

# President's Column

This, my final President's Column, is all about moments. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

One of my favorite expressions from listening to the radio is a "driveway moment." In the context of car radios, it's when you've already pulled into your driveway on your way home, and the piece (or the song) you're listening to is so interesting, so compelling, that you sit there and listen until the end before you open the door and leave the car. Living in a very walkable city with great mass-transit systems, I don't have as many driveway moments as I used to. However, the underlying principle is to take a little extra time to get the most out of what you're doing.

There's another kind of moment that has a double-edged quality about it, which I'll refer to as a "grocery store moment." It's not unique to grocery stores. It could happen anywhere: an airport, a theater, a walk in the park — anywhere that you might encounter someone you know, or someone you think you know but can't immediately place.

Judges have their own kind of grocery store moments, because they often involve parties (or lawyers) in our cases. The inevitable social distance that being a judge imposes can often lead to various degrees of awkwardness in those encounters. It's always easy to be civil and polite to parties and their lawyers in those situations, but there is also always a limit to comfortable engagement. Especially in a relatively small community, it can be difficult. I recall a chapter 7 debtor who worked in a grocery store at which I regularly shopped. They were also a defendant in a complaint objecting to both the dischargeability of a seven-figure debt, and to their discharge itself. This person's shift often coincided with the times that I would shop on my way home from the courthouse. We can never be sure whether people appearing in our courts recognize us out of context, but I was very aware of her presence, and did my best to minimize any discomfort that they might feel as our paths crossed.

Not all of my grocery store moments have been uncomfortable. One (albeit around the corner from the actual grocery store) started out a little dicey. As I stood at an intersection waiting for the walk signal in the early afternoon, a guy driving a pickup shouted, "Hey, you!" through the passenger window at me, then pulled over, stopped the truck, got out and began walking toward me. He looked vaguely familiar, but I couldn't place him right away, and he hadn't called me by name. When he reached me, he said, "You're a judge, right? You're the judge in my case?" At that point I did recognize him: a *pro se* sovereign citizen chapter 7 debtor. I also remembered granting his mortgagee relief from stay in his case a few weeks

earlier. I felt a pang of anxiety, and said what I perhaps should not have said: "Yes, I am." To my relief, he extended his right hand toward mine, smiled, and said "I just wanted you to know that I thought you were really fair to me." We shook hands, I said something to the effect that it was my job to try and be fair, and we parted amicably.

Other grocery store moments have been more celebratory. More than once, people have recognized me in grocery stores because I was the person who presided over their naturalization ceremony when they became U.S. citizens — one of the best things I ever got to do as a judge. I would not have recognized them, but each of them made my day by taking the time to say hello, and to tell me how much the ceremony meant to them. One of those new citizens even contacted me a couple of years later and asked me to officiate his wedding ceremony, which I happily did.

By far, the grocery store moment that touched me most deeply started out random enough. One Saturday, at the grocery store closest to my house, I passed a man going the opposite direction as I was. I think it was in the pasta section, but it might have been in the soups. We caught each other's eye and hesitated ever so briefly. Neither of us seemed to immediately recognize the other, and neither of us decided to say anything, so we went our separate ways.

The more I thought about him, the more curious I became about why he looked familiar. We encountered each other a couple of aisles later, and I went up to him, saying "Excuse me, but you look familiar. Do we know each other?" I told him my name. He smiled, and said, "Yes, we do." He told me his name (we'll call him "Fred Royce.") It turns out that about 30 years earlier, in his very first year of teaching, he was one of my oldest son Xan's sixth-grade teachers. Of course, because he had not heard that Xan had passed away a few years earlier, he asked me how Xan was doing. [Editor's Note: Judge Harwood's son Xan passed away from cancer in 2019.]

It's always hard to have to answer that question when someone who doesn't know asks it, especially when I inevitably get choked up answering it and assuring them that I know they didn't know. It went as well as it possibly could, and I told him about the many things that Xan had accomplished and that had helped us all navigate that most difficult period. We exchanged contact information, hugged, and I went home with my groceries.

Later that evening, I got a very kind email from him. He apologized for catching me off-guard when he asked about Xan. He went on:

Xan was one of my all-time favorite students. As a sixth-grader, he was so kind,



**ABI President  
Hon. Bruce A.  
Harwood (ret.)**  
San Francisco

---

Hon. Bruce Harwood is a retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of New Hampshire, appointed to the bench in March 2013, and he currently resides in San Francisco. He previously served as ABI's Secretary and Vice President-Communications & Information Technology.

---

so thoughtful, and so himself at such a young age. I thought you might like to read his letter to [my wife] and I when we were expecting [our daughter]. I think his advice paid off as [our daughter] just finished her second year of law school at the University of New Hampshire. You have to love the candid, clear and practical advice of a sixth-grader.

He had apparently given a homework assignment to the class, asking that they write a letter to him and his wife, giving them advice as new parents. Attached to his email was a copy of Xan's letter, addressed to his teacher and his wife, written on lined notebook paper in Xan's own sixth-grade cursive:

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Royce: I have some things to tell you about infant safety. You have to be patient with the baby. For example, if you are just sitting down for dinner and the baby starts to cry because it is hungry or needs a new diaper, respond to the call, you have to follow the baby's schedule. Always travel with extra diapers, wipes and baby clothes in case of an emergency. Never leave child unattended on the changing table so he/she does not fall off and get hurt. Put gates or boards next to any stairway and room with fragile objects so nothing gets hurt or broken. Keep every little thing out of reach so the baby does not choke on something. Never leave child unattended in the bathtub so he/she does not get burnt, or outside so he/she does not get hit by a car or wander away or get kidnapped.

Very practical, right? Suffice it to say that seeing Xan's handwriting and reading his ever-practical advice to his teacher, hit me in the very center of my heart. I cried, over and over. (Hon.) Hannah (Blumenstiel, Judge Harwood's spouse and an ABI Board Member) was in San Francisco. I called her and cried. I cried on and off for the rest of the weekend, but I was so very glad that I had taken a moment back there in the grocery store to see how he and I might know each other. Had I not done so, I would likely never have seen Xan's letter.

