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# Southwest Bankruptcy Conference

## **Faculty Biographies**

**Valerie Bantner Peo** is a shareholder with Buchalter, PC in San Francisco, where her practice focuses on creditors' rights, finance and commercial litigation, with significant experience at the trial and appellate levels in bankruptcy, federal and state court. She regularly represents financial institutions, including agribusiness lenders and alternative lenders, software licensors, commercial landlords and tenants, equipment lessors, officers and directors, companies in distress, and creditors' committees and other fiduciaries. Ms. Banter Peo chairs Women@Buchalter and currently serves on the board of directors of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). In 2023, she chaired the inaugural IWIRC@INSOL conference in Tokyo and also received the IWIRC Fetner Award, presented to a member whose contributions to IWIRC have helped to fuel growth and expansion of IWIRC's mission globally. Ms. Banter Peo served on the Attorney Committee for the 2019 and 2023 Roadways to the Federal Bench event produced by the Judicial Conference Committee, and she is a past chair of the Executive Committee of the San Francisco Bar Association's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy section. She was recognized in *Northern California Super Lawyers* from 2019-23, and in 2024, was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. Ms. Banter Peo received her B.A. from Smith College and her J.D. *cum laude* from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. Following law school, she clerked for Hon. Edward D. Jellen (ret.) of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

**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 represented debtors and other parties in chapter 11 cases and bankruptcy litigation. 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 currently serves on its Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and he is a judicial advisor to ABI's annual Southwest Bankruptcy Conference and its Consumer Practice Extravaganza. Judge Barash is a former member of the Board of Governors of the Financial Lawyers Conference and currently serves a judicial director of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, where he is a member of its Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He also is a volunteer for the Los Angeles chapter of Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) and was recognized nationally as the CARE Volunteer of the Year for 2022. Judge Barash has served on numerous committees of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California and currently serves as chair of its Education Committee, which is responsible for conducting educational programs for judges, law clerks and externs. He is a frequent panelist and lecturer on bankruptcy law and a co-author of the national edition of the *Rutter Group Practice Guide: Bankruptcy*. 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*.

**Hon. Hilary L. Barnes** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Nevada in Reno, appointed on March 31, 2023. Previously, she was a member of Allen Barnes & Jones, PLC, a boutique bankruptcy firm, where her practice focused on bankruptcy and she represented various parties in chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy cases. From 2009-14, Judge Barnes was a partner at The Cavanagh Law Firm,

P.A., where her practice focused on representing creditors in chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and bankruptcy-related litigation. From 2005-09, she was an associate and then partner at Quarles & Brady LLP, where she was involved in the representation of institutional lenders, large commercial debtors, the FDIC, buyers of distressed assets, trustees and other constituents in chapter 11 proceedings, receiverships, foreclosures and guaranty litigation. While at Quarles & Brady, she also devoted a significant amount of time to The Arizona Justice Project as a *pro bono* lawyer. Judge Barnes also was an associate at Stoel Rives LLP and Squire Sanders & Dempsey, LLP (now Squire Patton Boggs). She was a master of the bench in the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court and served as its president from 2018-19. In addition, she chaired the State Bar of Arizona's Bankruptcy Section from 2014-15, and she served as a Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative from 2015-18. In that role, Judge Barnes had the honor of serving as the co-chair for the District of Arizona from 2016-17, and on the Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference from 2017-18. Judge Barnes is a member of ABI and the Federal Bar Association. She received her B.A. in art history with honors from the University of Chicago in 1986 and her J.D. in 1999 from the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, where she served as executive editor of *Jurimetrics, the Journal of Law, Science & Technology*.

**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, Puerto Rico (Federal) and Texas bars. He is also admitted to practice before the Second and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Berman serves on the boards of directors for ABI and serves on its Endowment Committee and its Task Force on Veterans and Servicemembers Affairs. 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. In addition, he guest lectures at the University of Florida College of Law and Stetson University College of Law in their advanced bankruptcy courses. Mr. Berman provides *pro bono* bankruptcy and insolvency services and training for U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General officers and staff, and represents servicemembers and their families in need. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and was listed in *Florida Super Lawyers* from 2013-22. Mr. Berman received his B.S. in multinational business operations in 1987 from Florida State University and his J.D. in 1990 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

**Louis M. Bubala, III** is Of Counsel with the Kaempfer Crowell law firm in Nevada. He represents creditors in and out of bankruptcy in Las Vegas, Reno and across the state. Mr. Bubala's practice regularly deals with climate change issues in hospitality, agriculture and small businesses dealing with heat, drought, fire and smoke. He 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 on the boards of Friends of Nevada Wilderness and 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.

**Benjamin M. Chambliss** is an associate with Larson & Zirzow, LLC in Las Vegas, primarily representing debtors and creditors in both consumer and business bankruptcies filed under chapters 7 and 13 and subchapter V. He began practicing bankruptcy law in 2010 as a staff attorney to Rick A. Yarnall, one of Southern Nevada's two standing chapter 13 trustees. Counseling the trustee for over eight years, Mr. Chambliss oversaw the administration of hundreds of chapter 13 cases and litigated a variety of complex bankruptcy-related matters resulting in multiple published and unpublished decisions by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada. Prior to joining Larson & Zirzow, he was the senior bankruptcy attorney at one of the highest-volume consumer bankruptcy firms in Nevada for more than four years. Mr. Chambliss successfully prosecuted numerous automatic stay and discharge violations, and assisted in prosecuting violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the Fair Credit Reporting Act. He is licensed to practice in Nevada and Colorado, and in the U.S. District Courts for the District of Nevada and the District of Colorado. Mr. Chambliss is a member of ABI, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and the Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys. He received his B.A. in 2006 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and his J.D. in 2009 from the UNiversity of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law.

