# Event Roundup

## Views from the Bench Returns to Georgetown Law Campus

ABI's Bankruptcy 2026: Views from the Bench program, a daylong opportunity to hear from a faculty comprised almost entirely of sitting and retired bankruptcy judges, returned to the campus of Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., on September 25. More than 25 judges provided their unique takes on a variety of issues for around 200 in-person and virtual attendees.

The program kicked off with a breakfast with the judges and advisory board, providing a more intimate setting in which to network with the judiciary ahead of the sessions. Panels included Getting to Confirmation: Update on Developments, Supreme and Appellate Court Round-Up, Before the Filing and First-Day Issues, Subchapter V in the Trenches: Small Cases, Big Questions, and AI and the Bench: Ethics, Evidence, Privilege, and Candor in the Age of AI. A cocktail reception followed.



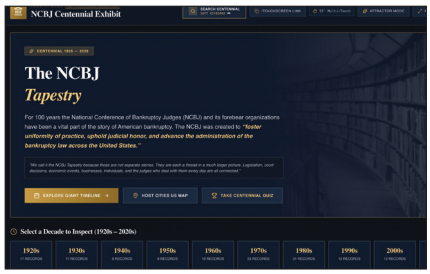

*Jackson David Toof of ArentFox Schiff LLP (Washington, D.C.) (l) and Brian L. Shaw of Cozen O'Connor (Chicago) (r) moderated a panel on ethics, evidence, privilege and candor in the age of AI with (l-r) Bankruptcy Judges Ashley Austin Edwards (Charlotte, N.C.), Hon. Michael Brian Slade (Chicago), Hon. Scott M. Grossman (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) and Hon. Maria Ellena Chavez-Ruark (Greenbelt, Md.) at the Views from the Bench program in Washington, D.C.*

**Rosa J. Evergreen** of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP (Washington, D.C.) and Hon. **Craig T. Goldblatt** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court (Wilmington, Del.) co-chaired the 25-member advisory board, which put together this year's comprehensive programming. Attendees could earn up to 7.5 hours of CLE/CPE credit, including up to 1.2 hours of ethics. ABI is grateful for the support of the following firms: agency-IP/Sherwood Partners, Inc., an EisnerAmper Company; Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP; ArentFox Schiff LLP; BakerHostetler; Cole Schotz P.C.; Cozen O'Connor; Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP; Deloitte; Gavin/Solmonese LLC; Okin Adams Bartlett Curry LLP; Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP; Polsinelli; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; and Squire Patton Boggs. ABI's next Views from the Bench program is in Wilmington, Del., on Nov. 12 at the Hotel Du Pont. You can register for this program at abi.org/events.

Check back at abi.org/events for information on Bankruptcy 2027: Views from the Bench as it becomes available.

## ABI Celebrates NCBJ's 100th Anniversary at Its Annual Conference

ABI was proud to help the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) celebrate its 100th anniversary during its Annual Meeting Oct. 7-10 at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina in San Diego. ABI hosted a trial skills program, along with four panels throughout the conference: (1) Wreck-onciliation: Mediation Guardrails and the Risks of Veering Off; (2) Chapter 15 as an Expansion Tool: Obtaining U.S. Relief Beyond the Bankruptcy Code Through Foreign Proceedings; (3) ABI/NCBJ Join Mock Trial: Smooth Sailing Through Evidentiary Issues in Subchapter V Nondischargeability Trials; and (4) Views from the Bench: Rochelle Moderates the Cases and Trends Shaping Bankruptcy.




*ABI COO Karim Guirguis put together an interactive timeline in honor of NCBJ's 100th anniversary.*

NCBJ honored ABI COO Karim Guirguis for his extraordinary work on NCBJ's 100th anniversary interactive timeline. In addition, ABI hosted a special reception from 4:30-6:45 p.m. on Oct. 8 (prior to the NCBJ NexGEN Alumni Dinner). Thanks go to the following firms for sponsoring for sponsoring ABI@NCBJ: Angeion Group LLC, Deloitte and Gavin/Solmonese.

