



Class 26 Induction Ceremony and Related Events



Class 26 Inductees

Thirty-four new Fellows were inducted into the College on March 13, 2015 at the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, Washington, D.C. in a ceremony attended by members of their families, colleagues, and hundreds of others. Class 26 is comprised of three bankruptcy judges, three professors, and twenty-eight practicing attorneys.

Friday's ceremony also included the recognition of the two 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipients: Prof. Kenneth N. Klee and Richard B. Levin. The Distinguished Service Award was presented by Gerald K. Smith of Tucson, Arizona.

On Saturday, March 14, 2015, this year's Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Students from the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits were introduced to College Fellows before the start of the education sessions.

Congratulations to our esteemed Fellows and students!



Prof. Kenneth Klee (left) and Richard Levin



2015 Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Students

Upcoming Circuit Events

July 1-4, 2015

The National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees (NACTT) Annual Seminar
Salt Lake City, UT

September 11, 2015

(tentative date)

7th Circuit Educational Program

Chicago Kent College of Law
Chicago, IL

For details and registration information for these and other regional events, please [click here](#). If you know of an upcoming event that is not listed, please let Shari Bedker know at sbedker@amercol.org.



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American College of Bankruptcy
P.O. Box 249

Stanardsville, VA 22973

434-939-6004

www.amercol.org

Email: sbedker@amercol.org

Chair's Column

Michael L. Cook, *Chair*



The College continues to thrive. As a public service group, we relentlessly pursue our pro bono, educational and legacy preservation goals. To keep us focused on where the College should be heading in the next five years our Strategic Planning Committee spent the better part of a day in March with the College's board of directors reviewing the Committee's thoughtful report and recommendations. What follows is a quick sampling of what the College is doing; where it is heading; and how it is implementing the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations. Chris Meyer will, in his column, provide detail on that committee's work to date.

Induction Ceremony and Distinguished Service Award

More than 400 Fellows attended the College's annual induction ceremony and Distinguished Service Award presentation on March 13, 2015. The College admitted its 26th class of 34 Fellows. Gerald K. Smith, former Chair of the College and the recipient of the 2000 Distinguished Service Award, presented the 2015 award to Kenneth Klee and Richard Levin, recognizing them for their distinguished public service careers, starting with their essential work on the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978.

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President's Column

G. Christopher Meyer, *President*



"Continuous Improvement" is a popular theme today in many major corporations. And in that same vein, the College recently formed a Strategic Planning Committee to help sharpen our focus on where the College should be heading over the coming years. While we are proud of the successful development of the College and its many programs and activities, we recognize that we will all benefit from a thoughtful look into the future.

The Strategic Planning Committee began by breaking down its task into a series of subject areas. In the fall of 2014, the Committee chose to begin by focusing on Admissions, College Governance and Fellow Engagement. The Committee conducted a survey of all Fellows with questions surrounding those three initial subjects. Based on the results of that survey, interviews with past and present College leadership and a strategic planning meeting involving a cross-section of College Fellows, the Committee formulated its first Strategic Planning Committee Report. That report was discussed during a day-long meeting with the College Board held in advance of our annual meeting in March.

The good news is that Fellows are generally pleased with the operations of the College. However, the survey also

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Chair's Column

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Pro Bono

Our Pro Bono Committee, chaired by Jim Baillie, awarded \$326,000 over the past year to 35 pro bono programs in 21 states. In addition to providing seed money for start-up programs, the Committee provides grants of up to \$10,000 per recipient for the providing of bankruptcy-related legal services to indigent consumer debtors. The Committee also provides educational resources for these programs (e.g., how to represent a consumer debtor; practitioner forms).

