

College Columns

December 2015



From the Chair



Michael L. Cook, Chair

The College is, to paraphrase a description from the corporate sector, relentlessly pursuing excellence. We have enhanced our funding of organizations that provide pro bono legal services to indigent consumer debtors; educated our Fellows, other professionals and law students; and helped to maintain the insolvency community's legacy. A quick sampling of our recent accomplishments follows.

Pro Bono

The College devotes more than half of its operating budget to funding pro bono bankruptcy-related services. This past year, our pro bono committee received 38 grant applications from legal service and other similar organizations requesting grants in the total amount of \$379,847. These requests sought funds for critical bankruptcy and debtor-creditor services to low-income debtors provided through clinics, workshops, training, bankruptcy software programs, written materials and videos.

The College provides 70% of all funds distributed by the committee. The College's Foundation, which oversees the committee's work, provides the remaining 30%. In the last calendar year, the pro bono committee was able to make grants totaling \$320,000 to 36 programs in 21 states.

To supplement the funds donated by Fellows, the Foundation has begun participating in Amazon.com's charitable giving program, Amazon.smile. Through this initiative, Amazon will donate one-half of one percent of all purchases made through a dedicated link (detailed on the College's website). The Foundation continues to search for additional sources of revenue to fund pro bono activities, having created a development task force to raise legacy gifts, creditor trust and unclaimed plan distributions.

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Upcoming Circuit Events

January 20, 2016
2nd & 3rd Circuit Reception to Honor New Fellows
New York, NY

March 17-19, 2016
Class 27 Induction Ceremony & Related Events
Washington, DC

For details and registration information about these and other regional events, please [click here](#). If you know of an upcoming event that is not listed, please contact Shari Bedker at 434-939-6004 or sbedker@amercol.org.



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President's Column

G. Christopher Meyer, *President*



The Patrons and Sponsors Program and the Foundation -- How Should I Support the College?

As the year draws to a close, we are all inundated with requests from religious, educational, and charitable organizations of all varieties, seeking our support for the good works that they do. And the College is no exception. By now, you have been solicited both for support of the College's Patrons and Sponsors Program, as well as for donations to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation.

Each year, we receive questions from Fellows asking about the difference between these two College fundraising efforts. Hopefully, a bit of background will clarify the distinctions and allow you to make a more informed decision about the vehicles through which you can support the College.

The Patrons and Sponsors Program. The Program has existed almost from the inception of the College. It was designed primarily as a method by which Fellows can support the numerous activities and programs of the College through contributions from their law firms and other business organizations. The Program currently provides three separate gift levels to accommodate businesses of differing sizes. The Sponsor level is \$1500 annually, the Patron

level is \$2500 and the Sustaining Patron level, at \$5000, was added a few years ago.

The Patrons and Sponsors Program has been a resounding success. Funds raised through the Program now exceed \$300,000 annually and comprise approximately 40% of the College's annual revenues. However, the Patrons and Sponsors Program is not particularly well-adapted for contributions by individual Fellows, small firms, judges, academics or government employees. Given the organizational nature of the College, direct contributions, while deductible by firms and other organizations as a business expense, are not deductible by individuals on a charitable basis.

The American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. Into this structural gap stepped Ray Shapiro. In 2001, Ray led the effort to form the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. The Foundation was organized as a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. As such, contributions from individual Fellows are tax-deductible. The structure has allowed academics and judges as well as small-firm professionals to maximize the benefit from their support for the College.