A year later, this story got even more profound. At the federal courthouse in New Hampshire, all of the bankruptcy judges, district judges, magistrate judges and circuit court of appeals judges had their chambers on the same floor, and we visited with each other frequently. One afternoon, I was talking to one of the magistrate judges in her chambers on the day that a new group of interns was joining the district court. The judge introduced me to one of them, and the intern said, "Hi. I'm Jordan Royce." I asked her where she was from. She told me that she was in her third year of law school at the University of New Hampshire, and that she grew up in the same town that I lived in.

Something clicked in my head, and I asked her, "Do you happen to be related to Fred Royce?" She smiled widely and said, "He's my father. Do you know him?" And that is how I found myself talking to the very person that Xan had written his parenting tips letter about for his homework assignment from her father, before she was ever born. I told her the whole grocery store moment story. I sent her a copy of her dad's email to me, as well as Xan's homework letter to her dad about what turned out to be her. And yes, I probably cried, but above all felt even more connected to Xan.

I said at the beginning that this column is about taking a moment. Pausing what you're doing to make room for an unexpected contact with another person. Finding and taking a little extra time to appreciate someone or something that might otherwise just pass you by. I don't want to sound preachy or saccharine. Sometimes taking that moment won't make the difference you think it might, but you'll never know unless you try.

Speaking of taking a moment: let me take this one to express just how grateful I am to ABI for giving me the opportunity to be President this past year. From the volunteer leadership to the second-to-none staff, ABI is truly an exceptional organization because its leadership and its members make it so. It has been my sincere privilege to be a part of it. I have no doubt that we will see great things from (and inspired by) **Stephen Lerner** of Squire Patton Boggs in his upcoming presidential year. I look forward to continuing to work with all of them, and with all of you, first as Immediate Past President, then as Chairman of the Board, then on from there.

It's also been a pleasure using a corner of this column to share some of my favorite astronomy stories with you. I'll use our last remaining visit to focus on the spring constellations that are visible this month. I already told you one of my all-time favorites, about the star Arcturus (in the constellation Bootes) and its connections to Chicago (see [abi.org/abi-journal/inside-abi-november-2025](http://abi.org/abi-journal/inside-abi-november-2025)). As I noted, finding bright Arturus is as easy as following the curve of the Big Dipper's handle: "Follow the arc to Arcturus." From there, you can continue along the arc to the constellation Virgo and its brightest star, Spica ("Speed on to Spica" or "Drive the spike to Spica.").

Spica is not a single star; it's actually a two-star binary system. The stars, both several times larger than our Sun, are 11 million miles apart, yet they orbit each other once every four days. Compare that to Mizar and Alcor, the double stars in the Big Dipper's handle that you'll pass on the way to Arcturus and Spica. They are more than four light years apart and orbit each other once every 750,000 years. Like Arcturus, Spica also appears on a flag: the national flag of Brazil, right above the Portuguese inscription "Ordem e Progresso" ("Order and Progress").

One of the other spring constellations that's easy to spot is Leo (the lion). Its head and shoulders stand out like a backwards question mark at one end, and his body extends to the left, ending in a triangle at its haunches and tail. Leo's mythology is gruesome. Leo represents the Nemean lion that Hercules strangled to death in a cave in the first of his 12 labors. The lion's skin was impenetrable to knives and arrows, but its claws were made of the hardest, sharpest substance in the world. After he strangled the lion, Hercules used its claws to skin it, then wore the pelt as armor. To celebrate Hercules's first and grisly labor, Zeus placed the lion (or what was left of it) in the heavens as the constellation Leo. Yeesh.

Rather than end on that note, I'll return to Bootes, the "herdsman" or the "plowman," who was the son of Demeter, the goddess of agriculture — a much more fitting note on which to end to the April column. I hope these stories inspire you to take a moment, look up and wonder at the sky from time to time. These days, we all need more reasons to keep looking up. **abi**

# Event Roundup

## Tampa Hosts Successful 50th Anniversary Paskay Seminar



Ferris Bueller faces consequences from his infamous “Day Off” during a session at the Paskay Seminar in late February. This lively panel included (from left) Daniel A. Velasquez of Latham, Luna, Eden & Beaudine, LLP (Orlando, Fla.), Hon. Scott M. Grossman of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida (Fort Lauderdale), Danielle L. Merola of BakerHostetler (Orlando, Fla.), Hon. Tiffany Payne Geyer of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida (Orlando), Jesse Ellsworth Summers Jr. of Burr & Forman LLP (Jacksonville, Fla.), Amy Denton Mayer of Berger Singerman LLP (Tampa, Fla.) and Todd Budgen of Budgen Law (Longwood, Fla.).

ABI and Stetson University College of Law held the 50th annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar, a memorial CLE program honoring the lifetime achievements of the late Bankruptcy Judge **Alexander L. Paskay**, Feb. 25-26 in Tampa, Fla. More than 200 attendees convened at the newly refurbished Hotel Flor Tampa Downtown for focused sessions on AI-powered fee examination in bankruptcy, what’s new with MCAs, 10 ways to make a chapter 13 plan successful, practical AI tools for bankruptcy professionals (which are available in a special downloadable PDF on the *ABI Journal* app), common consumer practice issues, a subchapter V update, a well-



Robert C. Furr of Furr Cohen, PA (Boca Raton, Fla.), J. Ryan Yant of Carlton Fields, PA (Tampa, Fla.), Michael R. Dal Lago of Dal Lago Law (Naples, Fla.) and Hon. Mindy A. Mora of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida (West Palm Beach) (l-r) addressed merchant cash advance financing, and its history, structure, enforcement and treatment in bankruptcy and nonbankruptcy cases.



Dana L. Robbins-Boehner of Burr & Forman LLP (Tampa, Fla.), Douglas Alan Bates of Clark, Partington, Hart, Larry, Bond & Stackhouse (Pensacola, Fla.), Megan W. Murray of Underwood Murray PA (Tampa, Fla.) and Jordi Guso of Berger Singerman LLP (Miami) (l-r) addressed three critical aspects of modern bankruptcy practice during this TED-Talk-style panel: recent Supreme Court developments, strategic considerations in deciding whether to file for bankruptcy, and the impact of language and terminology on advocacy and outcomes.

ness session, business- and consumer-focused countdowns to trial, and a fun plenary that revolved around the ’80s movie *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*.