**Robert M. Charles, Jr.** is a partner with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP in Tucson, Ariz. The firm's bankruptcy working group leader, he practices primarily bankruptcy law in both Arizona and Nevada. Mr. Charles is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and a past chair of the State Bar of Arizona Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct, and he served as a member of the Arizona Bar's Ethics Committee for many years. He lectures and writes extensively on bankruptcy law and legal ethics and is professor of practice (adjunct faculty) at the James E. Rogers University of Arizona College of Law teaching introduction to business reorganization in bankruptcy and bankruptcy and related issues. Mr. Charles is a member of ABI, sits on the advisory board for ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference, and was a member of ABI's National Ethics Task Force. He is also vice chair of the Mass Torts subcommittee of the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. Mr. Charles previously clerked for Hon. Earl H. Carroll of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. He received his B.A. from the University of Arizona in 1979 and his J.D. with distinction from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College 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. He regularly appears in U.S. bankruptcy court and state court proceedings involving liquidations, chapter 11 reorganizations, receiverships and commercial lawsuits. Mr. Cohen is a past chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Arizona, and he is licensed and practices in California. He is Board Certified in Business Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification and serves on its board of

directors. Mr. Cohen is a contributor to *Norton Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (3d ed.), and he serves on the advisory board for the *Norton Bankruptcy Law Adviser*. He regularly publishes and speaks on bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation, and his practice includes representing lending institutions in preparing custom loan documents and credit facilities. He also documents loans for one of a couple of financial institutions in Arizona that lend to marijuana-related businesses. Mr. Cohen 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*.

**Theodore A. Cohen** is a partner in the Finance and Bankruptcy Practice Group of Sheppard Mullin in the firm's Los Angeles office. He specializes in creditors' rights and focuses on lender, special servicer, indenture trustee and lessor representation in bankruptcies, loan and lease workouts, defaulted bond financings and secured transactions. He also represents distressed asset and stock buyers, sellers and assignees in bankruptcy § 363 sales, UCC foreclosure sales, real estate foreclosure sales, receiverships and assignments for the benefit of creditors. Mr. Cohen's experience includes workouts, CMBS loan enforcement, asset sales, stock sales, loan sales, cash-collateral issues, debtor-in-possession financing, relief-from-stay proceedings, plans of reorganization, preference and fraudulent transfer litigation, pre-bankruptcy counseling for debtors and creditors, reorganization issues, trust indenture enforcement, lease and contract assumption issues, and prejudgment remedies in state court, including writs of attachment, writs of possession, injunctions and receivers. He received his B.A. in 1987 from the University of California, Los Angeles and his J.D. from the University of California, Davis School of Law in 1990, where he served as executive editor of its 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 and is presently a conflicts judge in the Districts of Guam, Hawaii and Southern California. Previously, Judge Collins was a shareholder with the Collins, May, Potenza, Baran & Gillespie, P.C. in Phoenix, practicing primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial litigation and commercial transactions. He is president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, served on ABI's Board of Directors, is on the board of the Phoenix Chapter of the Federal Bar Association 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.

**Tiffany M. Cornejo** is the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee of New Mexico in Albuquerque, appointed on Dec. 1, 2017. She also is the Chapter 12 Trustee (case by case) for the District of New Mexico. While in law school, Ms. Cornejo clerked for Cloon Legal Services in Baldwin, Kan., a bankruptcy firm practicing solely in consumer bankruptcy law. From there, she was asked by one of the partners to aid in the start-up of his own firm; she accepted and continued her work as a law clerk for The Law Office of Garret & Coons in Lawrence, Kan., practicing primarily consumer bankruptcy law. After graduating from law school, Ms. Cornejo worked as an associate for Shapiro & Mock in Overland Park, Kan., representing mortgage companies in the areas of foreclosures of New Mexico in bankruptcy, creditors' rights, commercial litigation, collections, replevins, evictions and landlord/tenant law, all in both Kansas and Missouri. From there, she relocated to St. Louis to become senior staff attorney for Russell C. Simon, the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee in the Southern District of Illinois. She represented the trustee and trust operation, and supervised four paralegals, two mortgage

administrators and a legal clerk. Since being appointed as Chapter 13 Standing Trustee, Ms. Cornejo has become a board member of both the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) and the Association of Chapter 12 Trustees (ACT12), co-chair of NACTT's Loan Modifications and Loss Mitigations Committee and program chair of its Inclusion & Acceptance Committee, chair for ACT12's Bankruptcy DEI Consortium, and editor-in-chief of the *NACTT Quarterly*. She is admitted to practice in the Federal District Courts of Kansas, Western District of Missouri and Southern District of Illinois, and in the states of Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. Ms. Cornejo received her B.S. in journalism and her J.D. from the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

**Tricia M. Darby** is a partner at Darby Law Practice, in Reno, Nev., where her practice focuses on representing debtors in chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcy cases. She began her legal career at Beesley, Peck & Matteoni, Ltd. and later Lewis and Roca, LLP, representing clients in civil and commercial lawsuits, business transactions and bankruptcy matters. Ms. Darby has represented both secured and unsecured creditors in all aspects of chapter 11 bankruptcy cases before the bankruptcy and appellate courts. Additionally, she represented financial institutions in matters dealing with consumer-protection statutes and creditors in collections matters in both federal and state court. After representing financial institutions for almost 10 years, Ms. Darby joined her husband at Darby Law Practice in June of 2009, bringing her background as a bank attorney to the side of individuals and small businesses. She has represented individuals and small businesses in out-of-court debt-restructurings and workouts, as well as chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings. Ms. Darby is a 1997 graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara and received her J.D. in 2001 from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law.

**Steven W. Golden** is a partner with Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones in its Wilmington, Del., and New York offices. He concentrates his practice on representing debtors, official committees, foreign representatives and other parties in complex corporate bankruptcy proceedings throughout the nation. Among his many engagements, Mr. Golden was instrumental in the firm's representation of Amyris, Watsonville Hospital and CarbonLite in their chapter 11 cases, and of the official creditors' committees in dozens of chapter 11 cases, such as Neiman Marcus, Payless Shoes, Studio Movie Grill and The Weinstein Company. He also has represented the foreign representative in Nexii's chapter 15 proceedings and is a member of the International Insolvency Institute's NextGen Class X. Mr. Golden has authored some 20 articles and other publications on a wide range of bankruptcy topics and was recognized in 2021 as one of 19 recipients of the American Bar Association's inaugural "20/20 Partners Rising Young Leader Award." He received his Bachelor's degree from Emory University, his J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law and his LL.M. in bankruptcy law from St. John's University School of Law.