The Foundation has become the vehicle through which the College conducts its Pro Bono Grant program, which is the College's signature outreach effort. In 2015, the Foundation made grants totaling \$320,000 to 36 organizations in 21 states. In making pro bono grants, the Foundation utilizes both the direct contributions that it receives from Fellows and significant financial

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Chair's Column
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Education

During the past year, more than 100 Fellows participated in the activities of the College's Education Committee. It has organized diverse programs on bankruptcy topics throughout the country. Among the programs administered by the committee was a law student bankruptcy negotiation competition among 11 law schools, which was hosted by the Ninth Circuit at the University of Southern California. In the Second Circuit, on October 27, 2015, six former and current bankruptcy judges spoke to Fellows about their judicial experience, comparing it to their work as legal practitioners. In February, 2015, the Fourth Circuit held a program in Washington evaluating the recent American Bankruptcy Institute Report on Chapter 11. Other Circuits have also scheduled symposia, seminars and social events on bankruptcy-related topics over the next few months.

The College also initiated a joint program with Bloomberg in New York on October 23, 2015, discussing recent Supreme Court decisions and other cases likely to be heard within the next term. Four of the five panelists were Fellows.

The International Committee has continued to provide an international insolvency class for 12 U.S. law schools. The course is led by Fellow Ray Warner of St. John's University

School of Law. Faculty for this international insolvency course is made up of College Fellows who include law professors, judges and practitioners. The College is currently arranging for the inclusion of Canadian and Mexican law schools in this course. The committee also conducted a program with international Fellows on September 29, 2015 at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' annual meeting.

Fellows from all Circuits are currently engaged in updating the College's excellent Circuit Review series. Publication of the updated edition is expected in 2016.

Legacy

The College's Archives Committee currently has 73 oral histories from leading scholars, judges and practitioners. It has also undertaken a digitization project for papers it has received from those Fellows responsible for drafting the 1978 Bankruptcy Code and subsequent amending legislation. These papers deal with consumer bankruptcy law, international bankruptcy law and papers from the 1996-97 Bankruptcy Review Commission.

The College entered into an agreement with Bloomberg Law this past year that covers roughly half of the operating expenses of the College's Archives at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. The National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges also

provides another \$5,000 of funds for maintaining the Archives.


New Senior Fellow Committee

The College's board of directors approved the formation of a Senior Fellow Committee to keep senior professionals engaged in the work of the College. Because 70% of all Fellows are now at least 60 years old, we contemplate substantial participation from these senior Fellows in providing pro bono financial and legal services; conducting educational events; and mentoring younger Fellows.

Strategic Planning

The College has already implemented a number of the Strategic Planning Committee's March, 2015 recommendations on governance and admission of new Fellows. On September 28, 2015, many of the College's Officers, Directors and Regents met with the Committee for half a day to discuss the committee's recent survey of all Fellows regarding financial, international and branding issues. We intend to report soon on the committee's recommendations.

* * *

Your support and participation have kept the College vital. Just as important, your contributions have maintained the College's excellence. 

President's Column *continued from page 2*

support from the College itself. This latter source of funding is bolstered by the amount raised in the Patrons and Sponsors Program.

Which Path to Choose? So which avenue should you use to support the many good programs maintained by the College? I hope that the answer will be **both**. Many Fellows support the College through a Patrons and Sponsors gift by their firm, as well as through individual gifts directly to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation.

However, for those of you for which a Patrons and Sponsors Program gift is not practicable, you are still able to support the College through your direct, tax-deductible donation to the Foundation. And to the extent that your gift reaches one of the Patron or Sponsor donation levels, we will recognize that gift in the listing of Patrons and Sponsors published by the College throughout the year.

So in the midst of this holiday season, please make do your best to convince your firm to be a Patron, Sponsor or Sustaining Sponsor. And please consider the College in your philanthropic gifts for the year.

We sincerely thank you for your continuing support of the College's many important activities. It is through you that the College does its good work. ¶

Foundation Report: Year-End Circuit Campaigns in Full Swing

*Mark D. Bloom, ACB Foundation
Chair*



So I usually like to begin the Foundation Column at this time of year by reporting on our Fall Board meeting, and on the Foundation presentation at the All Fellows Luncheon held this year in Miami Beach. And I usually like to write about how through the generous support of our Fellows and the efforts of the Pro Bono Committee we made so many grants to so many deserving organizations and projects in so many states (and, of course, the District of Columbia). But facing the fact that this is my last column of 2015 and that, as the headline states above, Circuit campaigns indeed are (or should be) in full swing, let me get right to the point: We need your support in 2015 as in the past, and we need it now.