The program also featured a keynote moderated by Hon. **Catherine Peck McEwen** of the Tampa Bankruptcy Court, who regaled the audience with tales about the seminar’s namesake, and a TED Talks session that covered recent Supreme Court developments, strategic considerations in deciding whether to file for bankruptcy, and the impact of language and terminology on advocacy and outcomes. Attendees could earn up to 10.2/10 hours of CLE/CPE credit, plus 1.2 hours of wellness.

There were plenty of options for networking as well, starting with the Opening Reception on the first evening,



Hon. Caryl E. Delano (l) and Hon. Catherine Peck McEwen of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Middle District of Florida (Tampa) (r) chatted with Prof. Shailini J. George, who explored the unique stressors facing members of the bench and bar and how these pressures affect professional performance and personal well-being.

followed by an IWIRC-sponsored dinner, then an optional Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game hosted by the ABI Endowment Fund in a suite donated by Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. Proceeds from the ticket sales benefited the Endowment.

ABI is grateful to the advisory board, led by Co-Chairs **Steven M. Berman** of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP (Tampa, Fla.), Hon. **Caryl E. Delano** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Middle District of Florida (Tampa) and Hon. **Corali Lopez-Castro** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of Florida (Miami), for putting together this year's celebratory 50th anniversary program. We also thank the following sponsors for their financial support: Anthony & Partners, LLC; Axos Global Fiduciary Banking; BakerHostetler; Berger Singerman LLP; Burr & Forman; Bush Ross, PA; Elgidedly Family Foundation; Gavin/Solmonese LLC; GrayRobinson, PA; KapilaMukamal, LLP; Lynn Welter Sherman, PLLC; Michael Moecker & Associates; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP; Pack Law, P.A.; Roy Kobert Mediation; Shraiberg Page, P.A.; Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP; Shutts & Bowen LLP; Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, PA; Trenam; Underwood Murray PA; and Venable LLP.

Check back at [abi.org/events](http://abi.org/events) for information on next year's program as it becomes available.

## U. of Illinois Wins 34th Annual Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition



*The team from the University of Illinois College of Law clinched First Place at the 34th Annual Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition.*

The University of Illinois College of Law won the 34th Annual Conrad B. Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, held Feb. 28-March 2 in New York City. The competition is co-sponsored by ABI and St. John's University School of Law. Wake Forest University School of Law took second place in the competition, and teams from Baylor University School of Law and Wayne State University Law School shared third-place honors. The University of Oklahoma College of Law won for Best Brief, and Katelyn Stevens of Baylor University School of Law won the Best Advocate award.



*The team from Wake Forest University School of Law won second place in the competition.*



*Katelyn Stevens of Baylor University School of Law (l) won the Best Advocate award, while the team from the University of Oklahoma College of Law (r) won for Best Brief.*

The competition consisted of eight rounds of oral arguments and final rounds. ABI practitioners and academics coached many of the teams, and nearly 200 lawyers and federal judges donated their time and expertise to help judge the event. The fact pattern for the competition focused on two key developments in bankruptcy law: (1) whether, under the U.S. Constitution or 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b), a bankruptcy court must dismiss the chapter 11 case of a debtor who is not in financial distress as of the



*Dean Jelani Jefferson Exum of St. John's University School of Law, ABI President and Retired Bankruptcy Judge Bruce A. Harwood and Bankruptcy Judge Alan S. Trust (E.D.N.Y.) (l-r) enjoyed the gala following the Duberstein Competition.*

petition date; and (2) whether, under 11 U.S.C. § 1123 and other applicable authority, a bankruptcy court may confirm a chapter 11 plan that grants releases in favor of nondebtor entities through an “opt-out” procedure.

Final-round judges for the 2026 competition were Bankruptcy Judge **Lisa G. Beckerman** (S.D.N.Y.), Chief Bankruptcy Judge **Martin Glenn** (S.D.N.Y.), Bankruptcy Judge Jil Mazer-Marino (E.D.N.Y.) and Chief Bankruptcy Judge **Alan S. Trust** (E.D.N.Y.). Bankruptcy Judges **John T. Gregg** (W.D. Mich.; Grand Rapids) and **Paul R. Hage** (E.D. Mich.; Detroit) drafted this year’s fact pattern (see their article on p. 28 about the legacy of the Duberstein Competition).

Named for the late Judge **Conrad B. Duberstein**, a St. John’s alumnus and former ABI director, the Duberstein Competition has grown into the largest appellate moot court competition in the nation. ABI’s Endowment Fund



Bankruptcy judges from around the nation traveled to New York City to help judge the Duberstein Competition.

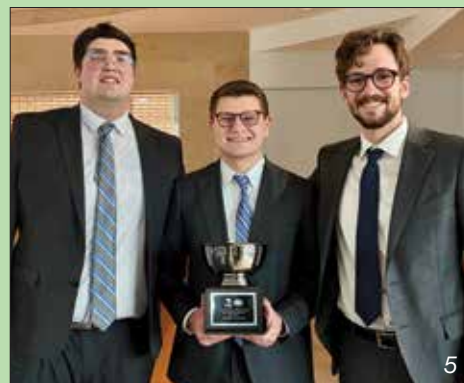
awarded \$13,000 in cash prizes for the winners during a gala reception held at the New York Marriott Downtown on March 2. **abi**

## Regional Moot Court Competitions Held Nationwide in Early 2026



ABI congratulates the winning teams of each of the regional moot court competitions that were held around the nation in preparation for the 34th Annual Duberstein Moot Court Competition in late February/early March in New York City. The results of these regional moot court competitions and their respective winning teams are as follows:

1. **Rocky Mountain Regional Moot Court:** The University of California College of Law San Francisco won the competition, and Adrian Funston from Idaho was named Best Oralist.
2. **Eleventh Circuit Cristol Kahn Paskay Cup Moot Court Competition:** The University of Miami, represented by Gabriella Socarras, Jacob Needle and Yehuda Gannon, won the competition, and the runner-up was FIU College of Law, represented by Grace VaHooser, Eliza Anderson and Cory Adika, with Eliza Anderson from FIU being named Best Advocate and Gabriella Socarras from the University of Miami being named the runner-up for Best Advocate.
3. **ABI Shapero Cup Regional Moot Court:** Michigan State University College of Law won the competition, and Katherine Held was named Best Oralist.
4. **Seventh Circuit Regional Moot Court:** Texas A&M University School of Law won the competition, and Abigail Majerus was named Best Oralist.
5. **Fourth Circuit Regional Moot Court:** Wake Forest won the competition, with Maryland as the runner-up team, and Jack Cordell was named Best Oralist.