**Danielle N. Gueck-Townsend** is a staff attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Kathleen A. Leavitt in Las Vegas. Prior to working for the Trustee's office starting in 2010, she represented debtors in both personal and business bankruptcies in the Southern District of California. Ms. Gueck-Townsend is licensed to practice law in Nevada and California (inactive). She received her B.A. from the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Okla., and her J.D. from California Western School of Law in San Diego.

**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, Cali-

ifornia, Nevada and Indiana. She has represented several chapter 11 debtors in complex Delaware bankruptcy cases. She also has experience representing official creditors' committees, purchasers of assets, secured lenders, contract counterparties, landlords, equityholders, chapter 11 trustees and other chapter 11 stakeholders. Ms. Gurvitz's chapter 11 practice has been focused on mass tort, hospital, real estate, retail and restaurant cases. She also has worked on significant out-of-court workouts in the health care industry, as well as in the retail and marijuana industries. In addition to her primary restructuring work, Ms. Gurvitz has represented clients in federal multi-district litigation, in fraudulent-transfer actions and in appeals, including to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third, Seventh Circuit and Ninth Circuits. She is a member of the California State Bar, ABI, the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) and the Financial Lawyers Conference. In addition, she serves as president of TMA's Southern California chapter, as a co-chair of ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference, and on the executive committee of the Financial Lawyers Conference. Ms. Gurvitz has been named a *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" from 2019-23 and as a member of ABI's 2021 class of "40 Under 40." She has written articles for several bankruptcy publications, including *Colliers on Bankruptcy*, *Colliers Practice Guide*, the *Norton Adviser* and *Law360*, and she is a frequent speaker at conferences on bankruptcy-related topics. 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.

**Hon. Thomas M. Horan** is U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Delaware in Wilmington, appointed in 2023. He previously practiced law in Wilmington for 18 years, focusing on financial restructuring and bankruptcy litigation. Most recently, Judge Horan had been a member of the Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Restructuring group at Cozen O'Connor, a national firm headquartered in Philadelphia with a Wilmington office. He joined Cozen in a group-wide 2020 defection from Fox Rothschild, for which he had worked since its own 2018 merger with Wilmington-based Shaw Fishman Glantz & Towbin. Judge Horan's national practice included representing debtors and official unsecured creditor committees in complex chapter 11 proceedings, and he represented secured creditors and other parties in litigation. He also frequently provided opinion letters on commercial transactions and represented parties before the state's Court of Chancery and Superior Court. Last year, Judge Horan was named to *Lawdragon's* list of the Top 500 U.S. bankruptcy and restructuring lawyers. He also serves on ABI's Board of Directors. Judge Horan received his B.A. in 1989 and his M.A. in 1992 from Fordham University, and his J.D. *cum laude* from St. John's University School of Law in 2002, where he was executive notes and comments editor for the *ABI Law Review*.

**Hon. Meredith A. Jury** is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of California in Riverside, appointed from 1997-2018 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also served on the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP) from 2007-17. Since her retirement, she has been writing *pro bono* appellate briefs for consumer debtors or amicus for NACBA. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Jury had spent her entire attorney career as a civil, municipal and bankruptcy litigator for the law firm of Best, Best & Krieger in Riverside, joining as the first woman associate in 1976 and becoming its first woman partner in 1982. She has participated in innumerable panels about various aspects of bankruptcy law at local and Ninth Circuit programs. As a member of the BAP, Judge Jury was lead author of *In re Vallejo*, 408 B.R. 280 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2009), primarily concerning the eligibility of a city to file chapter 9. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from the

University of Colorado, where she was elected Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. from UCLA. She also received Masters degrees in economics and English/education from the University of Wisconsin.

**Hon. Michele J. Kim** is a Chief Judge for U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia in Brunswick, initially appointed on June 23, 2017. She previously clerked for U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge John S. Dalis and Hon. Anthony Alaimo, and worked for King & Spalding in its Atlanta office, where she specialized in financial restructuring and bankruptcy law. Judge Kim received her J.D. with honors in 2006 from the University of Georgia School of Law.

**Nicholas A. Koffroth** is a partner with Fox Rothschild LLP in Los Angeles, where he focuses his practice on complex bankruptcy cases and financial restructuring matters. His bankruptcy experience includes work in the commercial real estate, health care, commercial lending and entertainment sectors. Mr. Koffroth has broad-based experience in nearly all facets of bankruptcy and insolvency matters. His bankruptcy practice includes chapter 11 plan restructuring and related litigation, § 363 sales, valuation disputes, single-asset real estate cases, debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing, adversary proceedings, bankruptcy appeals and claim disputes. Mr. Koffroth represents a broad range of bankruptcy stakeholders. He has represented debtors in matters ranging from the second-largest hospital bankruptcy case in U.S. history to subchapter V cases, and he has represented official committees of creditors in health care bankruptcy cases, official committees of equity securityholders in post-confirmation litigation, and an ad hoc committee in negotiations related to confirmation of a real estate Ponzi-scheme case. He also represents a wide range of other bankruptcy stakeholders, including secured and unsecured creditors, landlords, tenants, franchisors, franchisees, and directors and officers. Mr. Koffroth handles pre-trial practice, motions practice, fact and expert discovery, witness preparation and appellate practice, and he counsels clients regarding litigation strategy, settlement and future liability. He has drafted briefs in appeals before various U.S. district courts and bankruptcy appellate panels, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, Mr. Koffroth works extensively with lenders and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) servicers regarding real property-secured loan litigation. He also represents lenders in the entertainment space and has obtained favorable rulings for prints and advertising lenders in connection with bankruptcy sales. In addition to writing nationally published articles, Mr. Koffroth is a regular contributor to the firm's "In Solvency" blog, which covers current bankruptcy and financial restructuring issues. He serves on the advisory board of ABI's Southwest Bankruptcy Conference and is a member of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, the Beverly Hills Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section, the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee (for which he serves as vice chair of its Content and Publications Subcommittee), and the California Bankruptcy Forum Conference, for which he co-chairs its Young Insolvency Professionals group. Mr. Koffroth received his B.A. in 2008 from the University of California, Los Angeles and his J.D. in 2012 from Loyola Law School.

