

# AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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## ABC Update

BY CANDACE C. CARLYON

### Become Involved with the ABC

The American Board of Certification (ABC) of Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Attorneys is very proud of the more than 800 certified attorneys and judges who have met the challenge of meeting the experience, ethical, education, ability and peer-review standards necessary to achieve certification. For attorneys who have merited this recognition, the ABC invites you to explore the possibility of service to the organization.

The Nominating Committee is chaired by ABC President **Mac D. Finlayson** (Eller & Detrich PC; Tulsa, Okla.). The committee attempts to present nominees who represent a cross-section of the academic, judicial, and geographic and practice interests. Any ABC-certified attorney is eligible to serve on the board, and law professors and retired judges may be nominated regardless of certification.

Board members are elected to three-year terms, and the board meets twice a year. Board members are encouraged to participate in at least one of the ABC's committees. The heart and soul of the ABC is the Standards Committee, which reviews and approves initial and recertification applications, as well as any issues arising with regard to continued compliance with ABC standards. Although the workloads of the Standards Committee members are demanding, the burden is greatly lessened by the fabulous work of ABC Assistant Executive Director Pamela Farmer. **Robert C. Furr** (Furr & Cohen PA; Boca Raton, Fla.) currently serves as the chair, and Mary Beth Ausbrooks (Rothschild & Ausbrooks PLLC; Nashville, Tenn.) is vice chair.

The ABC Marketing Committee is currently chaired by **Martha R. Lehman** (Krieg DeVault LLP; Indianapolis) with **Robert L. Pollak** (Glassberg, Pollak and Associates; San Francisco) serving as vice chair. The Marketing Committee creates mechanisms through which the ABC can obtain its objectives of improving the quality of the bankruptcy and commercial bars and educating the public. Examples of the committee's accomplish-

ments include the purchase and design of a travel-ready ABC tabletop display to promote the ABC. ABC Executive Director **Dian Gilmore** regularly attends conferences sponsored by such organizations as the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, American Bar Association (ABA) and National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in order to meet with current and prospective certified attorneys and to increase the ABC's visibility. In addition to developing programs, the Marketing Committee strives to increase the visibility of certified attorneys and maximize the value of certification. The Marketing Committee prepares regular communications to certified attorneys and encourages certified attorneys to take advantage of writing and speaking opportunities. Any certified attorney is welcome to submit ideas for articles, and the Marketing Committee is always open to member suggestions on how to promote the value and benefits of certification.

The State Bar Liaison Committee is responsible for working with state bar associations to obtain ABC's attorney certification endorsement. **J. Scott Bovitz** (Bovitz & Spitzer; Los Angeles) chairs this committee and has worked closely with the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Specialization. He has spoken at the ABA's Annual National Specialization Roundtable, and he is also a former chair of the State Bar of California Committee on Legal Specialization and has chaired its bankruptcy law advisory commission.

**Mark A. Craige** (Crowe & Dunlevy PC; Tulsa, Okla.) chairs the Technology Committee and **Kirk B. Burkley** (Bernstein-Burkley PC; Pittsburgh) has taken on the challenge of developing social media protocols for the ABC. **Craig M. Geno** (Law Offices of Craig M. Geno PLLC; Ridgeland, Miss.) serves as the ABI representative.

No discussion of the work of ABC's committees could overlook the generous contributions of ABC's Faculty Committee. Prof. **Jessica D.**



**Candace C. Carlyon**  
Shea & Carlyon Ltd.  
Las Vegas

*Candace Carlyon is president and a founding member of Shea & Carlyon Ltd. in Las Vegas and is ABC's president-elect.*

**Gabel** (Georgia State University College of Law; Atlanta) is assuming the position of Dean of Faculty. Faculty members Prof. **Laura B. Bartell** (Wayne State University Law School; Detroit), **Steven M. Berman** (Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP; Tampa, Fla.), H. Gray Burks, IV (Shapiro & Schwartz LLP; Houston), Prof. **Alexander L. Edgar** (Notre Dame Law School; Notre Dame, Ind.), **Laurence M. Frazen** (Bryan Cave LLP; Kansas City, Mo.), Prof. Nicholas L. Georgakopoulos (Indiana University School of Law; Indianapolis), Prof. **Mark S. Scarberry** (Pepperdine University School of Law; Malibu, Calif.), Prof. **Michael D. Sousa** (University of Denver Sturm College of Law; Denver), Prof. **Reynaldo Anaya Valencia** (St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio), Hon. Thomas F. Waldron (ret.) (Tucson, Ariz.), Prof. William H. Widen (University of Miami School of Law; Coral Gables, Fla.) and Prof. **Mary Jo Wiggins** (University of San Diego School of Law; San Diego) have all contributed untold efforts to developing and grading the examinations administered as a prerequisite to certification. If you are a certified attorney and wish to be considered for board membership, please send an email to [ccarlyon@sheacarlyon.com](mailto:ccarlyon@sheacarlyon.com) or [mfinlayson@ellerdetrich.com](mailto:mfinlayson@ellerdetrich.com). **abi**

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