# Members in the News

Five attorneys with Richards, Layton & Finger, PA in Wilmington, Del., have been named Top Lawyers in *Delaware Today's* list of the best lawyers in the state. **Mark D. Collins** has been an ABI member since 1993 and is an advisory board member of ABI's Views from the Bench program. **Paul N. Heath** and **Michael J. Merchant** have been ABI members since 2005. **Brendan J. Schlauch** has been an ABI member since 2016. **Amanda R. Steele** has been an ABI member since 2011 and is a 2023 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree.

**Luis Salazar** of Cole Schotz PC (Miami) received a 2025 Latino & Hispanic Leadership Award from *Profiles in Leadership Journal*. He has been an ABI member since 2026.

**Ryan B. Bennett** has joined Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP as chair of the firm's Restructuring Group in Chicago. He has been an ABI member since 2001.

**Julie B. Teicher** of Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller, PC (Southfield, Mich.) has been named to *DBusiness Magazine's* 2026 Top Lawyers list for Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law. She has been an ABI member since 2002.

**Alan R. Crane** of Furr Cohen, PA (Boca Raton, Fla.) has been named a Top Lawyer in Palm Beach County by *Palm Beach Illustrated*. He has been an ABI member since 2013.

**Mary Beth Naumann** has been sworn in as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Kentucky. She has been an ABI member since 2024, and she is an advisory board member of ABI's Midwest Regional Bankruptcy Seminar

and Newsletter Editor of ABI's Unsecured Trade Creditors Committee.

Two attorneys with Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Wilmington, Del., have been named to *Delaware Today Magazine's* 2025 Top Lawyers list. **Michael R. Nestor** has been an ABI member since 2000. **Joseph M. Barry** has been an ABI member since 2002.

**Douglas J. Buncher** has joined FBFK Law in Plano, Texas, as a shareholder and co-chair of the firm's Litigation Section. He has been an ABI member since 2013.

**Gary M. Weiner** of Weiner Law Firm, PC (Springfield, Mass.) received the 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Award from Community Legal Aid of Central and Western Massachusetts. He has been an ABI member since 1990.

**William T. Reid IV** of Reid Collins & Tsai LLP (Austin, Texas) has published a new book, *Fighting Bullies: The Case for a Career in Plaintiffs' Law*. He has been an ABI member since 2007.

**Anthony W. Clark** of Greenberg Traurig, LLP (Wilmington, Del.) has been recognized in the 2025 edition of *Delaware Today's* Top Lawyers list for Bankruptcy/Business. He has been an ABI member since 2024.

**Stephen M. Gross** of McDonald Hopkins LLC (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.) has been recognized by *DBusiness Journal* as a 2026 Top Lawyer for Mergers & Acquisitions Law. He has been an ABI member since 1993.

**Brett M. Amron** of Bast Amron LLP (Miami) has been named a recipient of the 2025 Miami-Dade Bar Circle of Excellence Award for Business Litigation. He has been an ABI member since 2005.

**Kayci G. Hines** has joined McGuireWoods' Restructuring and Insolvency Practice Group in New York as counsel. She has been an ABI member since 2023.

**Caleb Chaplain** has co-founded Chaplain Dufraine PLLC in Roanoke and Harrisonburg, Va. The firm provides chapter 7 and 13 representation across the Western District of Virginia, among other services. An ABI member since 2015, Mr. Chaplain is a 2022 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree and is a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal*, and he was previously the career law clerk to Hon. **Rebecca B. Connelly** of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Two attorneys with Wolfson Bolton Kochis PLLC in Troy, Mich., have been recognized in the 2026 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. **Anthony J. Kochis** has been an ABI member since 2009 and is an advisory board



Luis Salazar



Julie B. Teicher



William T. Reid IV



Kayci G. Hines



Caleb Chaplain

## Connell Foley LLP News



Connell Foley LLP announced the launch of the firm's new Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Practice. The team includes Robert K. Malone and Mark Conlan (standing l-r), and Brett S. Theisen, Katharina Earle and Dale E. Barney (seated l-r). Mr. Malone and Mr. Theisen will be practice co-chairs. Mr. Barney and Mr. Conlan will be partners, and Ms. Earle will lead the firm's new Wilmington, Del., office.



**Lara Roeske  
Fernandez**



**Michael P. Richman**



**Katherine R.  
Catanese**



**Jonathan S. Green**



**Hon. Shireen A.  
Barday**

member of ABI's Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. **Michelle H. Bass** has been an ABI member since 2017. In addition, **Scott A. Wolfson** received "Lawyer of the Year" honors, and has been an ABI member since 2004. An ABI member since 2023, **Logan T. Grizzell** was named to the publication's "Ones to Watch" list.

**Lara Roeske Fernandez** of Tremam Kemker (Tampa, Fla.) has been named to *Florida Trend's* 2025 Legal Elite Notable Women Leaders in Law list. She has been an ABI member since 2006.

**Ronit Berkovich** of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP (New York) has been named a 2025 *Law360* MVP in Bankruptcy. She has been an ABI member since 2012.

**Jason W. Bank** of Kerr, Russell & Weber PLC (Detroit) has been named to *DBusiness Magazine's* 2026 Top Lawyers list. He has been an ABI member since 1998.

**Michael P. Richman** of Richman & Richman LLC (Madison, Wis.) has been named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation's Class of 2025. He has been an ABI member since 1992 and is a Past ABI President.

**William A. Williams** of Jenner & Block LLP (Chicago) has been promoted to special counsel. He has been an ABI member since 2016.

Three attorneys with Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP have been selected by *5280 Magazine* for its list of Denver's Top Lawyers 2026 in Bankruptcy. **Steven E. Abelman** has been an ABI member since 2007. **Michael J. Pankow** has been an ABI member since 2005. **Amalia Y. Sax-Bolder** has been an ABI member since 2019, is an advisory board member for ABI's Rocky Mountain Bankruptcy Conference and is a 2023 ABI "40 Under 40" honoree.