In addition, ABI presented the 2026 Judge William L. Norton, Jr. Judicial Excellence Award to Hon. Alan S. Trust of JAMS, formerly of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York. Read more on p. 41.

Next's year's NCBJ takes place Oct. 6-9 in Boston. Visit ncbj.org for more information. abi

# What's Happening at ABI

## Hon. Alan S. Trust (Ret.) of JAMS Receives Prestigious Judge William L. Norton, Jr. Judicial Excellence Award


*Hon. Alan S. Trust*

ABI presented Bankruptcy Judge Alan S. Trust (ret.) of JAMS (Central Islip, N.Y.) with the Judge William L. Norton, Jr. Judicial Excellence Award during an ABI presentation at the 100th National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges annual meeting in San Diego on Oct. 9. The Norton Award honors a retired or current bankruptcy judge who has been an outstanding educator, writer and scholar. The award is presented by ABI and Thomson Reuters in memory of the late William L. Norton, Jr. An ABI member since 2008, Judge Trust is a seasoned ADR professional who joined JAMS after serving for more than 18 years as a bankruptcy judge in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York. He joined the bankruptcy court in 2008. In 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit designated Judge Trust to sit in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut, in addition to his service in the E.D.N.Y. He served in Connecticut for nearly a year and became chief bankruptcy judge for the E.D.N.Y. in 2020. Judge Trust retired from the bench in April 2026 but was recalled into service by the Second Circuit until June 2026.

Judge Trust served a two-year term as president of the Eastern District of New York Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and served as CLE Committee co-chair. He also served as a member of the *ABI Journal*'s Editorial Board and is a frequent contributor to its Dicta column. Judge Trust has been selected by the Federal Judicial Center on several occasions to serve as a faculty member for national bankruptcy judge workshops, and he has spoken on issues such as evidence and the power of the bankruptcy courts to regulate its proceedings through sanctions and contempt. He has been a frequent speaker and contributor for numerous CLE events and seminars, addressing bankruptcy, mediation, trial practice and ethics issues, and has participated in a number of civics programs. He was instrumental in the creation of the Pro Bono Mediation Program and the formation of the Consumer Lawyer Advisory Committee adopted by the Eastern District of New York Bankruptcy Court. Judge Trust received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Syracuse University in 1981, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and his J.D. *cum laude* from New York University School of Law in 1984, having served on its law review from 1982-83.

## Healthcare Committee Holds Virtual Meet & Greet

Following ABI's Healthcare Program, which took place in Washington, D.C., Oct. 14-15, the Healthcare Committee held a Virtual Meet & Greet on Oct. 21. It was a great chance to put faces to names, meet fellow ABI members, and connect with others who share an interest in the unique issues facing the healthcare industry and the restructuring community. The committee will be hosting another Meet & Greet in December. Check abi.org/events for more information and to sign up.

## ABI Announces 2026 Class of "40 Under 40" as Program Marks Its 10th Anniversary

ABI is pleased to announce the honorees of its 2026 "40 Under 40" award program, recognizing 40 emerging leaders who are making significant contributions to the insolvency profession before the age of 40. This year's class will be honored on Dec. 4 during ABI's 2026 Winter Leadership Conference in Palm Desert, Calif., as the program celebrates its 10th anniversary. ABI's 2026 "40 Under 40" honorees are:

- **Barry Z. Bazian** of Goodwin Procter LLP (New York)
- **Danielle Rushing** Behrends of Dykema Gossett PLLC (San Antonio)
- **Nancy M. Bello** of Lowenstein Sandler LLP (New York)
- **Jordan Chavez** of Haynes and Boone, LLP (Dallas)
- **David J. Cohen** of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (Miami)
- **Shelly L. Cuff** of Development Specialists, Inc. (Los Angeles)
- **London England** of Reed Smith LLP (Atlanta)
- **Laura L. Femino** of Boies Schiller Flexner LLP (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
- **Rachel A. Greenleaf** of U.S. Bankruptcy Court (E.D. Va.; Richmond)
- **Brett M. Haywood** of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP (Wilmington, Del.)
- **Henry "Ned" E. Hildebrand IV** of Dunham Hildebrand, PLLC (Brentwood, Tenn.)
- **Dwight Hingtgen** of Alvarez & Marsal (Chicago)
- **Natasha Hwangpo** of Latham & Watkins LLP (New York)
- **Stephen L. Iacovo** of Ropes & Gray LLP (New York)
- **Stephen A. Jones** of Foley & Lardner LLP (Dallas)
- **Bryan Kotliar** of Morrison & Foerster LLP (New York)
- **Andrew Layden** of Baker & Hostetler (Orlando, Fla.)
- **Tara LeDay** of Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr, P.C. (Austin, Texas)
- **Matthew E. Linder** of White & Case LLP (Chicago)
- **Noreen A. Madoyan** of the U.S. Trustee's Office in Los Angeles
- **Erica G. Mannix** of Lowenstein Sandler LLP (New York)
- **Jaclyn C. Marasco** of Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP (Wilmington, Del.)
- **Zachary McKay** of Jackson Walker, LLP (Houston)

- **Sean A. Mitchell** of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP (New York)
- **Ashley F. Morgan** of Ashley F Morgan Law, PC (Chantilly, Va.)
- **Jordon Parker** of Hilco Global (New York)
- **Jonah A. Peppiatt** of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (New York)
- **Lauren Baio Pultro** of Adams & Reese LLP (Washington, D.C.)
- **Joseph Richman** of FTI Consulting, Inc. (Denver)
- **Keri Riley** of Kutner Brinen Dickey Riley (Denver)
- **Andrew S. Rivera** of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC (Syracuse, N.Y.)
- **Claire Robinson** of Upsolve (New York)
- **Reginald Sainvil** of Moore & Van Allen PLLC (Charlotte, N.C.)
- **Isaac Sasson** of Paul Hastings LLP (New York)
- **Samantha Siegien** of Dentons US LLP (Chicago)
- **Raychelle A. Tasher** of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP (Coral Gables, Fla.)
- **Rion M. Vaughan** of Rubin Rudman (Boston)
- **Benjamin L. Wallen** of Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones (Houston)
- **Aparna V. Yenamandra** of Kirkland & Ellis LLP (New York)
- **Sandy Yeung** of Barings (London)

"This year's 40 Under 40 honorees represent the depth of talent, leadership and innovation shaping the future of the insolvency profession," said **Amy Quackenboss**, ABI executive director. "As we celebrate the program's 10th anniversary, we are proud to recognize these outstanding professionals and their contributions to the industry and their communities."

Nominations were submitted earlier this year by the candidates themselves or by colleagues via the award program's website, abi40under40.org. Nearly 300 candidates, each with outstanding records of professional achievement and community leadership, were evaluated by members of a 16-person steering committee. Most of the applicants were partners, directors or managing directors at their firms.

This year's Steering Committee, chaired by **Jason Brookner** of Gray Reed (Dallas), included **Vincent Alexander** of Shutts & Bowen LLP (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.), **January Bailey** of Prelle Eron & Bailey, PA (Wichita, Kan.) **Lauren P. Berrett** of Eisner Advisory Group (Philadelphia), **Megan Clontz** of Shipman & Goodwin LLP (Dallas), **Kathleen DiSanto** of Bush Ross, PA (Tampa, Fla.), **Warren Ford III** of Goosmann Law Firm (Omaha, Neb.), **Charvi Gupta** of Hilco Global, an ORIX Company (New York), **Ryan F. Kelley** of Pierce Atwood LLP (Portland, Maine), **Jeffrey S. Kwong** of Levene Neale Bender Yoo & Golubchik, LLP (Los Angeles), **Robert Marticello** of Raines Feldman Littrell LLP (Newport Beach, Calif.), Bankruptcy Judge **Kyu (Mike) Paek** (S.D.N.Y.; Poughkeepsie, N.Y.), **Nisha Patel** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. D.C.) (Washington), **Amalia Sax-Bolder** of Reed Smith LLP (Denver) **Glenn Siegel** of Moore & Van Allen PLLC (Charlotte, N.C.) and **Brendon Singh** of Tran Singh LLP (Houston). Many of the members of this year's Steering Committee are themselves past ABI "40 under 40" honorees.