**Jordan A. Kroop** is an attorney with Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones in its New York office, where he represents debtors, official committees, acquirers and significant creditors in chapter 11 matters involving publicly traded and privately held companies throughout the nation. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and enjoys a national reputation for representing clients in such diverse industries as manufacturing, real estate development, construction, hospitality, food and beverage, gaming, health care and technology. Among the many prominent chapter 11 matters

he has handled, Mr. Kroop represented the Russian Tea Room and the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes in their chapter 11 cases. He also represented the Boston Celtics and the 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 more than \$3 billion. In addition, he is an adjunct professor of law, teaching information privacy and advanced chapter 11 practice at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. He also served as a lecturer on international commercial arbitration in Salzburg, Austria, for University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in 2010 and 2011. Mr. Kroop was listed in *Lawdragon's* 2023 and 2022 "500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers" and the 2020 "500 Leading Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers," he was named in *The Best Lawyers in America* in Phoenix for "Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law Lawyer of the Year" in 2017, and he was named a *Southwest Super Lawyer* from 2007-21 (he also was ranked in its Top 50 from 2019-21). In addition, he was one of 12 "Outstanding Young Bankruptcy Lawyers" in the U.S. by *Turnarounds & Workouts* in 2000, and was ranked "Superb" (10 out of 10) by Avvo.com. In 2007, he won an *ABI Journal* Publication Award, and he co-authored *Bankruptcy Litigation & Practice: A Practitioner's Guide* (Wolters Kluwer, 4th ed.) and dozens of articles in national restructuring publications. Mr. Kroop is rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his A.B. *magna cum laude* from Brown University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia.

**Mette H. Kurth** is a Partner with Culhane Haughian & Walsh PLLC in Wilmington, Del., and chairs its Bankruptcy Practice. She focuses her practice on bankruptcy litigation, distressed debt and restructuring, corporate governance, ethics and board advising, creditor and investor representations, debtor/company representations, distressed mergers and acquisitions, and financial sponsor transactions. Named one of the leading bankruptcy and restructuring attorneys in California and Delaware by *Chambers USA*, Ms. Kurth specializes in confrontational negotiations and challenging situations in her client representations involving sophisticated workouts, restructurings, distressed M&A transactions and bankruptcy matters. She completed the ABI/St. John's University School of Law Bankruptcy Mediation Training Program in 2018 and now also serves as a mediator. Ms. Kurth previously practiced at various preeminent bankruptcy boutiques and national law firms. Before practicing law, she was a bank liquidation specialist with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Ms. Kurth regularly speaks for industry groups and client programs. She has been deeply involved with the national Turnaround Management Association, having served on its national board of directors and executive committee, as vice president of both Conferences and Communications, and in numerous other national and local leadership positions. She also has served in leadership roles with ABI, the Financial Lawyers Conference, the California Bankruptcy Forum and Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, and the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Conference (IWIRC). Ms. Kurth received her B.A. *cum laude* from Trinity University in 1990 and her J.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1996.

**Hon. August B. Landis** is Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, appointed on Nov. 27, 2013, and named Chief Judge on April 1, 2020. He currently chairs the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges. Between 2005 and his appointment to the bench, Judge Landis served as an Assistant U.S. Trustee for the District of Nevada in Las Vegas, as the U.S. Trustee Program's first Acting Associate General Counsel for Chapter 11 Practice, and as the Acting U.S. Trustee for Region 17. Prior to joining the U.S. Trustee Program, he was an attorney in private practice with the Des Moines, Iowa, firms of Neiman, Neiman, Stone & Spellman (1987-

90) and Whitfield & Eddy, P.L.C. (1990-2005), mostly representing trustees and advancing creditors' rights in commercial litigation, secured transactions and bankruptcy cases. Judge Landis is a member of the Iowa State Bar Association. He received his J.D. from Drake Law School in Des Moines.

**Adam B. Nach** is an attorney with Lane & Nach in Phoenix, where he focuses his practice on bankruptcy, foreclosures, real estate, business formation, company statutory agent and lender representation. Previously, he was a judicial law clerk to former Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona Robert G. Mooreman. Mr. Nach is a frequent lecturer on bankruptcy law and creditors' rights and has written extensively on such matters for the Norton Bankruptcy Institute, the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees, the Arizona State Bar and the National Business Institute. He is admitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Mr. Nach is Board Certified in Bankruptcy Law by the State Bar of Arizona and in Creditors' Rights Law by the American Board of Certification, and he is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his B.S. in accounting in 1985 from the University of Arizona, and his J.D. from California Western School of Law.

**Mary E. Naumann** is a member of Jackson Kelly PLLC's Lexington, Ky., office. In her 24 years at Jackson Kelly, she has focused on bankruptcy law, specializing in commercial restructuring, creditors' rights, purchases of assets in bankruptcy, and defending against preference actions and claims against fiduciaries — including officers, board members and shareholders — arising from their actions before and during bankruptcy. Ms. Naumann has represented clients in bankruptcy courts across the country, most recently representing chapter 11 debtors in the *In re Piney Woods Resources, et al.* proceedings in the Northern District of Alabama, the *In re Lighthouse Resources Inc., et al.*, proceedings in the District of Delaware and the *Inmet Mining, LLC* proceeding in the Eastern District of Kentucky, and she served as co-counsel for the pre- and post-petition lender in *In re Hopedale Mining LLC, et al. (Rhino Energy, LLC)* proceedings in the Southern District of Ohio. She has been named *The Best Lawyers in America* as Lexington Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law “Lawyer of the Year,” and she has been noted for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law. She is a member of ABI and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. Ms. Naumann received her B.A. *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa in history in 1995 from Centre College, and her J.D. *magna cum laude* in 1999 from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where she was admitted to the Order of the Coif.