**Rick Antonoff** has joined Chapman and Cutler LLP's Asset Securitization Department, and Special Situations and Restructuring Group, in New York as a partner. He has been an ABI member since 1998.

**Katherine R. Catanese** has joined Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP's Restructuring and Insolvency Practice in New York as a partner. She has been an ABI member since 2005 and is ABI's Vice President-International.

**Amit Ranade** of Snell & Wilmer, LLP (Seattle) has been selected to a three-year term as a lawyer representative for the Ninth Circuit's Western District of Washington. He has been an ABI member since 2024.

**Samantha Oppenheim** of Jones Walker LLP (New Orleans) has been elected partner. She has been an ABI member since 2022 and is Newsletter Editor of ABI's Commercial Fraud Committee.

**Jonathan S. Green** of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, PLC (Detroit) received the 2025 Barbara J. Rom Award for Bankruptcy Excellence, presented by the Eastern District of Michigan Bar Association. He has been an ABI member since 1989.

**Landon G. Van Winkle** of Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP (Raleigh, N.C.) has been elevated to partner. He has been an ABI member since 2018.

**Jennifer Feldsher** of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP (New York) has been honored as one of The M&A Atlas's Top Women Dealmakers for 2025. She has been an ABI member since 2018.

**Patrick J. Potter** has joined Dickinson Wright, PLLC's Cross-Border and Domestic Insolvency Practice in Washington, D.C., as a member. He has been an ABI member since 2012.

**Joshua D. Stiff** of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP (Richmond, Va.) has been promoted to partner. He has been an ABI member since 2021.

**Brian Glueckstein** of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (New York) has been named to *Turnaround & Workouts'* Outstanding Restructuring Lawyers list for 2026. He has been an ABI member since 2013.

**Shireen A. Barday** has been confirmed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York and will sit in the New York City Divisional Courthouse. She was previously a partner and trial lawyer with Pallas Partners (US) LLP, where she maintained a complex commercial litigation practice. Judge Barday has served on the Southern District of New York Magistrate Judge Selection Panel since 2017. An ABI member since 2025, she also has been recognized several times by The Legal Aid Society and others for her *pro bono* contributions. **abi**

## Got News?

Send your announcements  
to be featured in  
Members in the News.

**Email  
Elizabeth at  
estoltz@  
abi.org.**

# What's Happening at ABI

## ABI's "40 Under 40" Program Celebrates 10th Anniversary in 2026

Nominations are now open for ABI's "40 Under 40" program, and this milestone 10th anniversary year is the perfect time to recognize the rising leaders shaping the future of the bankruptcy and insolvency profession. For the past decade, the program has honored exceptional professionals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, leadership and service in the field. Selected by a panel of experienced insolvency professionals, each year's honorees join a distinguished network of peers who are making a meaningful impact across the industry.

Applying — or nominating a colleague — is an opportunity to highlight the talent, innovation and dedication driving the next generation of leaders. Whether you're advancing the practice through your professional work, contributing to the community through service, or helping shape the future of restructuring and insolvency, this is your moment to be recognized. Apply or submit a nomination today to help us identify the next class of leaders during this special 10th anniversary year. Honorees will be recognized during ABI's Winter Leadership Conference Dec. 3-5 at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, Calif.

Find out more at [abi40under40.org](http://abi40under40.org). Applications for the 2026 Class are due by **June 30**.



with colleagues, meet committee leadership, and learn more about the committee's work and upcoming initiatives. Learn more about this committee at [abi.org/membership/committees/international](http://abi.org/membership/committees/international).

## Apply to Attend the Trial Skills Workshop at NCBJ San Diego This Fall

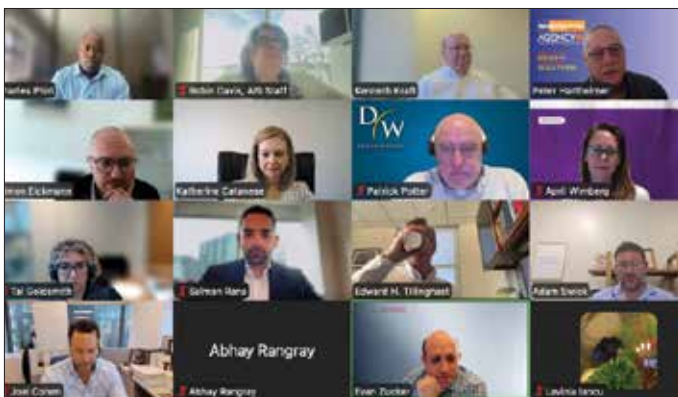


ABI and NCBJ will again offer an intensive, full-day workshop designed for bankruptcy practitioners to build trial skills and increase confidence for better outcomes for clients, taking place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 7, in San Diego during the opening day of this year's National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. This interactive learn-by-doing program is limited to 20 attorneys with 12 or fewer years of practice.

During the Trial Skills Workshop, attendees will (1) hone their skills for the most effective and persuasive direct and cross examinations, including impeachment, admission and use of exhibits, making and responding to objections, and offering and opposing expert witness evidence; (2) receive and observe instruction with suggestions, guidance, and tips for improvements from multiple sitting judges with a wealth of trial experience; (3) obtain individual feedback with a judge during a private video review of attendees' concluding examinations; and (4) interact with 15 sitting federal judges over breakfast and lunch (included) at the U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse in San Diego and network with other participating bankruptcy attorneys.

Apply by June 1 at [ncbj.org](http://ncbj.org). Applicants (accepted by order of receipt) will be notified of their selection status by email no later than June 30. Participants also must register as NCBJ attendees by no later than July 31.

## International Committee Hosted Virtual Meet-and-Greet



ABI committee meet-and-greets, such as this one hosted by the International Committee in March, are a great way to virtually network with other industry leaders.

ABI's International Committee hosted a meet-and-greet on March 10. More than 20 insolvency professionals from all over the world joined this informal, welcoming get-together over Zoom to connect

## Easily Access ABI Conference Materials Online

Did you miss any of ABI's recent conferences? Among the many benefits of membership is that you have access to the conference materials from *any* ABI program directly from our website. Registration is not required, although you must be logged in as a member.

