member of its advisory committee in 2016. He also co-chaired ABI's Consumer Conference in Las Vegas in 2013 and 2014. Previously, Mr. Bubala clerked for U.S. Magistrate Judge Valerie Cooke. Before law school, he was a reporter and editor in Indiana. While covering the courts, he got to know U.S. District Judge Gene Brooks, who was president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in 1978-79. He also interviewed Alan Dershowitz (who returned a call for a story about his client, Mike Tyson), Don King, Manute Bol and Dan Quayle. In his free time, Mr. Bubala is secretary of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and treasurer of the Nevada Outdoor Business Coalition. He received his B.A. in 2000 from Indiana University School of Journalism and his J.D. in 2004 from the University of Oregon School of Law.

**Grant L. Cartwright** is a shareholder with May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, P.C. in Phoenix and is a licensed attorney in Arizona, Delaware, New York and New Jersey. He represents debtors, creditors, landlords and financial institutions in complex chapter 11 reorganizations in various bankruptcy courts around the country. He also practices business litigation, representing companies, individuals and financial institutions in a variety of industries and fields. Mr. Cartwright has presented on various legal topics before professional associations and has authored many publications regarding bankruptcy. He is a past co-chair of ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee and a barrister member of the American Bankruptcy Inn of Court. Mr. Cartwright received his B.S. in 2001 from the University of California, Riverside, his J.D. in 2007 from Brooklyn Law School and his LL.M. in 2010 from St. John's University School of Law.

**Kathleen A. Cashman-Kramer** is Of Counsel with Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel, APLC in San Diego, where she practices in the areas of bankruptcy and other insolvency matters, as well as in commercial and real estate litigation. She has successfully tried matters in federal and state courts and participated in ADR proceedings before the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and other panels. Ms. Cashman-Kramer's representation in the bankruptcy court includes bankruptcy trustees, secured, priority and unsecured creditors, lessors, and bankruptcy debtors in commercial chapter 11, subchapter V and chapter 7 bankruptcy proceedings. She also served for four years as the staff attorney for one of the standing chapter 13 trustees for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California, and she represented title insurance companies as well as individual and corporate parties in business and real estate litigation. Having served on the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California since 1995, Ms. Cashman-Kramer has also served as a *pro tem* judge for the Small Claims Department of the San Diego Superior Court. She regularly presents for the local San Diego Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) affiliate and previously served on its Board of Directors from 2004-11. She served two three-year terms on the board of directors for the San Diego Bankruptcy Forum, including as president in 2003, secretary from 2001-02, treasurer in 1996 and vice president in 1997. Ms. Cashman-Kramer currently serves as the vice chair of San Diego County Bar Association's Bankruptcy Law Section, and has served as either the chair or the vice chair of its Bankruptcy Section since 1999. She also currently serves on the Insolvency Law and the Business Litigation Committees of the Business Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, and is a regular contributor of articles to the Business Litigation Committee's eBulletins. In addition, she has written numerous articles and authored materials for numerous programs on bankruptcy, real estate, and related issues. Ms. Cashman-Kramer is a mem-

ber of the California Bankruptcy Forum, American Bar Association, Massachusetts Bar Association and District of Columbia Bar Association. She was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1987, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1985 and the District of Columbia in 1993, and she is admitted to practice before all courts of the State of California, before the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and before the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern Districts of California. Ms. Cashman-Kramer received her B.A. in 1981 from Stonehill College and her J.D. in 1984 from New England School of Law.

**Dawn M. Cica** is a founding member of Carlyon Cica Chtd. in Las Vegas and has more than 30 years of experience working on transactions of all types, including transactional aspects of bankruptcy and creditors' rights. She represents creditors, committees, affiliated parties and debtors. Ms. Cica sits on ABI's Board of Directors and co-chairs its Financial Advisors and Investment Banking Committee, and she serves on the advisory board for ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference. She is also a Fellow in the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. Ms. Cica has been involved in most of the influential Nevada bankruptcies in the resort and gaming industry, and she is a former general counsel for a casino resort. She is also licensed in California and New York and especially enjoys collaborating with out-of-state counsel on Nevada issues. Ms. Cica has received numerous industry and peer recognitions, including the National M&A Advisory Award for Real Estate Deal of the Year for the Chapter 15 Sale of the Veris Gold Mine. She is routinely selected by her peers as a "Nevada Elite Lawyer" and as one of the "Top 50 Women Lawyers in the Mountain States" by *Super Lawyers*. She is also the former chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Nevada Bar, and has authored the chapter on bankruptcy in the *Real Estate Practice Manual*, published by the Real Estate Committee of the Nevada Bar. Ms. Cica received her B.S. in finance and B.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1984 and her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law in 1987, where she was a member of the *UCLA Law Review* and participated in a moot court.

**Hon. Scott C. Clarkson** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California in Santa Ana and Riverside, appointed on Jan. 20, 2011, and has also sat on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. Prior to his appointment, Judge Clarkson practiced bankruptcy law and bankruptcy litigation for more than 20 years in Los Angeles, and he served as chair of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section from 2008-09. He is a board member of the Orange County Federal Bar Association, and has lectured on ethics and civility for the annual Los Angeles Federal Bar Association Ethics Program. He was a member of the Virginia, District of Columbia and California bars. From 1977-82, Judge Clarkson was a legislative assistant to U.S. Congressman Harold L. Volkmer in Washington, D.C., and was assigned to the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, where he was a direct observer of and participant in the creation of the 1978 Bankruptcy Code in the House. He later clerked for Hon. William L. Hungate, U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. Judge Clarkson has also been an established documentary photographer in the U.S., Southeast and Central Asia, and South America for more than 20 years. He also traveled to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir in 2008-09, and Jordan and Israel in 2014, covering recent events in these regions of the world. Judge Clarkson received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University in Bloomington in 1979 and his J.D. from George Mason University School of Law in 1982.

