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## ABC Update

BY SCOTT B. COHEN

### Madeleine Wanslee, ABC-Certified Specialist, Takes the Arizona Bench

For 23 years, **Madeleine C. Wanslee** practiced law at Gust Rosenfeld in Phoenix, where she specialized in creditors' rights, commercial and consumer bankruptcy, workouts, foreclosure, replevin, deficiency actions and guarantor litigation. She enjoyed her practice at Gust Rosenfeld, where she co-chaired the firm's Bankruptcy Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Group and served on its executive committee. On March 17, 2014, she became Judge Wanslee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Arizona, filling the judgeship vacated by retired Chief Judge **Randolph J. Haines**.

Her career has come full circle: She started as a judicial law clerk for Hon. Robert Clive Jones, who was then the chief judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada and is now a U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Nevada.

Despite a busy practice, Judge Wanslee found time to chair the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Arizona. She has been board certified in consumer bankruptcy law by the American Board of Certification (ABC) since 1999 and served on ABC's Standards Committee. When Arizona wanted to establish the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, Judge Wanslee became a founding master in 2011. In addition, Judge Wanslee serves on the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee. She was also chair of the Lawyer Representatives Coordinating Committee for the Ninth Circuit, but resigned from that position upon being sworn into office.

While in private practice, Judge Wanslee handled numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit



Hon. Madeleine C. Wanslee

Court of Appeals and the U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Ninth Circuit. However, the pinnacle had to have been when she briefed and argued *United Student Aid Funds Inc. v. Espinosa* before the U.S. Supreme Court. At Judge Wanslee's investiture, family and colleagues noted her numerous career achievements, including

*Espinosa*. They also spoke passionately about her integrity and character. Similarly, other bankruptcy judges spoke about what an "honest broker" Judge Wanslee was in private practice.

Like many of her colleagues, she took the bench to serve the public. For those who worked with her in private practice or watched her work with *pro se* debtors on student loan discharge cases, colleagues can attest to her patience, fairness and sense of duty. While Arizona bankruptcy attorneys were sorry to see the entire bench turn over in a three-year period, its legal community and the citizens of Arizona are well served by the Ninth Circuit's appointment of Judge Wanslee. **abi**

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