Education

Our 70-member Education Committee, previously chaired by Rick Mikels of Boston, and now led by Rick Mason of Chicago, provides high-quality educational programs in every judicial circuit. One of the most novel programs, started in the Ninth Circuit during the past two years, is a law student negotiation competition. Members of the Education Committee and other Fellows acted as judges and team coaches. The program has been so successful that the Committee intends to replicate it in other circuits over the next several years. Other programs have included a First Circuit program on Ponzi schemes; a Second Circuit program to educate state court judges on bankruptcy issues; and a high-level program in the Fourth Circuit devoted to the recently issued American Bankruptcy Institute report on bankruptcy reform. Our International Committee has also reorganized the College's successful cross-border bankruptcy courses taught by Fellows at twelve law schools, with the intention of reaching 20 law schools. Finally, we are targeting 2016 for an update of the College's invaluable business bankruptcy Circuit Review, and are soliciting contributing authors.

Legacy


Preserving the legacy of restructuring and insolvency professionals is a high priority for the College. Over the past 15 years, the College has maintained the National Bankruptcy Archives at the University of Pennsylvania Law School

Library. The College has funded half of the project's cost, with additional funding from a major legal publisher. Although the publisher was unable to continue funding the Archives in 2015, the College was fortunate, through the leadership of our indispensable general counsel, Bill Perlstein, to secure a funding proposal from Bloomberg BNA, Inc. for 2015. We are in the final stage of negotiations with Bloomberg and hope to secure funding for the next year and to develop a longer-term relationship. Among other things, Bloomberg contemplates funding a Supreme Court review of upcoming bankruptcy rulings next September with College participation.

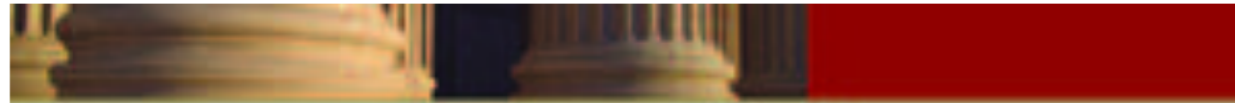
New Senior Fellow Project

The board authorized the possible formation of a new Senior Fellow Committee to keep senior professionals engaged in College activities and to enhance the College's work. Paul Singer, former chair of the College, Dan Cohn and I will present an agenda for such a committee to the board at its September meeting. Among other things, we contemplate committee members providing mentoring advice to younger Fellows; plus pro bono financial and consulting advice to distressed not-for-profit entities.

* * * * *

Your support and participation keep the College vital. Your presence makes the College unique. 





The Foundation in 2015: Time for an Encore

Mark D. Bloom,
ACB Foundation Chair



Well, as most of you who attended our Annual Meeting in Washington back in March or received letters or emails thanking you for your generous donations are aware, 2014 was another outstanding year for the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. Thanks to the persistence of our Tenacious Treasurer Tom Lumsden and the tireless efforts of our Circuit Campaign Chairs, we sprinted past the annual goal of \$222,750 and raised a total of \$267,904 by year-end. While this amount includes an extraordinary gift of \$52,716 from the Estes Creditor Trust (thank you, Texas Fellows!) as well as amounts from other creditor trusts, we collected over \$215,000 in the form of direct gifts and donations from our Fellows, an increase of 12% over 2013.

The Fellow contributions came, quite literally, from everywhere. Five of the Circuits exceeded their 2014 targets, while two others came close and in the process set new records for their Circuits. All of this in an environment in which the insolvency and restructuring market in the U.S. is (dare I say it?) less than robust.

But as the leader of my law firm's December year-end collection drive asked me during the first week of February, "what have you done for me lately?" turning the same question to the College, I note that as of March 31, 2015 we had received \$29,114 in contributions from Fellows to start the 2015 year. A good start, to be sure, but simple arithmetic tells us that on a ratable basis it gets us less than halfway to last year's record level.

Like most other civic and charitable organizations, the Foundation relies substantially on a flood of contributions during the fourth quarter. But wouldn't it be wonderful if those of us who solicit donations and help manage the Circuit Campaigns could turn our attention confidently to potential corporate donors and other sources of revenue? Wouldn't

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President's Column *continued from page 2*

identified several areas where we could benefit from that "continuous improvement" mentioned above. For example, a number of Fellows expressed concerns about the size and composition of the College. While Fellows generally supported the degree of selectivity being applied in admissions decisions, there were questions about whether the College was growing at a more rapid pace than optimal under today's restructuring environment. In response, we have concluded that we should target a somewhat smaller number of inductees for 2016, while continuing to concentrate on quality and diversity of admissions.