**Scott B. Cohen** is a shareholder with Engelman Berger, PC in Phoenix and is a commercial bankruptcy attorney, primarily representing secured creditors and debtors in loan workouts, business turnarounds, chapter 11 reorganizations, bankruptcy litigation and commercial litigation. From 2011-12, he chaired the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Arizona. Mr. Cohen is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law with the American Board of Certification and sits on ABC's board of directors. He contributes a chapter for *Norton's Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (3rd ed.) and is an editor to the *Norton Bankruptcy Law Adviser*. Mr. Cohen co-authored "A Primer on the Valuation of Affordable Housing in Chapter 11," which was published in the *ABI Journal* (May 2013), and he has served as faculty at ABI's Annual Spring Meeting, ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference and the Norton Bankruptcy Litigation Institute. Mr. Cohen is the editor of the chapter "Bankruptcy in Construction Law" for the State Bar of Arizona's *Construction Law Manual*. In 2014, he served as a subject-matter expert to help reform Arizona's anti-deficiency laws, which resulted in HB 2018 and was published in *Arizona Attorney* in "An Armistice in the Fight for Anti-Deficiency Reform." Mr. Cohen is a member of the State Bars of Arizona and California. He received his B.A. in political science in 1989 and his J.D. with distinction in 1992 from the University of Iowa, where he was an articles editor with the *Iowa Law Review*.

**Hon. Daniel P. Collins** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona in Phoenix, appointed on Jan. 18, 2013. He served as chief judge from 2014-18. Previously, he was a shareholder with the law firm of Collins, May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, P.C. in downtown Phoenix, practicing primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial litigation and commercial transactions. Judge Collins serves on the Ninth Circuit's Bankruptcy Education Committee, is the education chair for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, will be NCBJ's President in 2022-23, is a member of ABI's Board of Directors, sits on ABI's Education Committee and Diversity Committee, is on the Board of the Phoenix Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is a member of the University of Arizona Law School's Board of Visitors. He also is a founding member of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Judge Collins received both his B.S. in finance and accounting in 1980 and his J.D. in 1983 from the University of Arizona.

**Jody A. Corrales** is a shareholder in the Tucson, Ariz., office of DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C. where she focuses her practice on bankruptcy and creditors' rights. She has extensive experience in bankruptcy law and has been appointed to serve as a subchapter V panel trustee for the District of Arizona. Ms. Corrales is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and is certified as a Bankruptcy Specialist by the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization. She was named to the 2020 Class of ABI's "40 Under 40" and has been recognized as a "Rising Star" in the Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law category of *Southwest Super Lawyers* since 2013, when she was nominated to participate in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) Next Generation Program. She currently serves on the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee following a stint as co-chair of the Arizona delegation of Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives. Ms. Corrales devotes considerable time to *pro bono* endeavors, frequently assisting self-represented litigants in bankruptcy court and federal district court. In 2014, she was awarded the inaugural Hon. Eileen W. Hollowell *Pro Bono* Attorney of the Year Award from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona. Ms. Corrales received her J.D. from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law.

**Hon. Natalie M. Cox** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, sworn in on Jan. 27, 2020. She previously had served as an Assistant U.S. Trustee in the Office of the U.S. Trustee in Nashville, Tenn., since April 2019, overseeing chapter 7 and 11 cases and supervising chapter 7 trustees. Judge Cox also gained vital insight as a trial attorney in the Office of the U.S. Trustee's field office in Wilmington, Del., where she managed and litigated chapter 11 cases. It was while Judge Cox engaged in private practice in Las Vegas as an associate, then partner, at Kolesar & Leathan, Chtd., and as an associate at Jolley, Urga, Wirth, Woodbury & Standish, that she developed an intense interest in bankruptcy practice. Judge Cox received her Bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn., and her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Nevada William S. Boyd School of Law.

**Brian L. Cumberland** is a managing director with Alvarez & Marsal Taxand, LLC in Dallas and leads the firm's Restructuring Compensation Practice. He assists with the development of compensation strategies, benchmarking compensation, annual incentive and long-term compensation programs to align with a company's business strategies and with consideration of the tax and accounting ramifications. Ms. Cumberland designs compensation programs for executives and members of a company's board of directors, Key Employee Incentive Programs (KEIPs) for insiders, Key Employee Retention Programs (KERPs) and Management Incentive Programs (MIPs). Prior to joining A&M, he led KPMG's Compensation and Benefits Group for the Southwest. Previously, he was with KPMG's National Tax Practice in Washington. Mr. Cumberland is a member of the American Bar Association and the Texas State Bar. He received his B.B.A. in business administration and finance from the University of Texas, his J.D. from St. Mary's School of Law and his LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Denver.

**Caroline R. Djang** is a partner in Best Best & Krieger LLP's Business practice group in Irvine, Calif. She is the chief bankruptcy counsel and leads the firm's Bankruptcy practice. Ms. Djang practices in the areas of insolvency, bankruptcy and litigation. She represents debtors, creditors and trustees on contested matters and in adversary proceedings. Ms. Djang is a certified mediator and is serving by appointment to the Bankruptcy Mediation Program Panel for the U.S. Central District of California Bankruptcy Court. She is also an at-large member of the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee and the president-elect of the Orange County Bar Association Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. Prior to joining BB&K, Ms. Djang was a partner at Rutan & Tucker, LLP. Before entering private practice, she was a judicial law clerk at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for seven years, clerking for U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Ellen Carroll, Vincent P. Zurzolo, Sheri Bluebond and Richard M. Neiter. She is admitted to practice in all of the U.S. District Courts in California. Ms. Djang received her B.A. in English and history from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.