Visit [abi.org/education-events/sessions](http://abi.org/education-events/sessions) to search by conference or subject to view or download.

## Emerging Leaders to Host Virtual Meet-and-Greet on April 9

ABI's Emerging Leaders Committee will get together for a casual virtual meet-and-greet at 6 p.m. on April 9. This informal gathering will give new and seasoned members alike a chance to connect with fellow early-career profes-

sionals, expand your network, and meet others who are planning to attend ABI’s Annual Spring Meeting (ASM) April 23-25 in Washington, D.C. This meet-and-greet will provide a welcoming space to start meaningful conversations and an opportunity to get to know your peers, as well as build connections that will last well beyond the conference.

Not yet registered for ASM? Register now at [abi.org/events](http://abi.org/events). We hope to see you there!

## International Women’s Day Edition of “Women in Restructuring Podcast” Features CSC’s Jordina Walker



Jordina Walker

In commemoration of International Women’s Day on March 8, host **Sarah Foss** of Debtwire spoke with **Jordina Walker**, EMEA Head of Restructuring and Special Situations at CSC. Ms. Walker shares what drew her to the restructuring profession, her insights on current international restructuring trends, and her thoughts on how AI is changing bankruptcy practice. Listen

to the podcast at [wir.podbean.com/e/conversation-with-jordina-walker](http://wir.podbean.com/e/conversation-with-jordina-walker).

## Latest “Priority Claims” Podcast Features Chapter 13 Trustee Providing Further Insights on Consumer Bankruptcy Practice

In the second segment of a two-part conversation, host **Ari D. Kunofsky** — Special Projects Leader of ABI’s Consumer Bankruptcy Committee and assistant director in the Tax Litigation Branch of the DOJ’s Civil Division — continues his conversation with Chapter 13 Trustee **Debra L. Miller** (Knoxville, Tenn.) on consumer bankruptcy practice. **Edward C. Boltz** of the Law Offices of John T. Orcutt, PC (Durham, N.C.) and **Renee Parker** of The Mortgage Law Firm, PLLC (Spokane, Wash.) add their perspectives.



Listen today at [priority-claims.podbean.com/e/chapter-13-trustee-provides-further-insights-on-consumer-bankruptcy-practice](http://priority-claims.podbean.com/e/chapter-13-trustee-provides-further-insights-on-consumer-bankruptcy-practice).

## Unlock Bankruptcy Law Essentials from Top Industry Professionals with Restructuring Masterclass Program

Restructuring Masterclass is an online, on-demand series of classes specifically designed to cover all the bankruptcy essentials. This program provides a foundation in bankruptcy law for both lawyers and

business professionals alike, and sessions are taught by an outstanding faculty of experts who present practice tips and the basic concepts that every professional dealing with insolvency needs to know. Learning the fundamentals of bankruptcy law is an essential practice component for a variety of professions.

Subscribe today at [restructuringmasterclass.com](http://restructuringmasterclass.com) to explore more than 40 expertly crafted courses, with new sessions being added soon.

## Get All Current ABI Titles Through ABI’s Digital Book Subscription

One of the best collections of bankruptcy books is available as an annual digital subscription! ABI’s bankruptcy library opens the door to a constantly evolving area of the law, and our books are continually being updated by top industry professionals.

Auto-renewing annual subscriptions guarantee immediate access to this invaluable resource, which consists of fully searchable content that is always available via web browser on any digital device. Convenient pricing plans for individual and institutional subscribers offer immediate and unlimited access to our entire digital library of books — more than 100 treatises! Plus, you get advanced access to new and revised books as soon as they are published — all included in your annual subscription. Learn more at [abi.org/individual-abi-book-subscription](http://abi.org/individual-abi-book-subscription).

## ABI Endowment Fund Update ABI Endowment Baseball Outing to Be Held at Annual Spring Meeting This Month

During this month’s Annual Spring Meeting, being held April 23-25 at the Marriott Marquis Washington DC, conference attendees will have the opportunity to meet before the sessions start to enjoy a relaxed night of baseball, networking and camaraderie at the ballpark while supporting the ABI Endowment Fund. Watch the Washington Nationals take on the Atlanta Braves in a private suite donated by BakerHostetler at Nationals Park in downtown DC.

You can add this event to your conference registration when signing up for the conference at [abi.org/events](http://abi.org/events). Proceeds from the event support the ABI Endowment’s mission to advance insolvency education, research and professional development.

## ABI Endowment Night at Tampa Bay Lightning Game Brings Paskay Attendees Together



ABI Endowment supporters enjoyed a private suite at Benchmark International Arena in Tampa, Fla., to watch the Tampa Bay Lightning take on the Toronto Maple Leafs.



During the 50th Annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar, held Feb. 25-26 in Tampa, Fla., conference attendees gathered at Benchmark International Arena for a Tampa Bay Lightning matchup against the Toronto Maple Leafs in support of the ABI Endowment Fund. Guests watched the game from a private suite generously donated by **Steven M. Berman** and Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP. The event also featured a silent auction for a hockey stick signed by Lightning Goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, helping raise additional funds for the ABI Endowment.

The evening provided a great opportunity for members of the restructuring community to connect outside the conference while enjoying an exciting night of hockey. ABI thanks everyone who attended and helped support the Endowment's mission to fund educational programs, research and scholarships for the insolvency community.

### Meet Jenna Riedel, Annual Spring Meeting's Sheila Smith Scholarship Winner

**Jenna J. Riedel**, a Sioux Falls, S.D., attorney focused on bankruptcy and debtor and creditor law, was selected to be the 2026 Annual Spring Meeting Sheila Smith



**Jenna J. Riedel**

Emerging Women in Restructuring Scholarship winner. Jenna works with individuals and small businesses navigating financial distress and restructuring matters. She received her J.D. from the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in 2024. During law school, she became actively involved in the bankruptcy community and helped found the school's Debtor-Creditor Club, creating opportunities for students to learn about bankruptcy practice and connect with professionals in the field.

Before entering the legal profession, Jenna had a diverse background that included earning a Bachelor's degree in integrated studio arts from Iowa State University, working as an interior design consultant, and later working in real estate. Her creative background informs her problem-solving approach to legal issues and client advocacy.