The 2014 Fellows' Survey also showed a widely-held desire for improved communication regarding opportunities for involvement in College leadership and the means by which Fellows can become more engaged. The sentiment was for increased information both on positions and process.

Even in advance of the delivery of the Strategic Planning Report, we had taken some steps to improve opportunities and communication about them. We recently amended the College Bylaws to shorten the terms for Directors and Regents from three years to two and to reduce the terms for the Chair and President to a single two-year term. Both of those steps will speed the turnover in leadership positions and increase the opportunities for Fellows to participate. More recently, we have also amended the Bylaws to increase the membership on the Nominating Committee. Our hope is that the increased size will expand the breadth of information and experience available to the Nominating Committee in making its recommendations.

On the communications front, we will continue last year's policy of announcing the various vacancies in college leadership positions and soliciting recommendations from Fellows on for candidates to fill those openings. We have also established fixed terms for all committee leadership positions and have encouraged the committee chairs to implement plans for turnover in the composition of their committee membership.


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President's Column

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We plan to take advantage of electronic alternatives to increase the level of communications with the Fellows beyond the two bi-annual issues of College Columns. You received the first edition of "College Notes" recently and will be receiving additional messages from various members of college leadership, hopefully on a monthly basis.

Finally, to improve the general level of communication regarding College programs and activities, we are working with our Executive Director to develop materials describing the various activities and programs of the College, as well as a "handbook" consolidating information on college groups and activities. The handbook should be especially helpful to new Fellows. We plan to make these materials available to Fellows, and on the College website, later this year. Other improvements are planned to permit all Fellows to become more engaged with the College and with each other.

On behalf of those of us active in the business of the College, I want to thank the Fellows for your valuable input in how we can improve an already exceptional organization. I also want to give you our assurance that we will make every effort to continue to improve both the College and its relationship with every Fellow. 

Foundation Column

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it be even more wonderful if the 530 Fellows who contributed last year (have I thanked you all, so very much?) – and the others who meant to contribute but overlooked it – could have the peace of mind that they've re-upped for 2015 and don't need to worry about year-end obligations?

Well, you're in luck! We've made it easier than ever for you to spread your donation to the Foundation throughout the year, and in the process help us smooth out the peaks and valleys of fundraising and forecasting. And you even have three ways to do it:


1. Go on-line at the Foundation website, www.acbfoundation.org, and in the right-hand column of the home page click on "donate funds." Just like magic the on-line donation form

will appear for you to insert your name, personal and credit card information, click "Submit Form," and the donation goes right through. You'll see it on your next monthly statement, and most cards will automatically flag it as a charitable contribution for when it comes time to prepare your tax return next year.

2. Even better for those who prefer to donate via credit card, visit Paypal [here](#) to make recurring monthly/quarterly payments.

3. Or perhaps best of all, with electronic checking it couldn't be easier to set up a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual payment by check. Go ahead, try it: set up a recurring payment to American College of Bankruptcy Foundation ("ACB Foundation" works fine if the field on the screen limits the number of characters), to P.O. Box 249, Stanardsville, VA 22973. I just did it – all by myself! -- and I can assure you that I'm just about the most computer-challenged Fellow in the College.

But wait, there's more! The Internal Revenue Service has confirmed that the Foundation is properly qualified as a charitable organization eligible to participate in the Amazon Smile Program. Within just a few short weeks, the vendor that Amazon uses to clear participation in the program will update its records to recognize us, and from that point on you, your friends and family will be able to direct Amazon to donate .5% of every eligible purchase to the Foundation, at no additional cost to the purchaser! With hundreds of Fellows and their family members making thousands of purchases on Amazon every year, the amounts add up quickly and represent a source of passive and recurring income to the Foundation. Watch for more details as soon as the Foundation is finally approved, and we'll provide fool-proof instructions for the one-time sign up that will designate the Foundation as your charity of choice for the Amazon Smile program.