Counter-intuitive as it may be for an insolvency lawyer who occasionally represents debtors, let me start by giving you The Good News first: We are off to a great start in our year-end campaign -- as of November 12, 2015 we have raised just over \$120,000 toward our 2015 target of \$254,500. And there's even more Good News: that since
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Third Circuit Reception Honoring Raymond L. Shapiro



Raymond L. Shapiro

On September 17, 2015, the Third Circuit Fellows honored Raymond L. Shapiro for his past service to the American College of Bankruptcy, the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation (the "Foundation"), and the bankruptcy profession at large with a reception at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Shapiro was presented with a "check" representing the nearly \$14,000 that was contributed to the Foundation in his honor. Joel Piassick, the second Chair of the Foundation, made the presentation on behalf of all of the attendees. ¶





Foundation Year-End

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the total to date includes several extraordinary gifts there is every reason to believe that we will exceed our goal again as we did last year.

But now, The Reality: So far only 272 of our 847 Fellows have contributed, less than one-third. The one-time, non-recurring gifts take us only so far, and by definition cannot be relied upon from year-to-year. The only way the Foundation can continue to fund the great number of financial grants to pro bono legal services across the country is for each and every one of our Fellows to make it a habit – a priority -- to support our efforts every single year.

And finally, The Challenge: In 2014 we had an overall participation of 64%, and for 2015 we have adjusted the projected rate upward to 72%. We are barely halfway to last year's participation rate, and far short of this year's goal. So as some of the "more seasoned" Fellows will remember from the movie *Smokey and the Bandit*, we still have "a long way to go and a short time to get there!"

By now each of you should have received any number of solicitations from your Circuit Campaign Committees to make your annual 2015 donations. And this year, our new College website makes it easier than ever to donate. Just go to the site at www.amercol.org, and even without logging in to the Fellows-only area you will see half-way down in the left-hand

column an orange field with the Foundation logo. Just click on that field and a PayPal page will appear, from which you can make your donation by credit card -- quickly, painlessly and, we hope, generously! For those of you who prefer to donate by check, a click on the red "click here" link immediately below the logo will pull up a PDF form that you can print out, fill in and mail in with your check.

It's a fact of life that charitable organizations solicit heavily in the last weeks of each year, and the Foundation is no different. Unlike other organizations our request is fairly modest: no amount is too small, and for active practitioners we suggest a contribution equal to one billable hour of your valuable time.

Those of you who attended our Fall Fellows Luncheon in Miami Beach got to hear firsthand from Put Something Back, the program sponsored by Dade Legal Aid in Miami-Dade County and for many years a grant recipient from the Foundation. Even more movingly, you got to hear from a 77 year-old client helped by that program to discharge her debts after she lost her life savings to a Ponzi scheme and had nowhere else to turn for help. Until that day I'd never heard anyone say, "The American College of Bankruptcy Foundation saved my life!" And I have never been prouder to be a Fellow of the College than I was that afternoon.

As we count our many blessings this holiday season,

please take a moment to remember the good work of the Foundation and its positive impact on the lives of so many who might otherwise lack access to the resources they need to regain their financial footing.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday and a joyous and prosperous new year. ¶

* * *



**Bloomberg
Law™**

ACB & Bloomberg BNA Bankruptcy Breakfast Event

Bankruptcy experts gathered at Bloomberg headquarters in New York on October 23, 2015 to discuss the implications of the five bankruptcy decisions recently handed down by the Supreme Court. The panelists spoke at an event called "A Supreme Court Review of Bankruptcy Cases," sponsored by Bloomberg Law and The American College of Bankruptcy. Please [click here](#) to view recordings of the event. ¶



