

PRESENTERS

Harold A. Corzin, Esq.

Harold A. Corzin and his wife Christine K. Corzin practice bankruptcy law in Fairlawn, Ohio. He has been practicing law since 1975. He has been a Chapter 7 panel trustee since 1978. He has taught bankruptcy law and commercial law at the University of Akron and Kent State University. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Akron and law degree from the University of Toledo. He was on active duty in the United States Navy from 1968-1972.

Morris H. Laatsch, III, Esq.

Morris H. Laatsch, Esq. is associated with the law firm of DiCaudo, Pitchford & Yoder in Akron, Ohio where he practices in the area of bankruptcy law and real estate law. He received his B.A. degree in economics from the College of Wooster in 1970 and his J.D. from The University of Akron School of Law in 1974. Mr. Laatsch was admitted to the Practice of Law in the State of Ohio in May 1975. Mr. Laatsch is a member of the Akron Bar Association and the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

William J. Price, Esq.

William J. Price is an attorney with Elk & Elk Co., Ltd., who focuses his practice on personal injury litigation for people who have been seriously injured or killed. Mr. Price's experience is in the fields of medical malpractice, nursing home neglect, defective products, negligence in construction sites, and trucking and auto accidents. He is a member of the Ohio State Bar Association (District 12 delegate, member-Litigation Section and Young Lawyers Section; chair for the Negligence Law CLE presentation for the OSBA Conference), National Board of Trial Advocates, American Association for Justice, Akron Bar Association, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and Central Ohio Association of Justice. Mr. Price earned his B.S.B.A. degree from Bowling Green State University and his J.D. degree from Michigan State University College of Law.

Judge Russ Kendig

Judge Russ Kendig was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. He graduated from Perry High School, the School of Speech of Northwestern University and The Ohio State University College of Law, with honors. He was the John Adams Award winner at Ohio State. He has been the bankruptcy judge in Canton, Ohio since 2001. Prior to that he was a shareholder with Day Ketterer in Canton and served as a Chapter 7 trustee. He previously was of counsel in the Chicago office of the London firm Lovells (now Hogan Lovells) and prior to that was a shareholder with Krugliak, Wilkins, Griffiths and Dougherty, Co. L.P.A. in Canton.

Judge Alan M. Koschik

Alan M. Koschik is a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. Prior to his appointment in 2014, he was a partner in the Cleveland office of the Akron-based law firm of Brouse McDowell LPA, specializing in business restructuring, creditors' rights, and commercial litigation. From 1998 to 2000, he had a similar practice at McDonald Hopkins LLC in Cleveland. From 1995 to 1998 he was a litigation associate with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey LLP in Cleveland, Ohio.

Before relocating to Ohio in 1995, Judge Koschik lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, first clerking for the Hon. James R. Browning, the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Thereafter, he was an associate in the bankruptcy practice group of two San Francisco law firms: Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Robertson & Falk (1988-91) and Pettit & Martin (1991-95).

Judge Koschik received his A.B. in Economics, a Master of Public Policy, and J.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.

Keith L. Rucinski, Esq., CPA

Keith L. Rucinski was appointed the Standing Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee for Akron, Ohio, in October 2008. He is both a licensed attorney and CPA. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Akron. Mr. Rucinski has been a seminar speaker at regional and national seminars in the areas of bankruptcy and financial matters. He has published several articles in the areas of bankruptcy and financial analysis. He has testified as a bankruptcy expert in state and federal courts for the U.S. Department of Justice, local prosecutors, and private attorneys. Prior to being appointed trustee, he served as the Controller and Staff Attorney for the Chapter 13 Trusteeship in Akron, Ohio. He also practiced law in the areas of taxation and business law. He has taught over thirty undergraduate and graduate courses for several universities in the areas of accounting, financial analysis, taxation, and business law.

Dynele L. Schinker-Kuharich, Esq.

Dynele L. Schinker-Kuharich is the Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio in Canton. Prior to being appointed as the Chapter 13 Trustee, she was on the panel of Chapter 7 Trustees for the Northern District of Ohio in Akron, and was an attorney in private practice, where she has concentrated her client representation on bankruptcy and consumer law issues. Ms. Schinker-Kuharich was an adjunct professor at The University of Akron School of Law, and has frequently spoken at seminars on topics related to bankruptcy and consumer law. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Youngstown State University in 1995, and received a Juris Doctor from The University of Akron School of Law in 1998. Ms. Schinker-Kuharich is a member of the Stark County Bar Association and a past member of the Akron Bar Association, where she was a past Chair of the Commercial Law Section. She is also a member of the National Association of Chapter Thirteen Trustees.