Your gift to the Foundation helps provide pro bono legal services to indigent and troubled consumer debtors wrestling with access to the bankruptcy system in communities all across the country. We appreciate your participation in our record drive in 2014, and hope you will find a way to remember the Foundation for your giving as we plan our encore in 2015. 



Class 27 Nominations

Marc A. Levinson
Chair, Board of Regents



The nomination packages for Class 27 candidates are due on June 5th, and I hope and trust that by now have already been submitted to the Regents for the various Circuits and to the Chairs of the Judicial Nominating Committee and the International Fellows Nominating Committee. The approximately 100 members of the Circuit admissions councils and the two nominating committees have begun the arduous and essential task of reviewing the nomination materials and vetting the candidates. They will be reaching out to the other 650 active status Fellows and to many of the emeritus status Fellows seeking input about the potential new Fellows.

While that due diligence will include seeking verification of the information contained in the nomination packages, perhaps the most important inquiry will be about character. The first of the criteria for selection of Fellows in Article II, Section 3, of the bylaws is "the highest professional qualifications and ethical standards" and the second references "high level of character [and] integrity." The nomination form requires the nominator and the two sponsors to certify, among other things, that the candidate "...maintain[s] the highest ethical and professional standards." The various letters of recommendation should address character as well, but the best way to confirm that a candidate satisfies the College's high standards is through one-on-one discussions. Any such discussions are, of course, confidential, and you may ask the Fellow conducting the due diligence to report the results without including your name or otherwise identifying you. Whether or not you do, the discussions within the admissions council or nominating committee will remain confidential. Delivering a negative review may be unpleasant, but upholding the standards established by the bylaws more than justifies any discomfort.

The circuit admission councils and nominating

committees will make their decisions by early August, and will send me the nomination packages of their recommended candidates no later than August 14th. The second round of due diligence begins shortly thereafter, with each member of the Board of Regents conducting due diligence on 3 or 4 candidates from outside home circuits of those Regents. While this process is time consuming and almost invariably confirms the vetting done by the circuit admission councils and nominating committees, it serves as an important check and balance. So you ought to be prepared for another round of phone calls, and once again should be candid in your evaluations.

Speaking on behalf of the Regents, the Chairs of the two nominating committees and all the members of the admissions councils and nominating committees, I thank you in advance for your participation in this important process, which will conclude with the meeting of the Regents in Miami on September 27th. Your participation helps make the College the outstanding organization that it is. ¶

International Committee News

Hon. Charles G. Case, II (Ret.), International
Committee Chair



The International Committee is proud to welcome three new fellows to the College: Dario Oscós Coria of Mexico City, Lionel Zaclis of São Paulo and John Lees of Hong Kong. Due to a last minute family emergency, Dario was unable to attend the investiture ceremony in March but we look forward to welcoming him formally at next year's meeting. At the Annual Meeting, our other two new fellows, along with long-time fellow Agustin Berdeja-Prieto, made very interesting presentations about both themselves and new insolvency developments in their respective jurisdictions.

This year, we introduced new initiatives to integrate our international fellows into the

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Intl Committee News


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College. These included assigning a “buddy” and issuing an invitation to a Circuit luncheon to each international fellow attending the meeting. In addition, we held a small reception for the international fellows immediately after their Friday afternoon presentations. We are also reaching out to circuit educational committees to consider including international topics in their regular programs and to include international fellows in those program when feasible.

The College is organizing an educational presentation during the Miami NCBJ meeting this coming September. This outstanding panel will be moderated by Professor Ted Janger and includes Hon. David Richards of the High Court in London, Chris Redmond of Kansas City, Dan Glosband of Boston and Agustin Berdeja-Prieto of Mexico City. Please make an effort to attend what will be a great program at NCBJ in Miami.