Bankruptcy breakfast panelists (from left to right): Richard Levin, Stephen Lubben, Hon. Cecelia Morris, Craig Goldblatt, Stephen Youngman

Regent's Report

Marc A. Levinson, Chair,
Board of Regents



The all-day Board of Regents meeting in Miami on September 27th produced 31 invitations

for induction into College Class 27 to candidates from Canada, Greece and 19 states. Invitees include two bankruptcy judges, 24 attorneys, three financial advisors, a law professor and a bankruptcy court clerk. They range in age from 42 to 68; ten of the 31 are women (32%). You may access a list of the invitees by [clicking here](#).


This is another excellent group of bankruptcy professionals who no doubt will make outstanding additions to the College. Each meets the high standards established by both our bylaws and tradition, in that they excel in their profession, their integrity is beyond question and they give back to the community both through participation in bankruptcy educational programs and through active (and generally leadership) roles in pro bono, civic and charitable endeavors. You will learn more about them at the March 18, 2016, induction ceremony, which will again be held in the lovely covered atrium of the Smithsonian Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture.

More than 31 candidates

were nominated, of course, and the Regents spent the day in Miami engaged in spirited but collegial debates about the nominees. The decisions were difficult ones because almost without exception, the nomination packages submitted by the Circuit Admissions Councils and both the Judicial and the International Nominating Committees were thorough and compelling.


My personal thanks to the Regents and to the Committee Chairs (and their constituent Council/Committee members) for providing the College with such a well-qualified group of candidates and to the Regents for their outstanding efforts during the final selection process. The Regents are: Mark Berman (1st), Dennis Dunne (2nd), Karen Giannelli (3rd), Richard Wasserman (4th/DC), Berry Spears (5th), Judy O'Neill (6th), Ken Malek (7th), David Warfield (8th), Jeff Davidson (9th), Carl Eklund (10th) and Sarah Borders (11th). The Committee Chairs are Bob Rosenberg (International) and Judge Jim Garrity (Judicial). And thanks to Regents at Large Tim Coleman, Judge Joan Feeney and Professor Melissa Jacoby for their substantial contributions before and during the September 27th meeting.

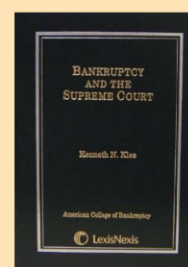
Special thanks and congratulations are reserved for the 100+ Fellows who took the time and expended the effort to put together the nomination packages and provide letters of recommendation. All of you

who have done so understand that it is no easy task to complete the lengthy form, to do the requisite due diligence and to solicit and/or write the letters of recommendation, all in secret. The Board of Regents looks forward to equally thorough and professional packages for the nominees to Class 28, and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in March. 

* * *

New Fellows Handbook Available

The College has assembled a handy resource for new Fellows which answers many membership questions. The New Fellows Handbook can be found [here](#) or simply visit the College website at www.amercol.org and go to the About tab. The handbook is located under Membership Information. This is a great resource for new and seasoned Fellows alike. 



Bankruptcy and the Supreme Court

Copies of the 1st edition of Professor Klee's *Bankruptcy and the Supreme Court* are still available. If you would like a copy, please contact Blair Alan Knight, at bknight@amercol.org. The cost is \$10 per copy to cover the cost of shipping.

Spring 2016 International Bankruptcy Course

Prof. G. Ray Warner
Course Coordinator




Seven U.S. law schools and one Mexican law school will participate in the 2016 session of the College's renowned International Bankruptcy course. The course is one of the College's major contributions to the education of bankruptcy law students. The College sponsors guest lecturers from the U.S. and around the world to teach law students about the insolvency systems of major countries and how cross-border cases can be coordinated using the European Union Insolvency Regulation and U.S. Chapter 15. The schools hold simultaneous classes using an internet bridge provided by the University of Utah's S. J. Quinney College of Law, where former College President and Chair Prof. Ralph R. Mabey is one of the course professors.