**Matt Foster** is a managing director and founding partner of Sonoran Capital Advisors in Mesa, Ariz. Prior to founding Sonoran in 2017, he worked as a director for international insolvency firm KRYG Global, and before that he worked for another restructuring boutique, Odyssey Capital Group. Mr. Foster began his finance career in private equity working for Citizens Capital, Inc. (CCI), the private equity arm of RBS Citizens Bank. He oversaw CCI's interests in its private-equity portfolio consisting of investments in over a dozen private companies. Since that time, Mr. Foster has been involved in a wide range of restructuring engagements, including out-of-court restructurings, chapter 11 re-

structurings, litigation support and solvency. He has served in multiple CRO, CFO, financial advisor and investment banking positions across various industries. In the past 12 months, he's been engaged as the CRO of an oilfield services company, CRO of a cryptocurrency bank, and financial advisor to a land development and mining company. Mr. Foster received his B.S. in finance from the University of Utah and his M.B.A. from Northeastern University.

**Craig S. Ganz** is a partner with Ballard Spahr LLP in Phoenix and Los Angeles, and co-leads its Non-Bank Lending Team in the firm's Banking and Financial Services Industry Group. He is focused primarily in the areas of real property, restaurant/hospitality, and finance/banking law. His experience also encompasses significant trial work on both the state and federal levels. Recently, Mr. Ganz has focused his efforts on assisting clients with (COVID-19-related) distressed asset workouts on the banking and real estate side. As it relates to his real estate and finance practice, he frequently counsels clients on strategies ranging from asset acquisition and dispositions to leveraged transactions on both the buy and sell side. He often consults with private-equity groups, REITs, hotel operators and family offices to establish internal and external strategies in order to implement a formal protocol to manage the transactional-side acquisition and disposition processes. He also handles pre-litigation workouts for financial institutions and various real estate entities as it relates to distressed-asset scenarios. On the litigation front, Mr. Ganz defends and prosecutes actions on behalf of corporate clients, including hotels, REITs, private-equity groups and commercial real estate entities, along with balance-sheet and nontraditional lenders and borrowers. These litigation matters typically involve distressed assets, lender-liability claims, fraud actions, securities law violations, RICO actions, enforcement of real estate leases, broker commissions, enforcement of real property purchase agreements, enforcement of commercial contract guarantees, deficiency actions, loan default actions, garnishments, judgment enforcement proceedings and fraudulent transfer actions. In his reorganization practice, he guides clients in prominent retail bankruptcy proceedings. He also represents corporate creditors and debtors, advising clients on debtor financing issues, § 363 asset purchases, avoidance and preference actions, stay proceedings and claim analysis. In addition, he actively manages the national bankruptcy portfolios of several publicly traded clients and conducts in-house training for finance departments in order to eliminate or reduce insolvency risk. Mr. Ganz regularly represents creditors' committees and counsels clients on receivership-related issues. He received his B.A. in 1997 from the University of Arizona and his J.D. in 2001 from Southwestern Law School.

**Philip J. Giles** is a partner-member of the law firm of Allen Barnes & Jones, PLC, a Phoenix-based bankruptcy firm. He regularly serves as counsel for commercial and consumer debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, trustees and other parties-in-interest in all chapters of bankruptcy proceedings, including trials and appeals. In addition to his bankruptcy practice, Mr. Giles maintains a commercial litigation practice focused on debtor/creditor and business disputes, and represents receivers in state court matters. He is a certified bankruptcy specialist with the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization, has been rated by his peers as AV-Preeminent, and has been recognized as a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" every year since 2017. Mr. Giles is licensed to practice in the states of Arizona and California. He received his B.S. in 2007 from Arizona State University and his J.D. in 2010 from Thomas Jefferson School of Law, where he was a member of the Moot Court Honors Society, a competitor in the 18th Annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition in 2010 and an Alternative Dispute Resolution Team member and competitor from 2007-10, and he attended the San Diego Inn of Court College of Advocacy and Evidence Clinic in 2013.

**Michael J. Gomez** is a shareholder with Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C. in Fresno, Calif., and manages the firm's Central California office. He is an AV-rated lawyer who focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy, debtor and creditor rights, commercial litigation and business litigation; debt-workout negotiations, restructuring and the documentation of commercial lending transactions; and personal property and real estate secured creditors. Mr. Gomez has represented various entities, including debtors, creditors' committees, hedge funds, indenture trustees, equipment lessors, receivers, landlords, bankruptcy trustees, judgment creditors, private lenders and institutional lenders in out-of-court workouts, federal and state court litigation, and chapters 7, 9, 11, 12 and 13 bankruptcy cases. He routinely moderates and speaks at educational presentations before clients and trade groups concerning bankruptcy, enforcing judgments, financing distressed borrowers and agricultural lending issues. Mr. Gomez received his B.A. with honors in economics from the University of California at Berkeley and his J.D. from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.

**Sasha M. Gurvitz** is a partner with KTBS Law LLP in Los Angeles and has represented clients in a variety of restructuring roles, both out of court and in chapter 11 cases in Delaware, New York, California and Nevada. She has represented several chapter 11 debtors in Delaware cases, including American Blue Ribbon Holdings, Woodbridge Group of Companies, Open Road Films, Pacific Sunwear of California, USA Discounters and Vestis Retail Group. Ms. Gurvitz also has experience representing asset-purchasers in § 363 sales, secured lenders, contract counterparties, landlords, equityholders, chapter 11 trustees, an environmental regulator and various other creditor constituencies. She also has represented liquidating trusts in multidistrict litigation and served as appellate counsel on appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Ms. Gurvitz has worked recently on several out of court restructurings, including in the health care and marijuana industries. She is a member of the State Bar of California, ABI and the Turnaround Management Association, for which she serves on the board of its Southern California chapter and as the chapter's Network of Women co-chair. Ms. Gurvitz received her undergraduate degree with highest honors from the University of California, Berkeley and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where she graduated tenth in her class, was admitted to the Order of the Coif and was awarded the 2013 American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence.

