

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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ABC Update

BY DIAN GILMORE

ABC Leadership Enhances Best Practice at Specialization Roundtable

Every year, the American Bar Association (ABA) Center for Professional Responsibility Section holds the ABA Specialization Roundtable. This year, it was held in June in Philadelphia.

The ABA Specialization Roundtable is an excellent opportunity for all of the national ABA-accredited organizations to meet, network and work on goals to enhance their respective organizations. Many state bar officials who administer a state board certification program attend this annual event, as well as law school professors and organizations that promote board certification through credentialing.

The American Board of Certification (ABC) always sends delegates from its leadership because the roundtable is important to every ABA-accredited organization's success. The members of the ABC leadership delegation included President **Walter J. Greenhalgh** (Duane Morris LLP; Newark, N.J.), Treasurer and Officer **J. Scott Bovitz** (Bovitz & Spitzer; Los Angeles) and Board Member and State Bar Liaison Chair Wesley H. Avery (Law Offices of Wesley H. Avery, APC; Pasadena, Calif.). They are all board certified in business bankruptcy law by the ABC. In addition, Bovitz and Avery are board certified in bankruptcy law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization.

One of the most important aspects of an ABA-accredited organization like the ABC is the certification examination and its development. "Efficient and Effective Examination Creation and Preservation" was one topic that was discussed at the ABA Specialization Roundtable: How does a program most efficiently draft examination questions, validate them after they are drafted, and preserve them for future use once an examination is validated and administered? This session's panel included Gary McNeil, former executive director

of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization; Erica Moeser, president of the National Conference of Bar Examiners; and Stephen Wizner, William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School and director of the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Bovitz, who has worn many hats in the specialization capacity, moderated this session. He has served as past chair of the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization and is a former member of the California Committee of Bar Examiners. In addition, Bovitz serves as a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal*.

Due to the changing legal and regulatory environment, one of the ABA Specialization Roundtable sessions provided case law and regulatory law updates. The session's panel included Alice Mine, assistant executive director and ethics counsel with the North Carolina State Bar and executive director of the North Carolina State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, and Martin Whittaker, senior counsel of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility and counsel to the ABA Standing Committee on Specialization.

The ABA Roundtable concluded with the "Specialization Players — Hot Topics in the Current Administration of Legal Specialist Certification Programs" program. Bovitz also moderated this session, and panelists included Avery; Leo Figueroa, executive director of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization; **Dian Gilmore**, ABC executive director; Wendy Weiss, court executive of the New Jersey Supreme Court Board on Attorney Certification; and Wizner. The panel participated and analyzed real scenarios that have occurred during a Standards Committee Meetings, with participation from the audience. **abi**

Reprinted with permission from the ABI Journal, Vol. XXXV, No. 10, October 2016.

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