The course has been revamped to include more Fellows as lecturers and to reflect the rapidly changing nature of cross-border insolvency practice. Prof. G. Ray Warner, of St. Johns University School of Law, was appointed to lead the course and a new College committee, headed by Judge Charles G. Case II (D. Ariz.) (Ret.), supervises the course

and helps recruit new law schools to participate.

The Faculty for this year's lectures are: Hon. Timothy A. Barnes (N.D. Ill.), Agustin Berdeja-Prieto (Mexico), Prof. Susan Block-Lieb (Fordham), Prof. Charles D. Booth (Hawai'i), Hon. Charles G. Case II (D. Ariz.) (Ret.), Hon. Shelley C. Chapman (S.D.N.Y.), Zack Clement (Fulbright & Jaworski) (Ret.), Hon. Robert D. Drain (S.D.N.Y.), Daniel M. Glosband (Goodwin Proctor), Hon. Allan L. Gropper (S.D.N.Y.) (Ret.), Sean Hagen (IMF), Alexander Klauser (Austria), Prof. Ralph R. Mabey (Utah), Justice Geoffrey B. Morawetz (Canada), Prof. Michael Veder (The Netherlands), Prof. Adrian J. Walters (Chicago-Kent), and Justice Maria Cristina Zucchi (Brazil).

This year's participating schools are: Chicago-Kent, Georgetown, ITAM (Mexico City), St. John's University, University of Illinois (Chicago and Champaign), University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Utah. It is not too late for other schools to join. Email Ray.Warner@StJohns.edu for more information. 



International Bankruptcy Course Spring 2016 Syllabus

First Module: Comparative Insolvency

WEEK 1: Introduction

WEEK 2: Canada

WEEK 3: Brazil and Mexico

WEEK 4: China and Japan

WEEK 5: England

WEEK 6: Western Europe

Second Module: Managing Cross-Border Cases

WEEK 7: E.U. Regulation on
Insolvency Proceedings

WEEK 8: E.U. Regulation
(Continued)

WEEK 9: U.S. Chapter 15 –
Introduction

WEEK 10: Chapter 15 –
Commencement & Recognition

WEEK 11: Chapter 15 – Access
to Courts and Relief

WEEK 12: Chapter 15 – Comity
and Avoidance Actions

WEEK 13: Foreign Companies
Filing for Chapter 11

Pro Bono Committee Awards Grants

*James L. Baillie, Chair,
Pro Bono Committee*



The College and the Foundation continue to be the largest supporters of bankruptcy pro bono programs in the country. The Pro Bono Committee this year selected 34 programs to receive grants of up to \$10,000 each for a total of awards of \$320,337, received by those grantees by the end of October. The grantees are in all parts of the country. Over the years all circuits have been the beneficiaries of these grants. Another service of the Committee and College staff is to make available the training materials and best practices of those programs on our website.


The Committee is a committee of the Foundation, but its funds come from both the College and the Foundation. Nearly all funds raised by the Foundation—meaning from us personally—are devoted to these grants. As members of the College we contribute several ways: by contributing money, by strengthening the network of these programs through our website, and by our personal pro bono services provided through our local programs.

Twelve new members were added to the Committee this year and brought with them a

wealth of knowledge and special expertise to share with the other members. Four members served as special advisors or in another special capacity. The thirty-six regular members of the committee made the policy decisions and plans for the year, prepared written evaluations of each of the thirty-eight applications, made oral presentations, and participated actively in the six conference call meetings and one in-person meeting at the NCBJ to select the grantees. The Committee members come from all of the circuits.

Despite the fact that we have sufficient numbers of grants for the funds we have available the Committee especially wishes to help start new programs or to assist programs new to us. So one takeaway is that we encourage College Fellows to lead on the development of new programs to provide bankruptcy pro bono services in your own communities, working with the local bankruptcy judges, bankruptcy bar associations and law schools. Or encourage existing programs in your area to apply for one of our grants. The deadline for next year is likely to be July 1, 2016.