**Oren B. Haker** is a partner with Stoel Rives LLP in Portland, Ore., where he focuses on the representation of a wide range of parties in workouts, debt-restructurings, receiverships and bankruptcy cases, including corporate debtors, trade and financial creditors, creditors' committees, lessors, and strategic and financial investors acquiring assets of troubled companies. His experience includes pre bankruptcy planning, including advising directors and officers on insolvency issues, and exploring out-of-court and nonbankruptcy options in the first instance. In bankruptcy cases, Mr. Haker's experience includes cash-collateral and DIP-financing matters, intercreditor disputes, reclamation and § 503(b)(9) issues, bankruptcy sales under § 363, chapter 11 plan and post-confirmation trust formation issues, fraudulent transfer and preference litigation, and the application of the safe-harbor provisions of the Bankruptcy Code. During the 2008 financial crisis, he was a member of the legal team advising President Obama's Auto Task Force in the General Motors, Chrysler and Delphi Automotive chapter 11 cases. More recently, he has advised Oregon municipalities on public pension matters and local nonprofits and businesses with operational and financial distress. Prior to joining the firm in 2012, Mr. Haker practiced business bankruptcy law in New York City, including with the business finance and restructuring departments of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. He received his B.A. in history in 1996 from Rice University and his J.D.

in 2003 from Columbia Law School in 2003, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and served on the *Columbia Law Review*.

**Hon. Harlin DeWayne Hale** is Chief U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Texas in Dallas, appointed in November 2002. He previously worked at Strasburger & Price before opening a boutique firm, where he became well versed in bankruptcy law. Two years before his judicial appointment, Judge Hale was a regional partner in charge of the bankruptcy practice at Baker & McKenzie in Dallas. He is a member of the Texas, Louisiana, American and Dallas Bar Associations, the Dallas Bankruptcy Bar Association, and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Hale received his undergraduate degree and J.D. from Louisiana State University, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif and an editor of its law review.

**Ira L. Herman** is a partner with Blank Rome LLP in its New York office, where he concentrates his practice on distressed public debt issues, insolvency matters involving upstream and midstream oil and gas companies, and distressed M&A. He regularly counsels lenders and other constituencies regarding bankruptcy risk, including with regard to intercreditor issues. Additionally, he advises financially distressed entities and their management on restructuring and bankruptcy issues, in and out of court, including corporate governance issues. Mr. Herman is a court-appointed mediator, and he has facilitated the resolution of controversies involving U.S. and non-U.S. parties concerning bankruptcy and commercial law issues. In 2017, he was appointed to the *Bankruptcy Law360* editorial advisory board. He also authored “Anticipating and Managing Bankruptcy Risk,” a series of articles prepared for the Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy module of *Lexis Practice Advisor*, and chapter 28, titled “Bankruptcy,” in the treatise *Negotiating and Drafting Office Leases* (2017 Law Journal Press). Mr. Herman received his B.A. in political science *cum laude* from Yeshiva University in 1979, where he served as editor-in-chief of *The Polis*, a political science journal, and his J.D. *cum laude* with distinction from Boston University School of Law in 1982, where he served as an editor of the *Boston University International Law Journal*.

**Hon. Mary Jo Heston** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Washington in Tacoma, appointed on Jan. 31, 2017. Previously, she was a shareholder at the Seattle law firm of Lane Powell PC, where her practice involved commercial litigation and transactional matters with an emphasis on business reorganizations, international insolvency and the acquisition of troubled businesses and assets. Between 1988 and 1993, Judge Heston served as the first Region 18 U.S. Trustee, overseeing bankruptcy cases and fiduciaries in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana. She also is a former law clerk to a federal district court judge and a bankruptcy judge and a former estate administrator of the federal bankruptcy court. Judge Heston taught bankruptcy courses for more than 20 years at both Seattle University School of Law and University of Washington Law School. She is a 2001 Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and an active participant in both professional organizations and community service organizations, and she currently serves or has served in leadership positions for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, INSOL International, the Washington State Bar Association’s Debtor Creditor Section, the Turnaround Management Association, CARE and CENTS. Judge Heston is a frequent international, national and regional speaker and author on topics including international insolvency issues, creditors’ rights issues, and commercial and consumer insolvency issues. Her recent community service efforts have focused on military and veterans’ financial and bankruptcy-related issues through her service on the *Pro Bono* Committee of

ABI's Veterans and Servicemembers Task Force. Judge Heston received her undergraduate degree *cum laude* from the University of Washington in 1975 and her J.D. *cum laude* from the Seattle University School of Law in 1980.

**Cody J. Jess** is a shareholder at Moyes, Sellers & Hendricks Ltd. in Phoenix, where his practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, commercial bankruptcy, creditors' rights and business law. Mr. Jess represents businesses, individuals, shareholders, members, officers and directors in complex commercial disputes, including prosecuting and defending breach-of-contract, fraud, business tort, business divorce, employment and intellectual property claims to finality in state, federal, bankruptcy and appellate courts, arbitrations and mediations. As part of his insolvency practice, Mr. Jess prosecutes and defends receiverships, advises on prejudgment remedies, conducts post-judgment enforcement and collection, and represents both debtors and secured and unsecured creditors in chapters 7, 11 and 15 and subchapter V. He conducts all manner of bankruptcy litigation, including prosecuting and defending preference actions, fraudulent-transfer claims, challenges to bankruptcy filings, discharge, plan confirmation, cash collateral, financing and acquisitions. He also serves as general outside counsel to businesses ranging from startups to well-established companies with annual revenues of upwards of \$100 million, and he counsels his business clients on matters ranging from secured transactions to restrictive covenant agreements. Mr. Jess has been listed in *Super Lawyers* since 2012, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2021. He is a member of the State Bar of Arizona's Bankruptcy and Trial Practice sections and ABI, and he is a barrister in the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. He also provides *pro bono* assistance to low-income persons and families through Community Legal Services' Volunteer Lawyers Program. Mr. Jess received his B.I.S. *summa cum laude* in political science and justice studies from Arizona State University and his J.D. also from Arizona State University, where he was a 2006 Willard H. Pedrick Scholar at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