George Vogl, Esq.

Leveraging over 15 years of experience as a former bankruptcy and consumer-rights attorney, George has keen insight into the day-to-day technology and operational needs of this client base. Serving as Director, he works with law firms to streamline their procedures and implement industry best practices. After nearly 10 years of general business, accounting, and financial-analysis experience, George brings a diverse perspective to the various administrative challenges facing bankruptcy attorneys and utilizes that strong understanding to outline practical solutions that meet individual firm objectives. Working closely with Stretto's Product Development and Product Management teams, he offers clients consultative guidance on new tools and resources that maximize productivity while compiling feedback in an effort to continually improve our technology solutions. As a thought leader, George presents informational webinars and other training courses on how software can automate the bankruptcy process. Joining the Stretto team as part of the company's acquisition of CINgroup, George brings a valuable, multi-faceted skill set to his role.

Andy R. Vara, Esq.

Andy Vara is the United States Trustee for Regions 3 and 9, which encompass ten field offices in Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. Recently, he served as Assistant United States Trustee in Cleveland, Ohio. He has worked for the U.S. Department of Justice for more than 26 years, serving as a trial attorney, Assistant U.S. Trustee in Wilmington, Delaware and the Acting Assistant U.S. Trustee in both the Southern District of New York and Western District of Michigan. Following law school, Andy clerked for Hon. Laurence Howard, Chief Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Grand Rapids. Andy is a regular faculty member and lecturer at training seminars held at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. He has been a panelist at numerous American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) conferences including Spring and Winter Meetings, Mid-Atlantic Bankruptcy Institute and Central States Bankruptcy Workshop. He was a member of the ABI's Ethics Task Force and chaired the ABI's committee on Ethics and Professional Compensation. Andy served as a presenter on U.S. and international insolvency law at forums sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program in Bahrain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Andy received his *Juris Doctor* with honors from The Ohio State University in May 1991 and was awarded membership in the *Order of the Coif*. He performed his undergraduate studies at Duke University, graduating *Magna Cum Laude* with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Andy resides in Solon, Ohio. He and his wife have been married for twenty-eight years and have three children.

Derrick V. Rippy, Esq.

Derrick V. Rippy is a trial attorney with the Office of the United States Trustee in Cleveland, Ohio, where he has been employed for 28 years. Mr. Rippy entered the United States Trustee Program (USTP) through the Department of Justice Honors Program in 1992. Prior to joining the USTP, Mr. Rippy clerked for the Honorable Randolph Baxter, United States Bankruptcy Judge in Cleveland, Ohio from March, 1990 to March, 1992. Mr. Rippy received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, and his law degree from the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio.

For many years Mr. Rippy has performed the tasks of overseeing the administration of bankruptcy cases and private trustees. In February of 2010, Mr. Rippy was chairman of the USTP's Diversity Management Working Group (DMWG). During the beginning stages, Mr. Rippy worked with the Executive Office of the United States Trustee in drafting and implementing the USTP's Operational Diversity Management Plan, which established ranking protocol for

Derek V. Rippy Continued

employees to attend affinity conferences, chaired the committee which reviewed the USTP's proposed National Training Policy, and attended Attorney General sponsored diversity workshops at Main Justice in Washington, D.C., all in an effort to promote the Department of Justice's diversity initiatives within the USTP.

Mr. Rippy has addressed United States Trustees regarding the USTP's Operational Diversity Management Plan, Administrative Officers on the potential impact of the USTP's diversity management plan on recruitment efforts and human resource administration, as well as chapter 7 and chapter 13 panel trustees in several regions regarding their roles in carrying out the USTP's diversity initiatives.

Currently, Mr. Rippy co-chairs the DMWG with Tracy Hope Davis, the United States Trustee for Region 17 in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Rippy and Ms. Davis have spent the past year working on the USTP's stated goals of outreach and recruitment, amplifying Department of Justice efforts related to affinity groups, and identifying training opportunities to increase diversity and inclusion awareness.

Kate M. Bradley, Esq.

Kate M. Bradley is a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Office of the United States Trustee in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining the Office of the United States Trustee, she was an attorney in private practice where she practiced bankruptcy and reorganization law. She received her J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and her undergraduate degree from the University of Akron.

Bridget A. Franklin, Esq.