The other takeaway is to give generously to our Foundation. A related idea is to direct to our Foundation cy pres type funds, such as undistributed chapter 11 plan dividends, or foundations that would like to make bankruptcy pro bono one of the objects of their charity. Those dollars will help strengthen our bankruptcy

systems and assist people who really need representation and won't get it without our help. 

For a complete list of 2015 grantees, please see [page 9](#).

* * *



Thank You from the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation ("IWIRC")

Dear Members of the American College of Bankruptcy,

On behalf of IWIRC and the IWIRC Programming Committee, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the American College of Bankruptcy and its members for hosting a roundtable breakfast at the IWIRC Fall Conference in Miami, Florida on September 27, 2015.

At the suggestion of Judge Karen Jennemann, members of the College and approximately 35 members of IWIRC met and discussed restructuring issues and the mission of the College over breakfast. Specifically, the roundtable discussion covered the benefits and requirements for membership in the College, the selection process, how different regions of the country interact within the College, and how the College gives back to the bankruptcy community at large. In addition, many tables discussed the need for diversity

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2015 Pro Bono Grantees

Your Donations At Work!



The grants issued in 2015 include the following:

Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice
Montgomery, AL

**Alameda County Bar Association
Volunteer Legal Services Organization**
Oakland, CA

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
Atlanta, GA

**Bankruptcy Law Educational Series
(BLES) Foundation**
Orlando, FL

**Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers
Program**
Birmingham, AL

Brooklyn Volunteer Lawyers Project
Brooklyn, NY

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of
Chicago**
Chicago, IL

City Bar Justice Center
New York, NY

Community Law Project
San Diego, CA

**Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance
Project/Fresh Start Clinic**
Philadelphia, PA

**Consumer Education and Training
Services (CENTS)**
Seattle, WA

Dade Legal Aid-Put Something Back
Miami, FL

DC Bar Pro Bono Center
Washington, DC

**Georgia State University Research
Foundation**
Atlanta, GA

Indiana Legal Services, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN

King County Bar Foundation
Seattle, WA

LAW Advocates
Bellingham, WA

Legal Aid Services of Oregon
Portland, OR

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.
Pensacola, FL

Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service
Baltimore, MD

Metroplex Military Charitable Trust
Dallas, TX

Mid-Shore Pro Bono, Inc.
Easton, MD

Military Assistance Project
Philadelphia, PA

**National Consumer Bankruptcy Rights
Center**
San Jose, CA

NH Pro Bono Referral Program
Concord, NH

NW Consumer Law Center
Seattle, WA

Public Counsel
Los Angeles, CA

Public Law Center
Santa Ana, CA

Public Service Law Corporation
Riverside, CA

**Rutgers University School of Law -
Camden**
Camden, NJ

**Rutgers University School of Law -
Newark**
Newark, NJ

S.J. Quinney College of Law
Salt Lake City, UT

The Pro Bono Project
New Orleans, LA

Volunteer Lawyers Network
Minneapolis, MN

Heartfelt Thanks

Upon receipt of their 2015 grant checks, Mary Asbury of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and Angela Boone of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center sent letters to James Baillie, Pro Bono Committee Chair, thanking the Foundation for its support. The letters are reprinted below and offer concrete examples of your Foundation donations at work across the country!

Dear Mr. Baillie,

Thank you for the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation's \$10,000 grant to the Legal Aid Society. Your check, dated October 2, 2015, will enable Legal Aid to provide meaningful legal assistance for clients who are facing bankruptcy issues through expansion of our pro bono program.

Our Board and Staff are grateful to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation for its support.