After graduating law school, she began a one-year clerkship with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of South Dakota, working with Hon. Laura L. Kulm Ask. After her clerkship, she started working at Gerry Law Firm, where she represents primarily consumer debtors and small businesses in bankruptcy proceedings.

Established in honor of the late Sheila Smith — a respected leader, mentor and friend to so many in the bankruptcy and restructuring community — the Sheila Smith Scholarship supports the next generation of insolvency professionals by providing financial assistance to attend ABI conferences. Recipients have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, grow their networks, and engage with leaders in the field at ABI's two national programs. All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply. For more information, contact ABI Endowment Manager **Erin Green** at [egreen@abi.org](mailto:egreen@abi.org).

### 2026 Future Events

Be on the lookout for an Endowment event at the Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop in July and the annual L.A. Wine Dinner in the fall. Check this space in the *ABI Journal* or visit [abi.org/events](https://abi.org/events) for more information as it becomes available.

### Levels of Support for the ABI Endowment

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
Century Council Member	\$25,000-\$29,999
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](https://abi.org/endowment). Donations are tax-deductible and can be paid over five years. Contact Erin Green at [egreen@abi.org](mailto:egreen@abi.org) for more information. **abi**

# New Members

## November (partial list)

Jolie Anne Rowland  
Mercer University  
East Dublin, Ga.

Joel Ruderman  
Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald  
Mc Lean, Va.

Max Alsson Rudikoff  
University of Virginia  
Newton, Mass.

Zachary Russell  
Georgetown University  
Alexandria, Va.

Jalaja Saireddy  
NYU Stern School of Business  
New York

Fredrik Schoenfeld  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (E.D. Mo.)  
St. Louis

Nolan Serpa  
Boos & Associates, A Prof'l Corp.  
Fresno, Calif.

Traci Shafroth  
Keller Benvenuti Kim LLP  
San Francisco

Jonathan S. Shenson  
Greenberg Glusker LLP  
Los Angeles

Joseph Domenick Sibeto  
Clark Hill, PLC  
Pittsburgh

Mehreen Siddiqui  
Maples Group  
George Town, Cayman Islands

Eric H. Silverstein  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, et al.  
New York

Nishka Singh  
Fordham University  
Manhattan, N.Y.

Bachittar Anoop Singh  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (M.D. Ala.)  
Montgomery, Ala.

Rudra Sinsinwar  
Nat'l Law School of India Univ.  
Mumbai

Dylan Dean Smith  
Sottile & Barile, LLC  
Loveland, Ohio

Jason Spiro  
Spiro Harrison & Nelson  
Red Bank, N.J.

Kevin Spitznagel  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Aurora, Colo.

Paul Springer  
Cooley LLP  
New York

Viswa Subramanian  
University of Virginia  
Glen Allen, Va.

Chelsea Summers  
Pa. Office of the Attorney General  
Philadelphia

Emily Taube  
Burr & Forman LLP  
Nashville, Tenn.

Christine Thain  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
New York

Shannon Thomas  
Rochelle McCullough LLP  
Dallas

Timothy A. Turek  
Aurora Management Partners, Inc.  
Charlotte, Ill.

Cooper William Vardy  
Washington-Lee Univ. School of Law  
Lexington, Va.

Gillian Elizabeth Varnum  
University of Michigan  
Santa Monica, Calif.

Hanting Wang  
St. John's University  
Queens, N.Y.

Tatiana Marlene Whitehorn  
Syracuse University  
Setauket, N.Y.

Keith E. Whitson  
Raines Feldman Littrell LLP  
Pittsburgh

Lucas Zidlicky  
Boston College  
Arlington, Va.

**December (partial list)**  
Alexia Adda  
Claritas Capital  
George Town, Cayman Islands

Emerald Ayisha Als  
University of the West Indies  
Bridgetown, Barbados

Dora Altschuler  
Brattle Group  
Chicago

John Ayres  
JTC Group  
Road Town, Virgin Islands

Michaela Claudia Balboni  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. Del.)  
Wilmington, Del.

Salar Baloch  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Chicago

Devon Bodoh  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP  
Miami

Ryan Bonanni-Bott  
YIP Associates  
Copiague, N.Y.

Julian Edward Bulaon  
Octus  
Dunwoody, Ga.

Kacie Cartwright  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. Del.)  
Wilmington, Del.

James Chapman  
Choate, Hall & Stewart LLP  
Boston

Alexander Chiang  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (M.D. Fla.)  
Tampa, Fla.

Paul Cohen  
Commercial Real Estate Exchange  
Miami

Alex Davies  
HSM Chambers  
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Anna Pilar DeYoe-Pedraza  
Texas Southern University  
Houston

Elise Emin  
JP Morgan  
Jersey City, N.J.

Isabel Franco  
Georgetown University  
Washington, D.C.

Niall Freeman  
Interpath  
Camana Bay, Cayman Islands

Rachelle Ann Frisby  
Interpath  
Hamilton, Bermuda

Ioannis Gkatzimas  
Brattle Group  
Washington, D.C.

Amiel Gottlieb  
Interpath  
Camana Bay, Cayman Islands

Anthony Greene  
Togut, Segal & Segal LLP  
New York

Christopher L Harbin  
Platt Richmond PLLC  
Dallas

Kara Harmon  
Alvarez & Marsal  
Chicago

Nick Herrod  
Maples Group  
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Aaron Javian  
Reed Smith LLP  
New York

Sarah Kistler  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. S.C.)  
Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Sage Knapp  
Jones Walker LLP  
Houston

David M. Lampley  
F&L Law Group, PLLC  
Fort Myers, Fla.

Khai Dinh Le  
Fordham University  
New York

Niall Ledwidge  
Stout  
New York

Gerren Lovell  
Ernst & Young  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

Jenna Marshiano  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. N.J.)  
Newark, N.J.

Eviana J. Martin  
Martin Law Firm, PL  
Cape Coral, Fla.

Aleida Martinez Molina  
AXS Law Group  
Coral Gables, Fla.

Anthony Marzocca  
Trenam  
Tampa, Fla.

Ian Massiah  
Ernst & Young  
St. Thomas, Barbados

Jordan McErlean  
Conyers Dill & Pearman LLP  
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Richard Minott  
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton  
New York

John Anthony Moore  
The Moore Law Group  
Atlanta

Lisa K. Mullen  
Trott Law, PC  
Southfield, Mich.