Bridget A. Franklin serves as Brouse McDowell's Chair of the Business Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Group. In her commercial law practice, she represents debtors, creditors, and creditors' committees in numerous federal and state-court reorganization, liquidation, and insolvency proceedings. She advises clients on various commercial disputes and collection matters. She also negotiates commercial agreements, including supply agreements, security agreements, financing agreements, and terms and conditions. In her insurance litigation practice, Bridget has experience representing and advising clients in insurance recovery actions as well as in title insurance disputes. She was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 2008 and is licensed to practice before the United States District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio. She is the Chair of the Northeast Ohio Network International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). Bridget is a member of the Federal, Cleveland Metropolitan, Ohio State and Akron Bar Associations. She serves as a Board Member to the Turnaround Management Association. Bridget received her BA from Case Western Reserve University, and her JD, *cum laude*, from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Julie K. Zurn, Esq.

Julie K. Zurn is a partner in Brouse McDowell's Business Restructuring, Bankruptcy, and Commercial Law Practice Group. Her experience includes advising debtors, creditors, and trustees in bankruptcy in Federal and State Courts; successfully advising clients through a range of legal issues related to financial difficulties, including, out of court negotiation with creditors to modify or restructure debt, recovery of disputed receivables, and the wind down of small businesses; and continuing to serve as Chapter 7 Panel Trustee for the Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Ohio since November 1, 2019. Prior to joining Brouse, Julie ran her own private practice. She is deeply familiar with all aspects of administering bankruptcy cases, as she is leveraging 10+ years as a Career Law Clerk to Hon. Marilyn Shea-Stonum in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio at Akron. Julie received her BA from the University of Wisconsin, and her JD, cum laude, from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

F. Daniel Balmert, Esq.

F. Daniel Balmert is a retired partner and former Managing Partner of the Vorys Cleveland (1983 – 2004) and Akron (2004 – 2017) offices which he opened for the firm. Before retiring from the practice of law, he practiced in the areas of general, commercial and product litigation, employment law, and workers' compensation. He focused on defense of matters in federal and state courts in Ohio and surrounding states including litigation of mass tort claims involving alleged benzene and manganese exposures.

Mr. Balmert has held numerous leadership roles within the Akron community. He currently serves on the Summa Health Board of Director's Audit and Compliance Committee. Mr. Balmert recently concluded four years of service on the Board of Directors of the Law and Leadership Institute. In his spare time, when not spending time with his grandchildren, in an undergraduate class at Akron University or on a golf course he serves as a weekly volunteer NICU cuddler at Akron Children's Hospital.

Mr. Balmert received his J.D. *magna cum laude* from Capital University Law School in 1976 where he was a member of the Order of the Curia. He received his B.A. *cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame in 1973. He, and his long-suffering wife, Susan, have been married for nearly 47 years. They are the parents of Adam and Kelly and the grandparents of Tucker, Bexley and Harper.

Anthony J. DeGirolamo, Esq.

Anthony J. DeGirolamo graduated from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1992 where he was a managing editor of the Ohio State University Law Journal. He was Law Clerk to the Honorable James H. Williams in the Canton Bankruptcy Court from 1992-1994. Attorney DeGirolamo began practice with Brouse & McDowell, L.P.A. in Akron in the Banking and Bankruptcy Group. He also practiced with Roetzel & Andress, L.P.A. in the Bankruptcy Group and McDonald Hopkins, L.P.A. in Cleveland in the Business Restructuring Group. He has been a sole practitioner since 2002 practicing primarily in the area of business reorganization and Chapter 11 bankruptcy. He has been a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee for the United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio, Canton, since August of 2003.

Peter G. Tsarnas, Esq.

Peter G. Tsarnas is a Partner at Gertz & Rosen, Ltd. and focuses his practice on bankruptcy and commercial law. He represents clients in Chapter 7, 11 and 13 bankruptcy proceedings, and represents clients and trustees in bankruptcy adversary proceedings. While primarily focused on bankruptcy law, Peter also serves clients in the areas of litigation, collections, business law and landlord-tenant relations.

Peter is the Chair of the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Section of the Akron Bar Association and in conjunction with the Stark County Bar Association also serves on the planning committee for the annual White-Williams Bankruptcy Institute held every April in Hartville, Ohio. In 2020, Peter was appointed by the Akron Bar Association as its representative for the 2020-2022 term on the Attorney Constituent Group of the U. S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio. Peter previously was nominated to serve on the Membership Committee of the Akron Bar Association in 2018.