

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE JOURNAL

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ABC Update

BY MARTHA R. LEHMAN

20 Years and Still Going Strong

Think back to 1992. The first President Bush was in office, Boyz II Men had the year's number-one song, and *Silence of the Lambs* dominated at the box office and the Academy Awards. In addition, a young governor from Arkansas was making waves on the American political scene, but Bill Clinton's campaign was not the only new national organization to hit the American landscape.

In 1992, ABI announced the creation of the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification (ABBC), which was designed to certify bankruptcy proficiency in knowledge, courtroom experience and ethics. The goal was to "distinguish between lawyers with special expertise in the field of business and consumer bankruptcy and those without such expertise." Shortly thereafter, the Commercial Law League of America created a certification process for those with commercial law expertise. The American Board of Certification (ABC) was officially launched on Jan. 1, 1998, when the two programs combined. This year, the ABC is celebrating the initial step taken by ABI in 1992 in creating the predecessor organization.

Despite the unknown nature of certification, some brave attorneys took the initial examinations. The following were those who were certified as part of the inaugural "Class of 1992."

Business Bankruptcy

Neal R. Allen
Midland Bankruptcy Lawyer PC; Midland, Texas

John W. Ames
Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP; Louisville, Ky.

Charles A. Beckham, Jr.
Haynes & Boone LLP; Houston

Joseph S.U. Bodoff
Bodoff & Associates PC; Boston

Richard P. Carmody
Adams and Reese LLP; Birmingham, Ala.

Jules S. Cohen
Akerman Senterfitt; Orlando, Fla.

H. Miles Cohn
Scheiness Scott Grossman & Cohn LLP; Houston

Mark A. Craige
Morrel Saffa Craige PC; Tulsa, Okla.

Michael J. Durrschmidt
Hirsch & Westheimer PC; Houston

Ben B. Floyd
Munsch Hardt Kopf & Harr PC; Houston

John J. Fries
Ryley Carlock & Applewhite; Phoenix

H. Jason Gold
Wiley Rein LLP; McLean, Va.

Gerald M. Gordon
Gordon & Silver Ltd.; Las Vegas

Stephen F. Gordon
The Gordon Law Firm; Boston

David Allen Grumbine
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice; Greenville, S.C.

Thomas S. Henderson
Houston

Richard E. Hettinger
Law Offices of Davidson & Troilo; San Antonio

John F. Higgins
Porter & Hedges LLP; Houston

Mark D. Hildreth
Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP; Sarasota, Fla.

Peter N. Hill
Wolff Hill McFarlin & Herron PA; Orlando, Fla.

Stephen D. Hobt
Law Office of Stephen D. Hobt, Cleveland

Shelby A. Jordan
Jordan, Hyden, Womble, Culbreth & Holzer PC
Corpus Christi, Texas



Martha R. Lehman
Krieg DeVault LLP
Indianapolis

Martha Lehman is a partner at Krieg DeVault LLP in Indianapolis and serves as chair of the American Board of Certification's Marketing Committee.

Henry J. Kaim
King & Spalding LLP; Houston

Gary G. Keltner
Jennings Strouss & Salmon PLC; Phoenix

Eric W. Lam
Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

John A. Leonard
Leonard Key & Key PLLC; Wichita Falls, Texas

Hal F. Morris
Office of the Attorney General; Austin, Texas

Valerie P. Morrison
Wiley Rein LLP; McLean, Va.

L. Louis Mrachek
Page, Mrachek, Fitzgerald & Rose PA
West Palm Beach, Fla.

John D. Penn
Haynes and Boone LLP; Fort Worth, Texas

Hugh M. Ray
McKool Smith PC; Houston

H. Buswell Roberts, Jr.
H. Buswell Roberts, Jr. PLLC; Blacksburg, Va.

Thomas J. Schank
Hunter & Schank Co. LPA; Toledo, Ohio

Steven A. Schwaber
Law Offices of Steven A. Schwaber; San Marino, Calif.