A major project of the International Committee is the International Insolvency class now taught at St. John’s University with video feeds to six other law schools throughout the country. Under Professor Ray Warner’s leadership, this class is looking to expand gradually over the next few years to up to 20 schools, including Mexico and Canada. The course has grown and improved significantly over the years through the efforts of its elite faculty and supervision by Richard Broude, to whom we send grateful thanks for his exceptional service. We have established an oversight committee to provide support to Ray and the faculty in this effort. There are two things that you as College Fellows can do to help improve and expand this course. These are: 1) recruit new law schools in your community to join the course; and 2) volunteer to act as on-site adjunct faculty either for existing schools or for schools that you successfully recruit. The class is taught in the Spring semester (January to May), one night a week. As the technology has been enhanced, the interaction between the “mother ship” and the remote locations has greatly improved and the result is a more dynamic

educational experience. Please contact Ray directly at ray.warner@stjohns.edu if you’d like to help or to learn more about the class.

Finally, I’d like to remind you that Phase II of the strategic planning initiative will soon be getting under way and will include a review of the College’s international programs. I urge you to give the committee your input on these important issues so that we can all help to improve the nature and scope of our international engagement and consider how best to choose and integrate international fellows into the fabric of the College. 

What's New at the National Bankruptcy Archives

Hon. Joyce Bihary (Ret.)

Co-Chair, Archives Committee



There have been a number of exciting accessions to the National Bankruptcy Archives (NBA) at the University of Pennsylvania in the past year including papers of historical interest from bankruptcy giants such as Leonard Rosen (New York), Norman Nachman (Chicago), and Daniel Glosband (Boston) and organizational papers from the American Bankruptcy Institute. The NBA is also pleased to have received papers of Bankruptcy Judges Geraldine Mund (California), Arthur Votolato (Rhode Island), Judith Fitzgerald (Pennsylvania), and Robert E. Ginsberg (Chicago).

The NBA continues to add to its important Oral History Collection. Each oral history is posted to the NBA website and available for immediate viewing or listening. It is also accompanied by a transcript of the session. Recent new oral histories include those of Judges Arthur Votolato, Stacey W. Cotton, A. Thomas Small, and Dorothy Eisenberg and attorneys Edward Creel, Robert White, Morton P. Levine and Samuel Zussmann, Jr.

Fellow and Archives Committee Member
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National Bankruptcy Archives
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Adam Rosen took the oral history of Judge Eisenberg (retired after 24 years from the Eastern District of New York), and prepared the following to give you a taste of the interview with this thoughtful and gracious judge.

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Dorothy Eisenberg: Trailblazer for Women Bankruptcy Lawyers and Judges

Excerpts from a National Bankruptcy Archives interview taken by Adam L. Rosen on December 18, 2013

Dorothy Eisenberg entered Brooklyn Law School at age 18 and graduated in 1950. In 1951, she was one of the first women lawyers at the law firm of Otterbourg, Steindler, Houston & Rosen in New York City. She left Otterbourg to raise a family, and then returned to practice to become a chapter 7 trustee, and then a bankruptcy judge. In 2014, after 24 years on the bench, she retired.

At Otterbourg, I was in the back office, and I think I was the only woman lawyer at the time. That may have been why they hired me, I don't know, as just a symbol possibly. But it wasn't an era when women were promulgated into the forefront. And in fact, I was never sent or intended to be sent to court, and I was strictly in the background to do what is now being done by law clerks.

After leaving the law for many years to raise a family, Judge Eisenberg joined the law firm of Goldman Horowitz & Chernow which was located closer to her home. She worked for Jacob Goldman, an experienced bankruptcy lawyer.

When I interviewed with him, I told him that not only did I not know bankruptcy, and that they didn't even offer a course when I was in Brooklyn Law School. He thoroughly understood and said that he did not really expect that I would know bankruptcy, but that I would be able to read the statute, and he would help. He said that my observation in court would enable me to learn, and he hired me.

I was his only assistant, and he had stopped really

appearing in court. So I was the messenger. At that time, the large firms did not do bankruptcy. His firm was what we call a "boutique" bankruptcy firm. This was the era of the firm Levin & Weintraub. I very often was in court representing creditors, and wound up representing creditors' committees. And being in the courtroom, I did learn by observing and by studying the statute.

Although no one said anything, I stuck out like a sore thumb because I was female. And you didn't see many females in bankruptcy court at that time.