Now in its tenth year, the goal of ABI's "40 Under 40" program is not simply to host an annual recognition ceremony, but to engage future leaders in the insolvency profession and strengthen the program year after year. ABI has created a year-round promotional campaign in the *ABI Journal* and at all of its conferences in consultation with the Steering Committee. For more information about ABI's "40 under 40" award program, visit abi40under40.org.

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## Make an Impact Before Year-End

As the year comes to a close, consider making a year-end gift to the ABI Endowment Fund. Your support helps advance research, education, scholarships, professional development and programs that strengthen the insolvency and restructuring community. Every gift, no matter the size, helps us continue this important work and invest in the future of the profession. Make your year-end gift today at www.abi.org/endowment and help us continue making an impact in 2027.

### Join Us at the Paskay Hockey Game in Tampa

Join us for an exciting night of hockey as the Dallas Stars take on the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday, Feb. 12, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. at Benchmark International Arena in Tampa! Enjoy a great evening of hockey, networking and fun while supporting the ABI Endowment Fund.

- Sponsorship: $800 (includes two tickets plus recognition on social media and event marketing materials)
- Single Ticket: $250

For more information or to register, contact Erin Green at egreen@abi.org.

### Apply for or Donate to Sheila Smith Scholarship

The Sheila Smith Scholarship helps support the next generation of insolvency and restructuring professionals by providing opportunities for education, growth and professional development. The scholarship is currently accepting applications for ABI's 2027 Annual Spring Meeting (April 13-16 in Washington, D.C.) Apply at sheila-smith-scholarship.abi.org.

Help us continue Sheila Smith's legacy by donating to the fund! Whether you apply or make a gift, your participation makes a difference.

### Levels of Support for the ABI Endowment

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| Diamond Level | $80,000-$100,000 |
| Platinum Level | $65,000-$79,999 |
| Millennium Level | $50,000-$64,999 |
| 30th Anniversary Circle | $30,000-$49,999 |
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| Visionary Member | $20,000-$24,999 |
| Legacy Member | $15,000-$19,999 |
| Lifetime Member | $10,000-$14,999 |
| Benefactor | $5,000-$9,999 |
| Sustaining Member | $2,000-$4,999 |
| Leadership Club | $1,000-$1,999 |
| Donor | $100-$999 |

*Donate online at abi.org/endowment. Donations are tax-deductible and can be paid over five years. Contact Erin Green at egreen@abi.org for more information.* abi

# Members in the News

**Irving E. Walker** of Cole Schotz PC (Baltimore) has been recognized in the 2026 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. He has been an ABI member since 1994.

Six attorneys with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP have been named to *Lawdragon*'s 2026 list of 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. Based in New York, **Shana A. Elberg** has been an ABI member since 2017 and is an advisory board member of ABI's VALCON program, and **Paul D. Leake** has been an ABI member since 2011 and is a past ABI Vice President-Publications. Based in Chicago, **James J. Mazza Jr.** has been an ABI member since 2014, and **Ron E. Meisler** has been an ABI member since 2026. **Joseph Larkin** has been an ABI member since 2019 and is based in Wilmington, Del. **Peter K. Newman** has been an ABI member since 2009 and is based in London.