Yours truly,

*Mary Asbury
Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati*



Dear Mr. Baillie,

Thank you so much for the letter and check we received late last week informing us that the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation had approved the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center's application for renewed funding to support our Bankruptcy trainings for pro bono attorneys. This new grant will be a tremendous help to the Pro Bono Center's work to serve low income residents of Washington, DC in the coming year. We are very grateful for the Foundation's longstanding confidence and support for our work!

Best regards,

*Angela Boone
Development Manager
D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center*



IWIRC Thank You

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within the insolvency industry, as well as the challenges faced by diverse members of the industry.

IWIRC would like to thank the following College members for their time in facilitating the roundtable discussions:

Janet E. Bostwick

Janet E. Bostwick, PC
Boston, MA

Laura Day DelCotto

DelCotto Law Group PLLC
Lexington, KY

Hon. Judith K. Fitzgerald

Indiana Tech Law School
Fort Wayne, IN

Elizabeth (Lisa) J. Futrell

Jones Walker, LLP
New Orleans, LA

Jan M. Hayden

Baker Donelson Bearman
Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC
New Orleans, LA

Hon. Karen S. Jennemann

U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Orlando, FL

Roberta Colton

Trenam, Kemker, Scharf,
Barkin, Frye, O'Neill & Mullis,
P.A.

Tampa, FL

Mindy A. Mora

Blizin Sumberg Baena Price &
Axelrod LLP
Miami, FL

Cori Lopez Castro

Kozyak Tropin &
Throckmorton, P.A.
Coral Gables, FL

This was IWIRC's first opportunity to partner with the College, and IWIRC is very

grateful for the insight the College members were able to provide at the breakfast. IWIRC welcomes the opportunity to partner with the American College of Bankruptcy in the future in order to increase both the profile and involvement of women within the insolvency industry.

Again, on behalf of IWIRC, we thank the American College of Bankruptcy and, specifically, Judge Jennemann and Judge Fitzgerald of the Liaison Committee, for their efforts in organizing and participating in this joint event.


Kindest regards,

Jennifer M. McLemore
IWIRC Secretary
Christian & Barton, LLP
Richmond, Virginia

Jennifer B. Kimble
IWIRC Communications Director
Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, PC
Birmingham, Alabama

About IWIRC : *IWIRC is committed to the connection, promotion, and growth of women in insolvency and restructuring professions worldwide. Since 1994, IWIRC has been connecting women worldwide through a global membership of more than 1,400 attorneys, bankers, corporate-turnaround professionals, financial advisors, and other restructuring practitioners. The organization provides its members with relationship-building, educational, career enhancement, and promotional opportunities. For more information, visit us at www.iwirc.com.*

Nancy C. Dreher Lecture on Bankruptcy Law and Practice

The College and the University of Minnesota Law School Corporate Institute hosted the 3rd annual Nancy C. Dreher Lecture on Bankruptcy Law and Practice on November 12 at the Law School. Judge Robert Kressel moderated a discussion focusing on law and policy issues raised by the proliferation of student debt in America. The featured speakers were Chief Judge Anita Shodeen of the Southern District of Iowa Bankruptcy Court and Prof. Jim Haines, of the University of Maine School of Law. Approximately 60 attorneys and law students attended the live program with 20 additional participants viewing the livestream feed on the web. The Dreher Lecture was established by the College to recognize Judge Dreher's lifetime commitment to excellence, the ethical practice of law and scholarship. Each year, the Minnesota Fellows invite distinguished practitioners, academics or judges to come to Minnesota to discuss emerging issues in bankruptcy law and practice. The lecture materials can be found by [clicking here](#). 



Fellow News

A section for newsworthy awards and moves by Fellows. If you have news about yourself or a colleague, please send announcements to Shari Bedker at sbedker@amercol.org for inclusion in the next issue of the College Columns, published in June and December each year. Fellow News can also be found on the ACB website on the [homepage](#) and under the [News & Events](#) tab.