The trustees were appointed by the judge – the referees at the time. And Judge Radoyevich appointed me as a trustee in a case because I was often in his court. In fact, I tried a case before him, and he ruled against my client, and it was subsequently taken up to the Supreme Court, and he was reversed. He said to me that he had never been reversed before, but that I had done a good job. He always was able to acknowledge whoever appeared before him, whether they did a good job or they didn't.

[I worked on] the Totem Homes case which was before Judge [Tina] Brozman. She was a fine judge. I think that she left everyone with a very good impression that women can do the same job as men.

Then [U.S. District] Judge Platt in Brooklyn called me. I had never really met him or appeared before him, but that was the era when the district court really appointed the judges. He called me one day and asked me if I knew that there was this opening and whether I was interested in applying.

At this point, I had not intended to apply, and because I had applied previously and it wound up being very disappointing with no feedback. I said, "I didn't expect to apply," and he said that the reason I'm calling you is I want to know if you would apply. Otherwise, I'm setting up a committee, and I was going to name you the chair of the interviewing committee for prospective candidates. But I really think you ought to apply. You've appeared before many of our judges, and it would probably be a good idea.

I said I didn't think so – this was at a time when I think the judge's salary was \$77,000 a year, and as I said, I had four children either in college or graduate schools and was finally making some money. But he kept saying, "Well, you really ought to discuss it with

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National Bankruptcy Archives

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your family. Call me back. Think about it." And which I did and changed my mind.

I consider one of the most important actions of my career on the bench was when I "split a job" for two women on my staff. Since I was entitled to hire two law clerks as support staff for my judge's position, I was able to keep two very capable women employed which enabled each of them to raise a family and enjoy some family time without losing their continuous employment in the careers that they loved. I did this by using one position and splitting the time that each of them attended to the work at court.

[One of the women was] Cathy Christensen. When Cathy started with me, it must have been about 20 years ago. We have a long relationship and a good one. I have the utmost respect for Cathy as a law clerk and as a person.


After she was married for a while, she came to me and said that she might have to leave. And I was rather distressed because I enjoyed having her as a law clerk at my side. And I said, "Why?" She said she either had become pregnant or was planning to become pregnant and was going to have a family, and that she could not work full-time.

At the same time, I had my secretary, Dawn, who had been with me while I was in private practice and came along when I entered the judgeship, and she's really more than a secretary. She's an administrator, able to do all kinds of reports, and aid everyone in chambers. And she too had been married during that time and was also contemplating starting a family. I wanted to keep both of them because they were very capable, and we worked well together. So I checked with the powers that tell me what I can and cannot do and found that a bankruptcy judge has two slots allocated for aid in chambers, and that as long as I filled those slots that would be it. So I decided to convert one slot to a shared position.

Each one was able to work part-time to accommodate their home needs and their personal needs, and it worked for me. I don't know how many people could really do it. It worked because both of these people are outstanding, and their work on a shortened time schedule was comparable to people who take a full week to do the same work. You can do it with good

people, and so many of us in bankruptcy now are females with additional home family obligations. I found it valuable, and I think they appreciated it a great deal.

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The NBA has seen an increase in activity and research, both remote and on-site at the University of Pennsylvania Biddle Law Library. For the latest additions to the NBA, visit the "News" section on the website: <https://www.upenn.edu/library/archives/bankruptcy/news.php>. The oral histories are available to you on the NBA website, www.law.upenn.edu/archives/bankruptcy/index.php. Inquiries about the NBA can be addressed to Leslie O'Neil, Archivist, loneil@upenn.edu or Archives Committee Co-Chairs Diane Sigmund at dianesig@comcast.net or Joyce Bihary at joyce.a.bihary@gmail.com. 



Fellow News

A section for newsworthy awards and moves by Fellows. If you have news about yourself or a colleague, please send announcements to Shari Bedker at sbedker@amercol.org for inclusion in the next issue of the College Columns, published in May and December each year.

◆ **John W. Kozyak** (Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton) accepted the Florida's highest pro bono honor, the Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award, at the Florida Supreme Court on January 29, 2015. He was honored for his contributions toward fostering diversity in the legal profession through the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation and the annual Minority Mentoring Picnic that draws thousands of people from all over the state to forge relationships with minority law students.

