

# AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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## ABC Update

BY MARTHA R. LEHMAN

### Meet ABC's Faculty Committee

The American Board of Certification's (ABC) Faculty Committee handles one of the most important parts of the certification process: the certification examination. Faculty Committee members work throughout the year grading the examinations of new applicants, as well as developing new exam questions and modifying the exams in order to comply with ABA and state accreditations. Here are the members of the ABC's Faculty Committee.

Prof. **Jessica D. Gabel**, ABC's Dean of Faculty, teaches at Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta. Her primary research focuses on fraud and ethics at the intersection of law and science. While in law school, Prof. Gabel co-founded the Wrongful Convictions Project, which assisted defendants with claims of actual innocence. The project continues its work and is now a fully-funded innocence clinic. She has written on a wide range of topics, including the validity of forensic evidence, genetic testing, forensic DNA identification, trial and jury tactics, bankruptcy fraud, lender liability, legal ethics and bioethics. Prof. Gabel also serves as a coordinating editor for the *ABI Journal* and has been an ABI member since 2009.

Prof. **Laura B. Bartell**, a former ABC Dean of Faculty, joined the faculty of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit in 1996 after running a private practice in New York. After graduating from Harvard Law School, she clerked for Hon. Alvin B. Rubin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans. She is a member of the American Law Institute and has published articles on bankruptcy topics, federal court-awarded attorneys' fees and costs, and the attorney/client privilege and work-product doctrine. Prof. Bartell served as ABI's Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar in the fall of 2010 and has been an ABI member since 1999.

**Steven M. Berman** is a partner in the Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group

of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Tampa, Fla. During his more than 20 years of practice, he has represented creditors, distressed-debt lenders, trustees, committees and business entities litigating disputes in bankruptcy court. He is board certified in both creditors' rights and business bankruptcy law, and is a member of both the Florida and California Bar Associations. Berman has been an ABI member since 1996.

H. Gray Burks, IV is a managing senior litigation member of Shapiro Schwartz LLP in Houston. Dual-certified in business and consumer bankruptcy law by the ABC and Texas Board of Legal Specialization, he has spoken and prepared materials at more than 30 bankruptcy seminars.

**Alexander L. Edgar** is an assistant U.S. Trustee in South Bend, Ind. He has been an active ABI member since 1991 and is dual-certified in both business and consumer bankruptcy law.

Prof. **Pamela Foohey** is a visiting assistant professor of law at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign, Ill. Her research centers on bankruptcy, commercial law and consumer law, with an emphasis on how nonprofit entities use and are affected by bankruptcy. Her most recent project is an empirical study of the reorganization of churches and other religious institutions under chapter 11. Prof. Foohey has been an ABI member since 2009.

**Laurence M. Frazen**, a member of Bryan Cave LLP in Kansas City, Mo., represents debtors, creditors, creditors' committees, and other interested parties in bankruptcy proceedings locally and nationally. His practice also includes commercial workouts and out-of-court restructurings. Mr. Frazen was certified in business bankruptcy law in 1993. An ABI member since 1987, he has served as the chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri.

Prof. Nicholas L. Georgakopoulos was a professor of law at the University of Connecticut before



**Martha R. Lehman**  
Krieg DeVault LLP  
Indianapolis

Martha Lehman,  
a partner with  
Krieg DeVault LLP  
in Indianapolis,  
serves as chair of  
ABC's marketing  
committee and sits  
on its board  
of directors.

transferring to the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis. His legal education began in his home country of Greece and he studied law and finance at Harvard. Prof. Georgakopoulos's scholarship of more than 25 publications focuses on corporate, securities, discrimination and bankruptcy law.

**Henry E. Hildebrand, III** devotes a bulk of his practice to bankruptcy law. He has served as the standing chapter 13 trustee in the Middle District of Tennessee since 1982 and as the standing chapter 12 trustee for that district since 1986. An ABI member since 1990, Hildebrand is chair of the Legislative and Legal Affairs Committee for the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. He is Of Counsel to Lassiter Tidwell & Davis PLLC in Nashville, Tenn., and is certified in consumer bankruptcy law.

**Robert L. Pollak** is a partner with Glassberg, Pollak & Associates in San Francisco, where he specializes in bankruptcy, collections and commercial litigation. He was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1978 and is a member of the California and San Francisco Bar Associations, and has been an ABI member since 2010. He is board certified in creditors' rights.

Prof. **Nancy B. Rapoport**, a former ABC Dean of Faculty, became the Gordon Silver Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2007. She had clerked for Hon. Joseph T. Sneed of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and started her academic career at Ohio State University College of Law in 1991. Prof. Rapoport also served as dean of the University of Nebraska College of Law from 1998-2000. Her specialties are bankruptcy ethics, ethics in governance, and the depiction of lawyers in popular culture. An ABI member since 1994, she also serves as ABI's Vice President-Research/Grants.

Prof. **Mark S. Scarberry** decided during his first year at UCLA Law School that he wanted to teach law. He graduated first in his class and then joined the Pepperdine University School of Law faculty in Malibu, Calif., in 1982 after practicing with Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue in Los Angeles. His major academic interests are bankruptcy, remedies, legal philosophy, election law and constitutional law. Prof. Scarberry has been an ABI member since 1992.

Prof. **Michael D. Sousa** joined the faculty at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in Denver in 2008 and teaches and researches in the areas of bankruptcy law and commercial law. Previously, he was an associate in the Business Reorganization and Financial Restructuring Practice Group at Duane Morris LLP. An ABI member since 2004, Prof. Sousa is a contributing editor to four national bankruptcy publications.

Hon. Thomas F. Waldron (ret.) was appointed as a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of Ohio in Dayton in 1985, and also served as chief bankruptcy judge and the first chief judge of the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel. He retired after 22 years of judicial service in October 2007. Judge Waldron has been teaching as an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Dayton law schools. He is a managing editor for *Norton's Bankruptcy Advisor*, and is currently an adviser for the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustee's Academy for Consumer Bankruptcy Education.

Prof. William H. Widen, a professor at the University of Miami School of Law, was a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York until 2002, where his practice areas included structured finance and secured lending. Prof. Widen teaches commercial law, contracts and other business subjects. **abi**

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