Amy S. Mushahwar  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Nguyet Nguyen  
The Brattle Group  
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Alexei Orlov  
The Brattle Group  
Washington, D.C.

Cairon Overton  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
Washington, D.C.

Robert Palmersheim  
Honigman LLP  
Chicago

Daniel Pascucci  
McDermott Will & Schulte LLP  
San Diego

Harrison Blake Paul  
Harvard Law School  
Boston

Georgi Petev Penukov  
Fordham University  
Bronx

Andrew Perry  
Foran Glennon Palandech, et al.  
Denver

Leslie Anne Pinney  
Foley & Lardner LLP  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Aileen Ramia  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (S.D.N.Y.)  
New York

Samantha Ramlogan  
Markowitz, Ringel, Trusty + Hartog  
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Kirk Rider  
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton  
San Francisco

Chloe Rippe  
Lowenstein Sandler LLP  
New York

Tiana Ritchie  
Maples Group  
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Austin Schneider  
Alvarez & Marsal  
New York. **abi**

## Vacancies Available with the D.R.I. and N.D. Fla. Bankruptcy Courts

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island is seeking qualified candidates for one term law clerk position to Chief Bankruptcy Judge John A. Dorsey, Jr. The start date is Aug. 24, 2026. This position is full-time (a minimum of 80 hours per two-week period). The term length is 12 months but might be extended by mutual agreement. By Judicial Conference policy, a term law clerk may not serve more than four years in the federal system.

A law clerk provides legal support to the judge by conducting legal research and preparing legal documents, such as orders, memoranda, and draft opinions addressing a wide assortment of issues arising in bankruptcy proceedings. This person will also have the opportunity to work on various long-term projects and be involved in courtroom proceedings. A clerk also performs case management through the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system, and will perform administrative office functions such as editing, proofreading, telephone communications, written correspondence and scheduling.

Candidates must possess excellent legal research and writing skills. They must also be law school graduates from an accredited law school; be organized and work well; and be experienced with Word, Westlaw, Lexis and related platforms. Prior to the position's start date, candidates must have either: (1) one year or more of federal clerkship experience; or (2) at least two years of litigation experience.

The Judiciary Salary Plan is Grade 11-13, depending on experience, qualifications and bar membership. Salary range is \$84,579 to \$120,548. The court also provides a generous benefits package. All law clerks are eligible for health and life insurance benefits, long-term-care options, sick leave and paid holidays. For additional information, visit [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov).

Judge Dorsey does not accept hard-copy applications. Qualified applicants should submit the following materials via OSCAR or via email as a PDF to [natalie\\_medved@rib.uscourts.gov](mailto:natalie_medved@rib.uscourts.gov). The application should include (1) a cover letter of up to three pages; (2) a current resume; (3) a minimum of three professional references; (4) a copy of your law school transcript; (5) a writing sample that is five to 10 pages in length and ideally should be written solely by the applicant (if it was edited by others, the applicant must indicate in the cover letter the extent to which it has been edited by others); and (6) a completed AO78.

Only qualified applicants will be considered for this position. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident who is seeking citizenship as outlined in 8 U.S.C. § 1324b(a)(3)(B). Applicants selected for interviews must travel at their own expense (for in-person interviews) or, with Judge Dorsey's approval, be available to connect via Zoom (for remote interviews).

The court requires employees to follow a code of conduct. Reference checks with current and former employers will be conducted on top candidates. A background investigation with law enforcement agencies, including fingerprint and criminal record checks, will be conducted as a condition of employment. Any applicant selected for a position will be hired provisionally pending successful completion of the investigation.

The position will remain open until filled. However, priority will be given to applications submitted by **April 10, 2026**.

\*\*\*

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida is seeking a bankruptcy generalist clerk based in Tallahassee. The salary range is \$44,701 to \$55,882 (with promotion potential to case administrator, which has a \$49,361 to \$61,722 salary range).

This person performs various functions in the Clerk's Office, including case management, customer service, courtroom management, financial work and procurement. Case-management duties include managing case progression from opening to final disposition in accordance with approved internal controls, procedures and rules using case management software. Customer service is performed by answering questions posed by court customers in person, over a multi-line telephone system and through email. Courtroom management includes serving as the primary relief courtroom deputy (i.e., the courtroom administrative manager) during hearings and trials. Financial work includes cashiering and providing fee-related procedural information to court customers. Procurement work includes making purchases in accordance with a set of procurement rules and procedures and working with financial management software. The bankruptcy generalist will also interface with and learn from the larger federal court community through Microsoft Teams. Other duties will be assigned to this position on an as-needed basis. Training will be provided for all aspects of work required under this position, including procurement certification training.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent; at least two years of progressively responsible clerical or administrative experience; ability to meet and communicate effectively with a variety of people; experience providing customer service to a variety of people in a public environment; experience using automated systems and office equipment, such as computers, scanners and multi-line telephone systems; experience using software productivity suites, including Microsoft 365; ability to work harmoniously and effectively in a team-based environment; ability to follow directions, think critically, and be creative; familiarity with an IT desktop in a Windows environment; excellent organizational and interpersonal skills; a professional demeanor and appearance; and an ability to effectively interface with all levels of management, communicate effectively orally and in writing, and organize work and effectively manage the completion of a variety of tasks with competing deadlines. A generous benefits package is also available, and details are posted at [uscourts.gov/careers/benefits](http://uscourts.gov/careers/benefits).

Applicants must submit the following documents as a single PDF: (1) a letter of interest, current resume detailing years of pertinent experience, dates of employment and salary history; (2) a one-page narrative essay describing work experience that demonstrates your work ethic, aptitude or personal drive for excellence; and (3) a completed AO-78 ([www.flnb.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/ao78.pdf](http://www.flnb.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/forms/ao78.pdf)). Send an email to [flnb\\_response@flnb.uscourts.gov](mailto:flnb_response@flnb.uscourts.gov), with "Announcement TLH 2026-01" in the subject line.

To receive first consideration, the application packet must be received by close of business on **April 27, 2026**. First review of applications will be on April 28, 2026, and the position will be open until filled. Receipt confirmation will not be provided for emailed application packets.