Otterbourg P.C. has named **Melanie L. Cyganowski** chair of the firm's Restructuring and Bankruptcy Department. Ms. Cyganowski previously chaired Otterbourg's Insolvency Litigation Services, ADR and Fiduciary Appointments practice. Ms. Cyganowski will now oversee all practice areas within the firm's Restructuring and Bankruptcy Department.

Susan Freeman, a partner at Lewis Roca Rothgerber LLP, was inducted into the Maricopa County Bar Association Hall of Fame during the association's annual meeting on Oct. 27. Freeman, whose practice focuses on business bankruptcy and civil appeals, has represented clients across Arizona and the United States, including before the U.S. Supreme Court. She said she was honored to be included among those who have distinguished themselves at the highest levels of public service.

Jan Hamilton, Topeka, Kansas, has been selected by the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission as the recipient of the 2015 Robert L. Gernon Award. Jan Hamilton has practiced law in Topeka since 1973, most of that in private practice until he was appointed as the Standing

Chapter 13 Trustee for Topeka in 1998, an appointment he continues to hold today.

Dorsey & Whitney announced **Peggy Hunt**, a partner in the Firm's Salt Lake City office, has been elected to the board of directors for the Utah Bar Foundation. Hunt has been working in the area of bankruptcy and receivership law for more than 25 years.

Recently featured in Cleveland Crain's Women of Note, **Heather Lennox** thrives in complexity. That hunger for knowledge and complexity has helped Lennox become an outstanding lawyer whose resume includes working on some of the nation's most complicated and precedent-setting cases, from the city of Detroit's historic \$18 billion municipal bankruptcy case to Hostess Brands Inc.'s recent restructuring and sale of nearly \$1 billion in total assets.

Marc Levinson was named "Best of the Bar" by Sacramento Business Journal in its annual list highlighting outstanding lawyers in the greater Sacramento area. The list is compiled from peer nominations and then vetted by a panel of 20 well-known lawyers on a peer-review panel. Restructuring partner Marc

Levinson concentrates on insolvency planning, bankruptcy cases, out-of-court reorganizations and workouts. He recently advised the City of Stockton on its Chapter 9 filing, the largest California city to seek bankruptcy relief.

Beginning July 1, 2015, **Nancy B. Rapoport** is the Acting Executive Vice President & Provost at University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Sweet DeMarb is pleased to announce that **Jim Sweet** has been named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation. The presentation ceremony took place at the Foundation's Annual Fellows Recognition Dinner, held at Nakoma Golf & Country Club in Madison, on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

Barnes & Thornburg is pleased to announce that Chicago partner, **Deborah Thorne**, has been appointed by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals to become a federal judge with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She will take the bench on October 22, with a formal investiture ceremony to follow on December 9, in the Dirksen Federal Building. 



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As of November 24, 2015



On March 17, 18 and 19, 2016, the American College of Bankruptcy will host the 2016 Induction Ceremony and Related Events in Washington, D.C. at the D.C. Renaissance Downtown Hotel. The Induction of Class XXVII will be held on Friday, March 18 at the Smithsonian Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture. During this time we will also honor our 2016 Distinguished Service Award recipients, Henry J. Sommer and Jay L. Westbrook.

In addition to the Induction Ceremony other events include:

- Circuit Luncheons
- Current Topics Discussion
- International Fellows Panel Discussion
- Tour for Spouses and Guests
- Honoring Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Students from the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Circuits
- Educational Program coordinated by Prof. Bruce A. Markell
- All Fellows Luncheon

A special rate of \$252 per night at the Marriott Marquis is available to ACB Fellows and their guests. Please [click here](#) to reserve your room.

Event registration will be available shortly!

In Memoriam

Robert F. Ames
January 11, 2015

Thomas B. Anderson
June 23, 2015

Hon. Joe Lee
May 21, 2015

Harvey R. Miller
April 27, 2015

David A. Murdoch
November 24, 2015

C. Hall Swaim
July 4, 2015



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