**Tobias S. Keller** is a partner with Keller & Benvenuti LLP in San Francisco, where he counsels clients in a variety of industries dealing with financial distress, advising on dislocations arising from excessive leverage, uncontrolled litigation, or unanticipated employee or vendor problems, and the governance questions that arise in connection with those challenges. His recent representations include representation of the chapter 11 debtors in *PG&E Corp.* (Bankr. N.D. Cal.) and *Ravn Air Group* (Bankr. D. Del.); the investors and secured parties in cases including *Fisker Automotive* (Bankr. D. Del.) and *Sotera* (Bankr. S.D. Cal.); and purchasers in cases such as *Peninsula Airways* (Bank. D. Alaska) and *Imperial Toy* (Bankr. N.D. Cal.). Mr. Keller speaks regularly on governance, distressed mergers and acquisitions, and various restructuring topics. He is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and has been recognized as a leading lawyer in publications including *Chambers USA*. Mr. Keller received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1985 from Harvard College and his J.D. in 1990 from Stanford Law School.

**Jeannie Kim** is an associate in the Finance and Bankruptcy Practice Group in the Sheppard Mullin's San Francisco office. She represents corporate debtors-in-possession, official committees of unsecured creditors, chapter 11 trustees, asset-purchasers and individual creditors in all aspects of complex chapter 11 cases, related litigation, state and federal receivership cases, state insolvency proceedings and out-of-court workouts. She has also represented financial institutions, technology companies, commercial landlords and vendors as secured creditors, contract counterparties and ad-

ministrative creditors in insolvency proceedings. Ms. Kim has provided general legal counsel to commercial clients in a range of industries including technology, commercial leasing, entertainment, retail, hospitality, manufacturing and distribution, consumer products, alternative energy, mining, aviation and real estate development. She was featured as a “Southern California Rising Star” in *Super Lawyers* from 2013-16, and in 2017 was selected for the inaugural class of ABI’s “40 Under 40.” Ms. Kim received her B.A. in history from the University of California, Los Angeles a postgraduate diploma in International Political Thought from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.

**Hon. Christopher M. Klein** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, where he has been a judge since 1988, and he was a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit from 1998 until August 2008, serving as Chief Judge from 2007-08. He is admitted to the California, District of Columbia, Illinois and Massachusetts Bar Associations. After completing service in the U.S. Marine Corps as an artillery officer in Vietnam and judge advocate, Judge Klein was a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, in private practice with Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, and deputy general counsel-litigation of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation. In 1988, he was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of California. He was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in 1998 and served for 10 years. From 2000-07, Judge Klein was a member of Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence. His bankruptcy-related publications include “Principles of Preclusion and Estoppel in Bankruptcy Cases,” 79 *Am. Bankr. L.J.* 839 (2005); and “Bankruptcy Rules Made Easy (2001): A Guide to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that Apply in Bankruptcy,” 75 *Am. Bankr. L.J.* 35 (2001). Judge Klein received his B.A. and M.A. from Brown and his M.B.A. and J.D. from the University of Chicago, where he was executive editor of its law review.

**Jordan A. Kroop** is a corporate bankruptcy, restructuring, and reorganization attorney with Perkins Coie LLP in Phoenix, where he represents debtors, official committees, acquirers and significant creditors in chapter 11 matters involving publicly traded and privately held companies throughout the U.S. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and represents clients in such diverse industries as manufacturing, real estate development, construction, hospitality, food and beverage, gaming, health care and technology. Mr. Kroop represented the Russian Tea Room, the iconic Manhattan restaurant, in its chapter 11 filing, as well as the NHL’s Phoenix Coyotes as chapter 11 debtor’s counsel, leading the team to its eventual sale. He has also represented the Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks in reorganization matters. Mr. Kroop has represented debtor-sellers as well as strategic acquirers in chapter 11 asset sales throughout the country in transactions totaling several hundred million dollars. He teaches information privacy and bankruptcy topics as an adjunct professor of law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He also instructs at ABI’s Litigation Skills Symposium and has taught international commercial arbitration at the University of the Pacific’s McGeorge School of Law in Salzburg, Austria. Since 1998, Mr. Kroop has co-authored and regularly updated the two-volume treatise *Bankruptcy Litigation and Practice: A Practitioner’s Guide*, now in its fourth edition. He also co-authored a chapter on chapter 11 and sports franchises in the *Collier Guide to Chapter 11* (LexisNexis 2011, rev’d 2012, 2013) and co-authored *The Executive Guide to Corporate Bankruptcy* (Beard Books). In addition, he has authored dozens of articles in national publications and augments his writing with frequent panel and seminar presentations across the nation. He also co-chairs ABI’s Southwest Bankruptcy Confer-

ence. Mr. Kroop has been recognized for more than 10 years in *Southwest Super Lawyers* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, including as Lawyer of the Year in 2017. He received his A.B. *magna cum laude* from Brown University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia.

**Bart K. Larsen** is a partner with Shea Larsen in Las Vegas and has for more than 15 years primarily practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial litigation and commercial real estate, representing a wide range of local and national clients. He represents both creditors and debtors in all aspects of chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Larsen also has experience litigating complex UCC disputes and landlord/tenant issues. He played a key role in the drafting of Nevada's first commercial leasing statute enacted in 2011 and has testified before the Nevada legislature several times concerning amendments to Nevada's summary eviction and unlawful detainer statutes. Mr. Larsen is also experienced in representing borrowers and lenders in foreclosures, loan restructurings and lender-liability litigation. In addition to his bankruptcy and commercial litigation practices, Mr. Larsen regularly represents real estate brokers, property managers, mortgage brokers and other commercial lenders in licensing and compliance matters before the Nevada Real Estate Division, Nevada Mortgage Lending Division and the Nevada Financial Institutions Division. He has also volunteered time to serve as counsel to nonprofit organizations such as the Southern Nevada Chapter of NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association and the Family and Child Treatment Center of Southern Nevada. Mr. Larsen received his B.A. in accounting and economics from Utah State University in 2000 and his J.D. in 2003 from Brigham Young University J. Reuben Clark Law School.