Patrick S. Scott
GrayRobinson PA; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

W. Steve Smith
McFall, Breitbel & Smith PC; Houston

James A. Vidmar, Jr.
Logan, Yumkas, Vidmar & Sweeney LLC; Annapolis, Md.

Deborah D. Williamson
Cox Smith Matthews Inc.; San Antonio

Consumer Bankruptcy

Richard L. Banks
Richard L. Banks & Associates; Cleveland, Tenn.

Carey D. Ebert
Ebert Law Offices PC; Hurst, Texas

David G. Hicks
Pollak & Hicks PC; Omaha, Neb.

Deborah A. Hughes
Harrisburg, Pa.

Jill A. Michaux
Neis & Michaux PA; Topeka, Kan.

Dorothy L. Mott
Dorothy L. Mott Law Office LLC; Harrisburg, Pa.

Janet S. Northrup
Hughes Watters Askanase LLP; Houston

Michael J. O'Connor
O'Connor O'Connor Breese & First PC; Albany, N.Y.

Max R. Tarbox
Tarbox Law PC; Lubbock, Texas

Business and Consumer Bankruptcy

Robert N. Braverman
Law Office of Robert Braverman; Cherry Hill, N.J.

Janet L. Chubb
Armstrong Teasdale; Reno, Nev.

William R. Davis, Jr.
Langley & Banack Inc.; San Antonio

James Charles Fogo
Law Office of James Charles Fogo; Houston

Daniel L. Freeland
Daniel L. Freeland & Associates PC; Highland, Ind.

Robert A. Goering
Goering & Goering LLC; Cincinnati

Daniel J. Herman
Pecarek & Herman Chartered; Largo, Fla.

James V. Hoeffner
Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody PC; Austin

Raymond J. Obuchowski
Obuchowski & Emens-Butler PC; Bethel, Vt.

Cass S. Weil
Moss & Barnett; Minneapolis

Bankruptcy Judges from the Class of 1992

Hon. Peter H. Carroll
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (C.D. Cal.); Los Angeles

Hon. Marcia Phillips Parsons
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (E.D. Tenn.); Greeneville

Hon. Mary F. Walrath
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (D. Del.); Wilmington

Hon. Michael G. Williamson
U.S. Bankruptcy Court (M.D. Fla.); Tampa

Throughout its history, ABC has relied on its working Board of Directors. ABC recognizes the following emeritus directors for their contribution to the certification process: **Lawrence R. Ahern, III** (Burr & Forman LLP; Nashville, Tenn.), **Robert S. Bernstein** (Bernstein-Burkley PC; Pittsburgh), **John Wm. Butler, Jr.** (Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP; Chicago), **Rudy J. Cerone** (McGlinchey Stafford PLLC; New Orleans), **Paul Geilich** (Wright Ginsberg Brusilow PC; Dallas), **Harry W. Greenfield** (Buckley King LPA; Cleveland), **Faye Knowles** (Fredrikson & Byron PA; Minneapolis) (ret.), **William L. Norton, III** (Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP; Nashville, Tenn.), **Joseph A. Peiffer** (Day Retting Peiffer PC; Cedar Rapids, Iowa), **John D. Penn** (Haynes and Boone LLP; Fort Worth, Texas), **Keith Shapiro** (Greenberg Traurig LLP; Chicago), **James D. Sweet** (Murphy & Desmond SC; Madison, Wis.) and **Prof. G. Ray Warner** (St. John's University School of Law; Jamaica, N.Y.).

ABC will celebrate its 20-year anniversary during ABI's Winter Leadership Conference in Tucson, Ariz., with a special reception for ABC members and some invited guests on Friday, Nov. 30, 2012. If you see an ABC member during the conference or any other time this year (identified by a red ribbon on the name badge), please wish him or her a happy anniversary and ask how you can join us. For more information about ABC and its certification process, visit www.abcworld.org. **abi**

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The American Bankruptcy Institute is a multi-disciplinary, non-partisan organization devoted to bankruptcy issues. ABI has more than 13,000 members, representing all facets of the insolvency field. For more information, visit ABI World at www.abiworld.org.