

ABI Commission on Consumer Bankruptcy

Fact Sheet

- Created by the Executive Committee of ABI's Board of Directors in December 2016.
- Comprised of a 17-member expert panel who will examine the consumer bankruptcy system and issue a report with recommended improvements that can be implemented within the existing structure.
- Utilizing an open, information-gathering process, the Commission invites interested parties across the consumer bankruptcy spectrum to provide input.
- Co-chaired by retired Bankruptcy Judges William Houston Brown and Elizabeth Perris. Brown and Perris have 50 years of combined judicial experience.
- The Commission Reporter is Robert Lawless, the Max L. Rowe Professor of Law and co-director of the Program on Law, Behavior & Social Science at the University of Illinois College of Law.
- The Commission is funded by grants from the Anthony H.N. Schnelling Endowment and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.
- The Commission is supported by three committees to examine 22 issues ([view here](#)) for study: the Committee on Case Administration and the Estate is examining seven issues, the Committee on Chapter 7 will examine eight issues, and the Committee on Chapter 13 is examining seven issues. Each committee is comprised of five commissioners and 10 other bankruptcy experts.
- Overall, 43 reports examining issues and sub-issues are expected to be submitted by the three committees to the Commission for consideration.
- In 2017, the Commission and its committees held six public meetings where more than 70 individuals testified. The Commission will convene an open meeting at ABI's Annual Spring Meeting on April 20 in Washington, D.C., to discuss committee recommendations.
- The Commission has a website (<https://consumercommission.abi.org/>) through which it updates the public of its progress and seeks involvement. The website invites the public to submit topic suggestions and written comments, and more than 130 suggestions or written comments have been submitted to date.
- Committee recommendations that are approved by a two-thirds majority of the Commission will become part of the Commission's final report.
- The final report will be released at ABI's Winter Leadership Conference in December 2018 in Scottsdale, Ariz.