**Hon. Mike K. Nakagawa** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge in the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, appointed in September 2006. He served as the Chief Bankruptcy Judge from October 2008-September 2015. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Nakagawa practiced in Sacramento primarily in the area of bankruptcy and business law. Before relocating to Nevada, he was an adjunct professor at both McGeorge School of Law and Lincoln Law School, where he taught bankruptcy law and reorganizations. He also was a member of the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission, which is responsible for administering the personnel system for the county. Judge Nakagawa teaches bankruptcy law, advanced bankruptcy law and remedies at the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has been a presenter at numerous continuing legal education programs for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ABI, the Norton Institutes on Bankruptcy Law, the California Bankruptcy Forum and other organizations. Judge Nakagawa received his B.A. from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., and his J.D. from the law school at the University of California at Davis, following which he clerked for the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

**Randy Nussbaum** is an attorney with Sacks Tierney P.A. in Scottsdale, Ariz., and has assisted individuals and businesses with complex bankruptcy protection (debtor and creditor), transaction and litigation matters for nearly 40 years. He has represented secured and unsecured creditors, surety companies, creditors' committees, lessors, professional athletes, doctors, lawyers, and trustees in chapter 7, 11 and 13 proceedings, including adversary actions (bankruptcy litigation). The cases have involved such diverse matters as real estate, construction, manufacturing, trucking, asset-based lending, bankruptcy related to divorce, and high-value and complex individual bankruptcies. Mr. Nussbaum is a Certified Bankruptcy Specialist by the Arizona Board of Legal Specialization and is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification. He has been

named to the *Super Lawyers* “Top 50” list of Arizona attorneys multiple times and has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* annually since 2010 and received its 2019 Bankruptcy “Lawyer of the Year” award in Scottsdale. Mr. Nussbaum is a 1990 graduate of Scottsdale Leadership and has volunteered for the organization for nearly 30 years, serves on its advisory board, and is a recipient of the prestigious Frank W. Hodges Alumni Achievement Award. He also served as a Sterling Awards Jurist for the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce and received the Chamber’s Volunteer of the Year Award for 2017. In 2018, he was inducted into the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame. Mr. Nussbaum received his B.A. *cum laude* and in 1977 his J.D. in 1980 from Arizona State University, graduating in the top 25 percent of his class.

**Nathaniel J. Palmer** is a partner at Reid Collins & Tsai LLP in Dallas, where he represents plaintiffs and defendants in high-stakes, complex commercial litigation, and regularly appears in federal and state courts across the nation in cases involving financial fraud, securities matters, professional/fiduciary liability, and cross-border financial litigation. He developed the legal theories that led to a \$287.5 million judgment against Credit Suisse, which the Dallas Court of Appeals recently affirmed. Mr. Palmer has experience handling cross-border matters, having worked on cases such as *Stanford International Bank*, *Suntech Power Holdings*, *American Pegasus SPC* and *Stewardship Credit Arbitrage Fund*. *Benchmark Litigation* recently named him in its 40 & Under Hot List, and for the last three years, *Texas Monthly* has named him a “Rising Star” in its Super Lawyers edition. Mr. Palmer received his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Wheaton College in Illinois and his J.D. with highest honors from the University of Texas School of Law, where he was a member of the *Texas Law Review*, named vice chancellor of the 2008 class and elected to the Order of the Coif.

**Cathy L. Reece** is a director in the Financial Restructuring Group at Fennemore Craig, P.C. in Phoenix. She has broad experience in commercial finance and real estate workouts and bankruptcies. Ms. Reece represented the committee and plan proponent and now represents the real estate liquidating entities of Mortgages Ltd., a hard-money lender with a \$900 million loan portfolio secured by real estate with thousands of investors. She represented the committee and joint plan proponent in the *Baptist Foundation of Arizona* cases, with over 13,000 creditors and \$650 million of liabilities; a municipality that is the owner and landlord of the arena in the *Coyotes Hockey* bankruptcies; the post-petition lender and ultimate buyer of the Nevada gold mines in the chapter 15 cross-border *Veris Gold USA* cases; and the indenture trustee of the bond financings in *America West* and the *Sun Valley Parkway* cases. Ms. Reece has represented secured lenders and unsecured creditors in such large chapter 11 cases as *MicroAge*, *Einstein Bagel*, *Boston Chicken*, *Foster Grant*, *UDC Homes* and in numerous real estate cases involving shopping centers, apartments, office buildings, golf courses, mines and health care facilities. She is a member of the American Law Institute and has served in several international officer positions with TMA Global. In addition, she is the treasurer of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers and was chair of the ABA’s Loan Workout Subcommittee. Ms. Reece is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Super Lawyers* and *Benchmark’s* “Top 250 Women in Litigation.” She is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell and is a Fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, and she is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law and admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Reece received her Bachelor’s degree in music with high distinction from the University of Arizona and her J.D. from Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, where she served as managing editor of the *Arizona State University Law Journal*. Following law school, she clerked for Hon. Sandra Day O’Connor at the Arizona Court of Appeals.

**Hon. Bridget E. Robb** is a Judge in the Nevada Second Judicial District Court in Reno and has been the Presiding Judge of the Family Division for most of the last five years. She began her private practice as an associate with a large Nevada firm, then in 1988 moved to Gordon & Silver, Ltd., becoming a shareholder in 1993. In 1995, she left to form the firm of Beesley & Peck, Ltd. and served as managing shareholder of the Beesley, Peck & Matteoni law firm from 1999-2006. On April 18, 2006, Gov. Kenny C. Guinn appointed Judge Robb to the Second Judicial District Court. She returned to private practice with Lewis & Roca in 2007, returning to the bench on Jan. 1, 2009. During her career, Judge Robb has worked to improve the legal profession and to protect clients and to foster the administration of justice in Nevada. She has volunteered her time and services to provide legal assistance to people with low incomes, to help victims of domestic violence and to work with both elementary and high school students regarding the Constitution and in competition classes such as Mock Trial and We the People. Judge Robb received her B.A. in English from the University of Nevada in 1984 and her J.D. *cum laude* from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1987.