**Michael S. Neumeister** is a partner with Cooley LLP in Los Angeles. He represents debtors, lenders and equityholders in complex in-court and out-of-court restructurings, and he advises buyers in significant bankruptcy sales. Mr. Neumeister's representation of the lenders and purchaser of substantially all assets of VICE Media was named the 2024 Distressed M&A Deal of the Year (\$250MM to \$500MM) at the M&A Advisor's 18th Annual Turnaround Awards. His practice encompasses litigation of bankruptcy and distressed-debt issues in bankruptcy court, state court and appellate courts, and he has a wide array of experience representing clients in bankruptcy and restructuring matters in many different industries, including real estate and hospitality. Mr. Neumeister has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, and he has been named a “Rising Star” in the field of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights in *Super Lawyers* since 2013. Mr. Neumeister frequently lectures on restructuring topics. His most recent article, “Sale toggles in Chapter 11 plan processes,” was published in the November 2021

edition of *Financier Worldwide*. Mr. Neumeister received his B.A. in 2006 from the University of California, San Diego and his J.D. in 2010 from the University of Southern California.

**Samuel A. Newman** is a partner in Sidley Austin LLP's Restructuring group in Los Angeles. He represents companies and their owners through restructurings, including out-of-court restructurings and chapter 11 cases, and he advises clients in a wide variety of transactions involving distressed assets. Mr. Newman's clients include technology, health care, real estate and hospitality companies. His representative clients include Canyon Partners LLC, Fortress Investment Group, Redmile Group, Fundamental Advisors LP, Capstone Investment Advisors and z-Capital Management LLC. A nationally top-ranked lawyer for more than a decade, Mr. Newman has been recognized in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* (2009-23) as a leading bankruptcy lawyer and named in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2013-22) in the area of Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights. Most recently, he led The M&A Advisor's "Information Technology Deal of the Year" as counsel to Wave Computing, Inc. in its chapter 11 case. Mr. Newman is on the board of trustees of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Council of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee. He previously held political and fundraising positions with the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C., and served in legislative and policy positions for Sen. John Glenn of Ohio and Reps. Gary Ackerman of New York and Rob Andrews of New Jersey. Mr. Newman received his B.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1992 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center in 2001, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif.

**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 more than 40 years. He has represented secured and unsecured creditors, surety companies, creditors' committees, lessors, professional athletes, doctors, lawyers, and trustees in chapter 5, 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, for which he currently serves as president. 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; he was selected as its "Lawyer of the Year" (Scottsdale) for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights in 2019 and for Bankruptcy Litigation in 2021 and 2024. 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.

**Bradley D. Pack** is a shareholder with Engelman Berger, PC in Phoenix, where he represents both creditors and debtors in different bankruptcy proceedings, negotiates and drafts complex loan and forbearance agreements, and practices in commercial litigation and civil appeals. Previously, he clerked

for Hon. Susan Ehrlich at the Court of Appeals Division One. Mr. Pack currently serves on the board of the Arizona Bar Foundation. He previously served as a board member of the Anti-Defamation League Arizona Region and as the chair of its Government Relations, Advocacy, and Community Engagement committee. Mr. Pack is a Coordinating Editor for the *ABI Journal's* Benchnotes column, and he co-chairs the ABA's Business Bankruptcy Committee's Individual Chapter 11, Subchapter V, and Small Business subcommittee. He is an Arizona State Bar certified bankruptcy specialist. As an undergraduate, he worked on international child labor issues while interning for the AFL-CIO American Center for International Labor Solidarity. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Pack clerked for Hon. Susan A. Ehrlich of the Arizona Court of Appeals. Mr. Pack has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* in the fields of Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2020, Appellate Practice since 2021 and Commercial Litigation since 2021. He also has been selected to *Southwest Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" for Bankruptcy, Appellate and General Litigation since 2012, he is certified as a Bankruptcy Specialist by the State Bar of Arizona Board of Legal Specialization, and he was designated Volunteer Lawyer of the Month for representing the victims of a mortgage fraud scheme. Mr. Pack received his B.A. in labor studies and industrial relations from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law in 2005, where he was on the national moot court competition team and served as research editor for the *Arizona Law Review*.

**Cathy L. Reece** is a director at Fennemore Craig, P.C. in Phoenix and chairs its Financial Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group. She has experience in every aspect of complex corporate workouts and bankruptcies, and works with clients structuring complex transactions and purchasing distressed debt or assets. Ms. Reece has represented lenders in several commercial real estate receiverships, including receiverships involving an operating copper mine and three high-rise commercial office buildings, and she has represented committees and liquidating trusts in the liquidation of assets and distributions to creditors involving allegations of Ponzi schemes and securities fraud. Some of her cases include representing the investors' committee in the bankruptcy of hard money real estate lender Mortgages Ltd., the joint creditors' committee in the Baptist Foundation of Arizona bankruptcies, the secured lender in a publicly traded bankruptcy case involving time shares and resort properties, the municipality that owned the arena where the NHL team played in the Arizona Coyotes hockey bankruptcy cases, a major petroleum-producer and former owner of the El Paso Refinery in litigation over complex environmental claims and restrictive covenants, the debtor-in-possession lender and purchaser of gold mines in cross-border chapter 15 proceedings, and a chapter 11 trustee in several cases involving the sales and operations of health care facilities. Ms. Reece is the president-elect of and serves on the Board of Regents for the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. She also is the chair of the American Bar Association Business Law Section's Subcommittee on Loan Workouts. 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. Brenda T. Rhoades** is Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas in Plano. In 2003, she was appointed the first Asian American bankruptcy judge in the country. Since that time, she has presided over more than 100,000 cases and has served the judiciary in various capacities. A native of Seoul, Korea, Judge Rhoades immigrated to the U.S. as a child. Prior to taking

the bench, she was in private practice at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, Weil Gotshal & Manges and Baker Botts. Judge Rhoades has been active in many organizations during her professional career, including having served as vice president of Membership for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, chair of the Asian Pacific Interest Section of the State Bar of Texas, co-chair of the Alaska Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section, a Dallas Bar Association board member, and president of the Dallas Asian American Bar Association. In addition, she served as a council member for the Council on Legal Education Opportunity in association with the ABA Fund for Justice and Education, as a master of the John C. Ford Inns of Court, as a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and as an advisory board member of the Korean American Coalition. Judge Rhoades received her B.S. in applied mathematics from Texas A&M University and her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Arizona State University College of Law, where she received the Sandra Day O'Connor Constitutional Law Award and the Outstanding Graduate Award.

