

ABC Names New Officers, Directors, Emeritus Directors And Certified Attorneys

By Bettie Kelley Sousa, Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP

The American Board of Certification of Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Attorneys (ABC) elected new officers and new members to its board of directors at its December 3, 2011, Annual Meeting, held in La Quinta, California.

ABC is the nation's premier legal specialty certification organization, certifying attorneys as specialists in business bankruptcy, consumer bankruptcy and creditors' rights law. ABC is sponsored by the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) and the

Commercial Law League of America (CLLA), and all three ABC certification programs are accredited by the American Bar Association and many states. ABC certification is available to all qualified attorneys, without regard to membership in ABI or CLLA.

The members of ABC's Executive Committee for 2012 are:

Bettie Kelley Sousa, Chair
Smith Debnam Narron
Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP
Raleigh, N.C.

John F. Young, President
Markus Williams Young &
Zimmermann, LLC
Denver, Colo.

Mac D. Finlayson, President-Elect
& General Counsel
Morrel Saffa Craige, P.C.
Tulsa, Okla.

Candace C. Carlyon, Treasurer
Shea & Carlyon, Ltd.
Las Vegas, Nev.

Michael P. Horan, Secretary
Trenam Kemker
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Walter J. Greenhalgh,
ABI at Large Representative
Duane Morris LLP
Newark, N.J.

Kirk B. Burkley,
CLLA at Large Representative
Bernstein Law Firm, P.C.
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport,
Dean of Faculty
William S. Boyd School of Law
Las Vegas, Nev.

Craig M. Geno,
Chair of Standards Committee
Harris, Jernigan & Geno, PLLC
Ridgeland, Miss.

Robert C. Furr, Vice Chair of
Standards Committee
Furr & Cohen, P.A.
Boca Raton, Fla.

J. Scott Bovitz,
Chair of State Bar Liaison Committee
Bovitz & Spitzer
Los Angeles, Calif.

Martha R. Lehman,
Chair of Marketing Committee
Krieg DeVault LLP
Indianapolis, Ind.

Robert L. Pollak,
Vice Chair of Marketing Committee
Glassberg, Pollak & Associates
San Francisco, Calif.

ABC also would like to congratulate its following newly elected directors, who will serve three-year terms:

Samuel J. Gerdano, Executive Director
American Bankruptcy Institute
Alexandria, Va.

Oliver Yandle, Executive Vice President
Commercial Law League of America
Chicago, Ill.

Mikel R. Bistrow
Foley & Lardner LLP
San Diego, Calif.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/7/2005

Donald R. Calaiaro
Calaiaro & Corbett, P.C.
Pittsburgh, Penn.
Business & Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 7/26/1999

Van C. Durrer, II
Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP
Los Angeles, Calif.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 12/27/2007

Jeffrey J. Graham
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Indianapolis, Ind.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/19/2009

Timothy D. Kline
Kline, Kline, Elliott & Bryant, P.C.
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Business & Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 10/16/1993

Michael R. Lastowski
Duane Morris LLP
Wilmington, Del.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/7/2005

Raymond J. Obuchowski
Obuchowski & Emens-Butler, P.C.
Bethel, Vt.
Business & Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 10/28/1992

Stuart R. Schwartz
ScottHulse Law Firm
El Paso, Texas
Creditors' Rights
Certified on 12/10/1999

Andrew R. Turner
Conner & Winters, LLP
Tulsa, Okla.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 10/20/1994

James Vogt

Reynolds, Ridings, Vogt & McCart PLLC
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 5/1/1993
Creditors' Rights Certified on 5/1/1993

Further, ABC wishes to recognize the following former ABC officers and directors who have been elected as ABC's newest emeritus directors and are being recognized for their past exemplary service to the ABC with an honorary lifetime appointment to ABC's board of directors:

Lawrence R. Ahern, III
Burr & Forman LLP
Nashville, Tenn.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 5/10/1994

Robert S. Bernstein
Bernstein Law Firm, P.C.
Pittsburgh, Penn.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 10/9/1998
Creditors' Rights Certified on 5/1/1993

William L. Norton, III
Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP
Nashville, Tenn.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 5/7/2002

Joseph A. Peiffer
Day Rettig Peiffer, P.C.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 5/6/1994

Finally, ABC would like to welcome and congratulate the following attorneys who have been certified in 2011 — and thank all of its existing certified members for their continued success in serving the public interest by fostering bankruptcy and creditors' rights certification:

Thomas H. Allen
Allen, Sala & Bayne, PLC
Phoenix, Ariz.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/24/2011

Charles A. Caudill
Clark & Washington, P.C.
Nashville, Tenn.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/24/2011

Peter M. Gannott
Alber Crafton, PSC
Louisville, Ky.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 11/21/2011

Robert D. Gordon

Clark Hill PLC
Birmingham, Mich.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 4/7/2011

Peter R. Kaplan

Law Offices of Peter Kaplan, P.C.
Salem, Mass.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 4/16/2011

Mark H. Knevel

Knevel and Associates Co., LPA
Cleveland, Ohio
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 4/7/2011

Thomas D. Maxson

Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.
Pittsburgh, Penn.
Business Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/24/2011

V. Lee Ringler

The Law Offices of Lee Ringler
Augusta, Ga.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 10/27/2011

Elsa Rodriguez

Clark & Washington, P.C.
Atlanta, Ga.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 4/7/2011

Christopher M. Seelen

Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C.
Eau Claire, Wis.
Creditors' Rights
Certified on 3/24/2011

Michael Andrew Tolbird

Rothschild & Ausbrooks, PLLC
Nashville, Tenn.
Consumer Bankruptcy
Certified on 3/24/2011

For more information on ABC certification, please visit ABC's Web site at www.abccworld.org.



Bettie Kelley Sousa is a partner at Smith Debnam Narron Drake Saintsing & Myers, LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina and is ABC's chair for 2012. She can be reached at bsousa@smithdebnamlaw.com.