**Hon. Paul Sala** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona in Phoenix, appointed on July 1, 2014. Previously, he practiced bankruptcy law in Phoenix for 26 years, the last 15 of which with Allen, Sala & Bayne, PLC, which he co-founded in 1999. Judge Sala's legal practice focused on representing individuals and companies in nonbankruptcy workouts and bankruptcy reorganizations. He also represented unsecured creditors' committees in many high-profile Arizona cases, including Dewey Ranch Hockey (Phoenix Coyotes), the Baptist Foundation of Arizona, Popular Stores and Sun Valley Waterbeds. In addition, he represented trustees in chapter 7 and 11 cases and was appointed in numerous cases to serve as a chapter 11 trustee and as a post-confirmation plan administrator. Judge Sala is a member of the State Bar of Arizona and was active in bar association activities. He was also a member of the President's Circle of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, was selected as a master in the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, and was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Southwest Super Lawyers* and *Arizona's Finest Lawyers*. Judge Sala received his B.S. in 1984 and his J.D. in 1987 from the University of Utah.

**Thomas J. Salerno** is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights practice at Stinson LLP in Phoenix, where he represents distressed companies, acquirers and creditors in financial restructurings and bankruptcy proceedings, pre- and post-bankruptcy workouts, and corporate recapitalizations. He works with clients from an array of industries, including casinos, resort hotels, sports teams, real estate, high-tech manufacturing, electricity generation, agribusiness, construction, health care, airlines and franchised fast-food operations. Mr. Salerno has represented parties in insolvency proceedings in 30 states and five countries. He has been involved in restructurings in the U.S., U.K., Germany, France, Switzerland, and the Czech and Slovak Republics. In addition, Mr. Salerno taught comparative international insolvency at the University of Salzburg and Gray's Inn School of Law in London, and is an adjunct professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law at Arizona State University, teaching bankruptcy litigation and advanced chapter 11 bankruptcy. He is also a regular guest lecturer at the Eller MBA Program for the University of Arizona. Mr. Salerno has served as an expert witness on U.S. insolvency law in litigation in Germany, and represented Coyote Hockey LLC, the owners of the Phoenix Coyotes of the National Hockey League (NHL), in historic bankruptcy proceedings that resulted in an unprecedented solution: the NHL purchasing one of its own teams for the first time in the league's 90-year history. He headed the U.S. delegation to the Czech Republic in advising the Czech Government in the historic revamping of its bankruptcy law, which took effect in January 2008, and he has also advised on revamping insolvency laws in the Domini-

can Republic and Costa Rica. Mr. Salerno is a member of the UNCITRAL working group on its Insolvency Law Reform Project, completed in early 2007. He is a former ABI Board and Executive Committee member, a past director of the American Board of Certification, a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, and a member of the Plan Issues Advisory Subcommittee for ABI's landmark Bankruptcy Review Commission. Mr. Salerno received his B.A. *summa cum laude* from Rutgers University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Notre Dame Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*.

**David B. Shemano** is president of ShemanoLaw in Los Angeles and has more than 25 years of experience as a business bankruptcy, restructuring and commercial litigation lawyer. Before forming ShemanoLaw in March 2018, he practiced at the prominent national law firms of Winston & Strawn, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe and Robins Kaplan, as well as Peitzman Weg. During his career, Mr. Shemano has represented chapter 11 debtors, creditors' committees, trustees, secured creditors and general unsecured creditors in all aspects of business bankruptcy and commercial litigation. He also has in-depth experience handling bankruptcy and restructuring matters related to real estate, entertainment and manufacturing. Among his recent matters are guiding DavidBarton Gym through its reorganization and emergence from chapter 11 protection, leading the § 363 sale of rights to *The Terminator* movie franchise in connection with Halcyon Holding Group's chapter 11 matter, and representing one of the largest owners of El Pollo Loco franchises in Southern California in its chapter 11 restructuring. Mr. Shemano is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and served as the president of the Financial Lawyers Conference. He frequently lectures at events presented by the Practising Law Institute, ABI, the Beverly Hills Bar Association and other organizations. Mr. Shemano received his B.A. *cum laude* in 1987 from the University of California at Santa Barbara and his J.D. *cum laude* in 1991 from Hastings College of the Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif.

**Howard J. Steinberg** is a shareholder in the Los Angeles office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, where he focuses his practice on representing debtors, creditors' committees, trustees, secured and unsecured creditors, and purchasers of assets in major cases involving public and private companies throughout the U.S. He has broad experience in out-of-court workouts and is often retained to litigate "bet-the-company" cases. He also has served as lead counsel in numerous bankruptcy court trials. Mr. Steinberg has devised creative litigation claims, and he and his team have received a number of awards for results achieved in their cases. In addition, he authored a three-volume treatise, *Bankruptcy Litigation*, published by Thomson Reuters. Mr. Steinberg is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section and Bankruptcy Committee, sits on the board of the Western Center on Law and Poverty, and is a member of the Century City Bar Association and the Association of Business Trial Lawyers Los Angeles. He received his B.A. *magna cum laude* in 1976 from the University of Massachusetts and his J.D. in 1979 from Boston College Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Uniform Commercial Code Reporter Digest*.

**Hon. David T. Thuma** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of New Mexico in Albuquerque, sworn in on Aug. 14, 2012. He previously practiced law in a large Indianapolis firm for five years before moving to New Mexico, where he focused on bankruptcy law and commercial litigation between 1989 and 2012. Judge Thuma received his undergraduate degree from the University of

Chicago in 1980 and his J.D. from Duke University in 1984; between college and law school, he worked briefly as a cowboy on a ranch near Mayer, Ariz.