**Daniel M. Riggs** is the senior staff attorney to Rick A. Yarnall, Standing Chapter 13 Trustee in Las Vegas. Prior to joining the trustee's office in 2011, he clerked in a consumer bankruptcy firm and had an externship with Hon. Judge Mike K. Nakagawa. Mr. Riggs is admitted to practice in Nevada and Utah. He received his J.D. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law.

**Bill Rochelle** is ABI's editor-at-large, based in New York. He joined ABI in 2015 and writes every day on developments in consumer and reorganization law. For the prior nine years, Mr. Rochelle was the bankruptcy columnist for Bloomberg News. Before turning to journalism, he practiced bankruptcy law for 35 years, including 17 years as a partner in the New York office of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. In addition to writing, Mr. Rochelle travels the country for ABI, speaking to bar groups and professional organizations on hot topics in the turnaround community and trends in consumer bankruptcies. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

**Jeremy E. Rosenthal** is a partner with Force 10 Partners LLC in Beverly Hills, Calif., where he specializes in guiding public and private companies through challenging situations by developing and implementing creative solutions in complex distressed situations. He has significant experience guiding companies, boards, sponsors and lenders through negotiated workouts, asset sales, recapitalization and bankruptcy solutions. Mr. Rosenthal has served as CEO or CRO in numerous challenging environments. He has managed the restructuring of a hospital and of businesses in the real estate, financial services, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and apparel industries. He also has served as an independent director or trustee for several distressed companies, including in the e-commerce, fintech, electric vehicle and aerospace industries. In addition, he has served as trustee for creditor trusts and has liquidated investments held by financial service companies as part of organized wind-downs. Prior to joining Force 10 Partners, Mr. Rosenthal was a restructuring partner at the international law firm Sidley Austin LLP. He was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for eight years in Bankruptcy and Reorganization Law. Mr. Rosenthal received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, graduating Order of the Coif.

**Stacy H. Rubin** is an attorney with Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC in Las Vegas, where she focuses her practice on bankruptcy litigation, representing creditors' interests in bankruptcy courts and

all aspects of commercial litigation, both state and federal, at the trial and appellate levels. She also has experience with federal and state consumer protection and lending regulation statutes, including the FDCPA, FCRA, RESPA and UDAAP. Ms. Rubin represents a variety of clients, including financial institutions, creditors, and related entities in finance, mortgage banking and consumer financing. She regularly counsels clients such as lenders, asset-managers and landlords on bankruptcy issues, guiding them through various matters, including disclosure statements and plans of reorganization, assumption and assignment of leases and executory contracts. Ms. Rubin has experience in developing defensive strategies, investigating allegations, taking and defending depositions, conducting and responding to discovery, drafting and arguing dispositive motions, handling arbitrations and mediations, authoring appellate briefs and preparing for trial. She is admitted to practice in California, Nevada, the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern, Central, Southern and Eastern Districts of California, the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Nevada, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Ms. Rubin is a member of the California Receivers Forum, ABI and the Southern Nevada Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys. She received her B.A. in 1999 from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her J.D. in 2003 from California Western School of Law.

**Thomas J. Salerno** is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights practice at Stinson LLP in Phoenix, where he helps private and publicly traded companies in a broad range of industries continue operations as they negotiate restructuring plans. Mr. Salerno has advised lenders, distressed companies, committees and asset-acquirers in bankruptcies and out-of-court settlements. He works with a global roster of clients from an array of industries, including casinos, hotels, real estate, sports, tech, power-generation, agribusiness, construction, health care, manufacturing, airlines and franchising. He also is an adjunct professor and prolific author and lecturer, writing for both practitioners and corporate executives. 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 he has been a 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 also has served as restructuring counsel for a national drug store chain, a nationwide operator of nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, a publicly traded owner/operator of fire and ambulance services, and Industrias Nucleares do Brasil S/A, the Brazilian nuclear regulatory agency in the bankruptcies of Nuexco Exchange (U.S. and Switzerland). In addition to serving as an expert witness on U.S. insolvency law in litigation in Germany, Mr. Salerno has advised numerous foreign governments on revamping their laws, and he has taught comparative international insolvency at the University of Salzburg. A frequent writer, lecturer and presenter, he is active in ABI leadership and is a past chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Arizona. 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*.

**Bradley D. Sharp** is the president and CEO of Development Specialists, Inc. (DSI) in Los Angeles and has nearly 30 years of experience providing crisis-management, financial advisory and third-

party fiduciary services in numerous industries, including finance, real estate development, high-tech, manufacturing, food and agriculture. He has served as a federal equity receiver, CRO and trustee under chapters 11 and 7. Mr. Sharp is an expert witness with respect to fiduciary duties, banking, finance and securitizations. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the International Insolvency Institute (III) and a full member of the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers (NAFER), and he is ABI's Vice President-Development. Mr. Sharp received his B.S. in accounting with an emphasis in business computer information systems from Mesa College in Grand Junction, Colo.