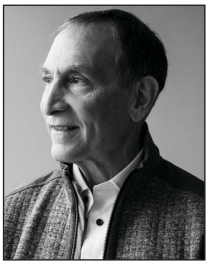
Three attorneys with Richards, Layton & Finger, PA in Wilmington, Del., have been named to *Lawdragon*'s 2026 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. **Mark D. Collins** has been an ABI member since 1993 and is an advisory board member of ABI's Views from the Bench program. **Daniel J. DeFranceschi** has been an ABI member since 1997 and is a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal*. **Paul N. Heath** has been an ABI member since 2005.

Three attorneys with Proskauer Rose LLP have been recognized in the 2026 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. **Martin J. Bienenstock** has been an ABI member since 2007 and is based in Boca Raton, Fla. **Charles A. Dale III** has been an ABI member since 2015 and is based in Boston. Based in New York, **Vincent Indelicato** has been an ABI member since 2017, is a 2018 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree and an advisory board member of ABI's Views from the Bench program.

**Jerry M. Markowitz** of Markowitz, Ringel, Trusty + Hartog, PA (Miami) has been recognized in the 2026 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers. He has been an ABI member since 1991 and is a past ABI Vice President-Membership.

Four attorneys witth Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP in Wilmington, Del., have been named to the 2026 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers guide. **M. Blake Cleary** has been an ABI member since 2001. **L. Katherine Good** has been an ABI member since 2009. **Brett M. Haywood** has been an ABI member since 2024 and is an advisory board member of ABI's Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Workshop. **Jeremy W. Ryan** has been an ABI member since 2005.

Prof. **Nancy B. Rapoport** of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in Las Vegas has rejoined the board of directors for The Mob Museum, the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement headquarted in Las Vegas. An ABI member since 1994 and a past ABI Vice President-Research Grants, she previously served three terms on the museum's board from 2013-22. In addition, *The National Law Review* and Wickard named Prof. Rapoport one of the Top 50 Legal Innovators in Academia for 2026, a national recognition honoring the educators, administrators, researchers and academic leaders who are shaping the future of legal education. abi



*Irving E. Walker*



*Jerry M. Markowitz*



*Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport*

# New Members

**July (partial listing)**

*Jonathan Zisblatt*
*UCLA School of Law*
*Los Angeles*

**August (partial listing)**

*Alejandro Acosta*
*The University of Miami*
*Miami*

*Mustafa Omer Ahmedani*
*Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law*
*Chicago*

*Tanja Akbarpur*
*The University of Miami*
*Coral Gables, Fla.*

*Sydney Albert*
*Emory University*
*Decatur, Ga.*

*Kasayah Alexis*
*Howard University School of Law*
*Washington, Md.*

*Benjamin Alpert*
*U.S. Bankruptcy Court*
*Springfield, Mass.*

*Swati Devendra Amin*
*U.S. Bankruptcy Court*
*Newark, N.J.*

*Tyler Ballesteros*
*U.S. Bankruptcy Court*
*San Diego*

*Karen Bauer*
*Amundsen Davis, LLC*
*Milwaukee*

*Brandon Talon Beagle*
*The University of Arizona*
*Tucson, Ariz.*

*Ethan Brady*
*The University of Chicago Booth School of Business*
*Chicago*

*Caitlin Vasko Brown*
*U.S. Bankruptcy Court*
*Madison, Wis.*

*Luke Marie Brzozowski Esq.*
*Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP*
*Wilmington, Del.*

*Clayton Justin Bush*
*Arizona State University*
*Phoenix*

*Brandon Cal*
*SANS Technology Institute*
*Bethesda, Md.*

*Makesha Caldwell*
*Purdue University Global*
*St. Louis* abi

## Editor's Note

*In Part II of Prof. Bruce A. Markell's article "*Margolin, *Bankruptcy and the Fate of the 'Tipsy Coachman,'" published in the October 2026 issue,we inadvertently left out an additional section of text that had been submitted. That section has now been added, and the complete article can be accessed on the* ABI Journal *app and online at https://www.abi.org/abi-journal/margolin-bankruptcy-and-the-fate-of-the-%E2%80%9Ctipsy-coachman%E2%80%9D-part-2 in both text and pdf format. We regret the error.*