**Theodore E. Tsekerides** is a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Litigation Department in New York, where he concentrates his practice in product liability/mass torts, complex commercial litigation and bankruptcy litigation matters, as well as risk avoidance counseling and strategy. He has more than 25 years of litigation and trial experience representing companies in high-stakes matters that threaten their reputations and businesses, and regularly serves as litigation counsel to trustees, debtors and creditors in bankruptcy proceedings and related disputes. Among other notable engagements, Mr. Tsekerides handled all major bankruptcy litigation for the PG&E debtors in its chapter 11 case, including proceedings against the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and matters involving hundreds of millions of dollars in claims, and he currently is lead bankruptcy litigation counsel for Johnson & Johnson in connection with the chapter 11 cases of its talc supplier, Imerys Talc America. Mr. Tsekerides' prior experience includes serving as lead litigation counsel in the Takata Corp. litigation and for the unsecured creditors' committees in the SunEdison, Enron, WorldCom and Loral Satellite bankruptcies, among many others. He also served as one of the lead attorneys representing Lend Lease in all aspects of the World Trade Center debris-removal litigation, which involved more than 10,000 claims alleging respiratory and other injuries as a result of the Ground Zero site cleanup; in that case, he was extensively involved in efforts that resulted in the passage of the Zadroga Act by Congress addressing the various claims and providing legal protections for contractors such as Lend Lease that assisted in the cleanup. Mr. Tsekerides received his B.A. in 1990 from Columbia University and his J.D. in 1993 from Brooklyn Law School.

**Nellwyn W. Voorhies** is president of Donlin, Recano & Company, Inc. in New York and has more than 25 years of experience in the restructuring legal community. She previously practiced at several large firms, including Levene, Neale, Bender, Rankin & Brill, LLP, Baker & McKenzie and Shepard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. Ms. Voorhies brings her legal expertise to the claims management industry, having been a director at Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC and vice president of Sales and Marketing at Omni. She worked on numerous chapter 11 cases as an attorney, including Daewoo Motor America, Stateline Hotel Inc., C&R Clothiers and Kenny Rogers Roasters. Ms. Voorhies serves on ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference advisory board, is active within the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee of its Business Law Section, and serves on the board of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Georgetown University and her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She also served as an extern to Hon. Leslie Tchaikovsky of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

**Lydia R. Webb** is a partner with Gray Reed & McGraw LLP in Dallas, where she focuses her practice on representing and advising debtors, creditors, committees and post-confirmation trustees in bankruptcy cases and other insolvency or restructuring scenarios. She has guided clients to successful results in complex cases before courts throughout Texas and many other states, including Oklahoma, Delaware and New York. Ms. Webb's cases span the oil and gas, health care, retail, manufacturing and restaurant businesses. She has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the fields of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2021 and in Bankruptcy Litigation for 2022, was selected to participate in the National Conference of

Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation program in 2019, and has been named a “Rising Star” by *Texas Super Lawyers* since 2018 -Ms. Webb is an ABI member and is social chair of the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers. She is also a member of the Dallas Bar Association’s Bankruptcy Section, The Hon. John C. Ford American Inn of Court and the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Ms. Webb received her B.B.A. *cum laude* in finance and economics from Baylor University in 2009 and her J.D. *cum laude* from Baylor University School of Law in 2012.

**Lindsy M. Weber** is an attorney with The Burgess Law Group in Phoenix, where she helps resolve bankruptcy and financial restructuring issues on behalf of chapter 11 debtors, committees, secured creditors or parties to bankruptcy litigation. Active in the bankruptcy community, she is a past board member of the Maricopa County Bar Association Bankruptcy Section and past president of the NextGen Emerging Leaders Board of the Turnaround Management Association’s Arizona Chapter. She also participated as a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges’ Next Generation program in 2017 and was a member of the 2019 class of ABI’s “40 Under 40” In addition to her time in the bankruptcy courts, Ms. Weber also assists clients with complex, commercial, probate and business litigation matters in both state and federal courts. She has been a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation since 2020, is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, and is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2019-21) and in *Southwest Super Lawyers* for 2020. In addition, she received the “Turnaround of the Year Award” by the Turnaround Management Association’s Arizona Chapter in 2012 and the Matheson Service Award in 2007, and she is on the *Pro Bono* Honor Roll with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona. Mr. Weber received her B.A. in business management with honors in 2001 from the University of Puget Sound and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law in 2007, where she was admitted to the Order of the Barristers and Order of the Coif, was a Pedrick Scholar, was a National Environmental Moot Court member and received the Editor’s Award in 2007 for her work on the *Arizona State University Law Journal*.

**Beth Jo Zeitzer** is the owner and designated broker of R.O.I. Properties, LLC in Phoenix and the owner of R.O.I. Asset Management Solutions. R.O.I. Properties is a full-service real estate brokerage firm that works with business owners, investors, property owners, lenders, corporate trustees and other fiduciaries regarding the management, marketing and sale of commercial, residential and land assets. In addition to serving as a real estate broker through R.O.I. AMS, Ms. Zeitzer is appointed by numerous courts as receiver, real estate special commissioner, special master, bankruptcy trustee and expert witness in real estate matters and legal proceedings. An attorney by training, she is a member of the State Bars of Arizona and California, and she is former corporate counsel and director of Commercial Properties for Del Webb Corp. Ms. Zeitzer was named one of the “50 Most Influential Women in Arizona Business” by *AZ Business* magazine. She is a past president of Arizona Commercial Real Estate Women, past president of the Turnaround Management Association, executive council member for the Real Property and Alternative Dispute Resolution ADR Sections of the State Bar of Arizona, director for the Arizona Private Lenders Association, and a member of Risk Management Association, Arizona Trustee Association, Valley Partnership, Urban Land Institute, California Receivers Forum, and other real estate and banking trade organizations. Ms. Zeitzer received her B.A. in general research with a real estate and marketing emphasis from the University of Arizona

and her J.D. from the University of San Diego Law School, where she was the research editor of its law review and received the Hahn Award for Excellence in Real Estate.