**Brian L. Shaw** is a member of Cozen O'Connor in Chicago, where he focuses his practice on financial restructuring, bankruptcy, and other in- and out-of-court distressed solutions, along with attendant litigation, representing debtors, creditors and other parties-in-interest in proceedings throughout the country. Over the past three decades, he has guided chapter 11 debtors, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, creditors' and noteholders' committees, assignees, landlords, liquidating trustees, labor organizations, preference and fraudulent conveyance defendants, receivers, and secured and unsecured creditors through all aspects of bankruptcy, insolvency and restructuring. A Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, Mr. Shaw has served as ABI's president, chairman and vice president of membership, and previously chaired the Chicago Bar Association's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Section. He has received accolades from *Chambers USA*, *Super Lawyers* (Top 100 in Illinois for 2020), *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Lawdragon* (Top 500 Bankruptcy Lawyers) and *Marquis Who's Who in America*, and he is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Shaw chaired ABI's inaugural Professional Development Program and regularly serves on the faculty of ABI's Litigation Skills Symposium. He is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Illinois, Central District of Illinois, Eastern District of Wisconsin, Western District of Michigan and Northern District of Indiana, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Seventh and Eighth Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is also admitted to the Federal Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Shaw received his B.A. from Tufts University and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law.

**Summer M. Shaw** is the founder of Shaw & Hanover PC, a bankruptcy boutique law firm serving Southern California with its main office located in Palm Desert, Calif. She is a Bankruptcy Specialist certified by the State Bar of California and represents debtors, creditors and trustees in chapter 7, 11, 12 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings and enjoys litigating matters before the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts in the Central District of California. Ms. Shaw is a very active member of the bankruptcy bar and has served as a professor of bankruptcy law at the California Desert Trial Academy (CDTA). She also served as co-chair of ABI's first Consumer Practice Extravaganza in 2021, and she served as an education co-chair for the Consumer Education Programs at the Annual California Bankruptcy Forum Conferences for 2016 and 2019. In addition, she has been invited to speak at various education programs covering secured debt litigation, small business bankruptcies, individual chapter 11s, and bankruptcy law and crossover issues with civil litigation, family law, probate law and criminal law. Ms. Shaw is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in California as well before the Ninth and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, and before the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She enjoys volunteering her time as often as possible through her local bar association's "Lawyer in the Library" program, assisting veterans through the Veterans Legal Institute, and volunteering her time to help educate new attorneys in the bankruptcy community whenever possible. Ms. Shaw was selected as a member of the inaugural class of ABI's "40 Under 40" in 2017, and in 2018,

she received the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney's National Distinguished Service Award. She has also been named one of *Palm Springs Life Magazine's* Top Bankruptcy Lawyers and was honored to be a part of the 2015 and 2016 Central District of California Bankruptcy Court's *Pro Bono* Honor Roll. Ms. Shaw received her B.S. in political science with a minor in law and society from the University of California, Riverside and her J.D. from Western State College of Law.

**Zachary H. Smith** is a partner and co-head of Moore & Van Allen PLLC's Bankruptcy & Restructuring practice, based in Charlotte, N.C. He has more than 20 years of experience in complex restructurings, representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders in special situations and bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Smith's practice covers transactional and litigation matters, including the representation of private-equity sponsors, portfolio companies, independent directors and special committees in distressed M&A transactions; purchasers of distressed businesses and their assets; corporate debtors in all aspects of complex chapter 11 proceedings, including chapter 11 litigation; court-appointed receivers; financial institutions, special situation funds, and direct lenders in the restructuring and exit of troubled credits; stakeholders in cross-border insolvency situations; and special situations involving Puerto Rico. He has been recognized by *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Law360* and *Turnarounds & Workouts*, and in 2017 he was named to ABI's inaugural class of "40 Under 40." He also is an adjunct professor at Duke University Law School, where he teaches courses in corporate restructuring, chapter 11, distress investing and structuring of financial transactions. Mr. Smith is a graduate of the Juilliard School and has given solo piano performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Mr. Smith received his A.B. *cum laude* from Harvard University and his J.D. *cum laude* from Boston University School of Law.

**Helena G. Tseregounis** is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins LLP, where she represents clients in all aspects of domestic and cross-border corporate reorganizations and restructurings. She guides companies, creditors, buyers, creditors' committees and other interested parties across the insolvency life cycle, including chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, distressed-asset acquisitions, bankruptcy-related litigation and out-of-court restructurings. She also regularly advises companies on successful strategies to address mass tort and legacy liabilities, including those relating to asbestos, environmental and product liabilities, and she has represented clients in numerous mass tort bankruptcies. Ms. Tseregounis is a current member of the firm's Recruiting Committee and is active in promoting women's advancement in the legal industry. She spearheaded a program in the firm's Los Angeles office that provided mentorship to women associates with a focus on career development and attorney retention. Ms. Tseregounis is a former co-chair of the Los Angeles Women Lawyers Group and a former member of the Los Angeles *Pro Bono* Committee. While in law school, she was involved with the Federal Criminal Justice Clinic and externed for Hon. Robert E. Gordon of the Appellate Court of Illinois. Ms. Tseregounis received her B.A. in English literature and business in 2009 from Indiana University and her J.D. with honors in 2012 from the University of Chicago Law School.

**Maurice B. "Mac" VerStandig** is the managing partner of The Belmont Firm in Washington, D.C., and focuses his practice on counseling individuals and companies in all manner of bankruptcy cases. The majority of his practice is focused on representing individuals and companies in the federal bankruptcy courts. Mr. VerStandig has recovered tens of millions of dollars for clients through the formation of consensual plans of reorganization, through contested stay-relief and conversion proceedings,

and through adversary claims brought against third parties. He serves as outside bankruptcy counsel to some of the largest and most respected private lenders in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, while also maintaining a smaller creditor-focused practice in Florida and Nevada. When not advising secured creditors, Mr. VerStandig has counseled multiple law firms in connection with their own insolvency proceedings, helped a mid-size manufacturing company efficiently liquidate through the chapter 11 process, guided the owner of a historic apartment complex through bankruptcy, and represented trustees in complex adversary proceedings. He also takes on *pro bono* clients and regularly advises charities at no cost. Mr. VerStandig is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, is listed as a “Rising Star” by *Super Lawyers* and sits on the local rules committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Columbia. He regularly appears in courts throughout the U.S. Mr. VerStandig received his B.A. with honors in 2006 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his J.D. *cum laude* from the University of Miami School of Law in 2009.

**Hon. Madeleine C. Wanslee** is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona in Phoenix, sworn in on March 17, 2014. She has been a member of the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee since 2018 and currently chairs the 2024 Judicial Conference. Before joining the bench in 2014, Judge Wanslee practiced at Gust Rosenfeld, PLC, where she served on the firm’s management committee and concentrated her practice on bankruptcy, creditors’ rights and related appeals. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Certification, and while in private practice, she briefed and argued a bankruptcy case before the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Wanslee is a former chair of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee, the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee and the Arizona State Bar’s Bankruptcy Section. She previously served on the American Board of Certification’s Standards Committee and on the Arizona State Bar’s Advisory Committee, which certify bankruptcy specialists. She helped to charter and is past president of the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court. Judge Wanslee began her legal career as a law clerk for Hon. Robert Clive Jones of the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. She received her B.F.A. and B.A. from the University of Arizona and her J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law, where she served as a writer and executive editor of the *Gonzaga Law Review*.

**Christopher A. Ward** chairs Polsinelli PC’s Bankruptcy & Financial Restructuring Practice and is the managing shareholder of the firm’s Wilmington, Del., office. He also is ABI’s President. Mr. Ward focuses his practice on corporate bankruptcy, financial restructuring, bankruptcy and distressed litigation, and distressed-asset sales, as well as nonbankruptcy alternatives. He has been lead chapter 11 debtor’s counsel in the bankruptcies of Esco Ltd., Lucky’s Markets, Elements Behavioral Health, Orchids Paper Products and Bayou Steel Group, among many others. Mr. Ward has been recognized for excellence in Delaware Bankruptcy/Restructuring by *Chambers USA* since 2010, recognized by *SuperLawyers* in Delaware for Bankruptcy & Creditor Rights in 2012 and since 2014, and recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Delaware since 2015. He is also an editor and contributor to the app version of Polsinelli’s *The Devil’s Dictionary of Bankruptcy Terms*, which has its own dedicated website and is available for free on iTunes. Mr. Ward co-authored ABI’s *A Business Creditors’ Guide to Distressed Vendors, Debt Collection and Bankruptcy* and was editor and co-author of ABI’s *The Chief Restructuring Officer’s Guide to Bankruptcy*, and he is routinely quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Law360* and *The Deal* on restructuring issues. He received his B.A. from Moravian College in 1995 and his J.D. *cum laude* from Widener University School of Law in 1999.

**Lindsi 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 Next-Gen 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*.

**Eric D. Winston** is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, where his practice includes all areas of corporate insolvency and reorganization and insolvency and valuation-related litigation. He has represented debtors, creditors' committees, secured lenders, bondholders, hedge funds, intellectual property counterparties, trade creditors and asset acquirers across numerous industries, both out of court and in connection with chapter 9, chapter 11, chapter 15, SIPA and SEC receivership cases. Mr. Winston also routinely advises hedge funds and other investors in distressed companies with respect to indentures, credit agreements and other capital structure and corporate governance issues. His recent representative cases include *Core Media (AOG Entertainment)*, *SandRidge Exploration*, *Circuit City*, *Relativity Media*, *Gaming & Leisure Properties/Cannery Casino*, *Lehman Brothers Holdings*, *Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities/Fairfield Sentry*, *Residential Capital*, *Town of Mammoth Lakes*, *Eastman Kodak*, *Station Casinos*, *SemGroup*, *Fountainbleau Las Vegas* and *SK Foods*. Previously, he as a shareholder with Stutman Treister & Glatt and a law clerk to Hon. William J. Holloway Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Mr. Winston is a frequent speaker and has guest lectured at Loyola and University of Southern California law schools. He has written several law review articles, is the LEXIS practice advisor on claims trading, and has been a member of the State Bar of California Insolvency Law Committee and the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California Attorney Discipline Committee. Mr. Winston has been listed in *Chambers USA* for California Bankruptcy/Restructuring Litigation for 2013-15, named in *The Legal 500* as a "Recommended Lawyer" for 2013, recognized as a "Rising Star" by Thomson Reuters *Super Lawyers* from 2004-13 and in 2014-16 as a "Super Lawyer for Bankruptcy," and named by *Turnarounds & Workouts* as being an "Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyer" in 2005 and 2012. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals, and served as co-vice chair of the State Bar of California's Insolvency Law Committee from 2008-09. He is also a member of the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Mr. Winston is admitted to the State Bar of California, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Ninth and

Tenth Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California. He received his B.A. in political science with high honors from the University of California at Berkeley in 1995 and his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1998, where he was a managing editor of the *UCLA Journal of Environmental Law & Policy* and served as an extern to the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

**Richard L. Wynne** is a partner in the Los Angeles of Hogan Lovells US and has represented company and creditor/bondholder clients in complex restructurings in a wide variety of industries. He is experienced in advising companies and boards in a wide variety of industries, including telecommunications, sports, real estate, transportation, insurance, financial services, retail, food distribution, manufacturing, energy and the entertainment industry. Mr. Wynne's recent representations include *Synopsys*, for which he served as plan co-proponent in its chapter 11 case; acting as lead debtor's counsel for *American Apparel* and *Relativity Media, LLC*; representing FGIC, the lead creditor and the creditors' committee chair in *ResCap*; representing the ad hoc bondholders' committee in *Chemtura*; representing the non-agent secured lenders' committee in *Adelphia*; and representing Universal and Fox in the *Rhythm & Hues* case. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second and Ninth Circuits, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern and Central Districts of California, and the U.S. District Courts for the District of New Jersey and the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. Mr. Wynne received his B.A. from Indiana University with distinction in 1979 and his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1982.