◆ Jenner & Block LLP is pleased to announce that internationally renowned restructuring and bankruptcy lawyer **Richard Levin** - an author of the 1978 US Bankruptcy Code and recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the American College of Bankruptcy - is joining the firm as a partner in its NY office and becoming a member of its nationally recognized Bankruptcy, Workout and Corporate Reorganization Practice, effective May 18, 2015.

◆ BNY Mellon, a global leader in investment management and investment services, announced that **William J. Perlstein** will be joining BNY Mellon as Senior Deputy General Counsel, effective June 15, 2015. Perlstein will lead the Legal Department practice groups focused on government affairs, public policy and regulatory affairs, and the corporate services legal functions supporting M&A, IT, real estate, procurement and sourcing support, and cyber security.

◆ **Keith J. Shapiro**, co-chair of international law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP's Business Reorganization & Financial Restructuring Practice, recently received a special award for his dedication to Emory University School of Law and his significant contributions to the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*. Shapiro, who earned his law degree from Emory, helped

launch the Journal 30 years ago and has served as its alumni advisor for almost two decades.

◆ Bankruptcy MVP: Jenner & Block's **Catherine Steege**: New York - December 16, 2014 - Jenner & Block LLP's Cathy Steege has had a whirlwind year holding accountable the directors of a bankrupt Illinois casino, protecting the benefits of nearly 50,000 American Airlines Corp. retirees and preparing to take on the case of a lifetime before the Supreme Court, earning her a spot among Law 360's Bankruptcy MVPs of the Year.

Steege attributes much of her success in the past year to the "first-rate" Jenner & Block attorneys she works with on her cases and considers teamwork one of the firm's greatest selling points. But she said the most influential attorney of her career has been partner Ronald Peterson, who lured her into the bankruptcy practice while she was still a student at DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. ¶

A Special Thank You

Dear Robbin [Itkin],

On behalf of the Gould School of Law, we want to thank you and your fellow panelists for the wonderful panel that you organized and moderated for our law students. We received positive student feedback and loved the student participation question. One of the things to note about your panel was the effective showing of crossover fields. Many students come to USC Gould wanting to do entertainment work but I am not sure if they have fully thought out what entertainment law is. I think your panel showed the crossover between both worlds.

Please extend our appreciation to the fellow panelists and the American College of Bankruptcy. We think it is a worthwhile program.

*Best regards,
Rachel Kronick Rothbart, Esq.
Associate Director of Career Services
USC Gould School of Law*

2015 Pro Bono Grant Application Deadline Approaches (July 1)

*James L. Baillie, Chair,
Pro Bono Committee*



The ACB Foundation, with money provided by the College and by the Foundation, provides grants of up to \$10,000 each to local pro bono programs to help them provide bankruptcy pro bono services using bankruptcy attorney volunteers, including ourselves. So we can give three times- by our contributions to the Foundation, by administration of the College's grant program, and by our personal volunteer services. We are confident that the College is the largest funder of bankruptcy pro bono in the country and have been for some time. In 2014 we awarded grants to 36 programs in 21 states, totaling \$328,294.04.

The Pro Bono Committee, which administers the grant program and selects the grantees, has adopted guidelines which can be accessed on the website at www.acbfoundation.org. Most programs deliver services by assigning a volunteer to represent a debtor, who has been screened for financial need and other eligibility criteria, by filing a chapter 7 case. Others provide brief advice, assistance with letter writing to creditors, representation at reaffirmation hearings or representation in dischargeability cases and other adversary proceedings. Some run clinics in law schools and some engage in community education programs, including financial literacy. Some use the money for training programs for the volunteers. The main requirements of our grants are that the services be delivered by volunteer attorneys (including ourselves) in an efficient and effective way.


Although there are many grantees in many states, the Committee still seeks new grantees and an expanded geographical reach. There are many states not yet represented among the grantees.

As noted in the title, the deadline to apply for a 2015 grant is July 1. [Click here](#) to download

and share a pro bono grant application from the Foundation website.

* * * * *

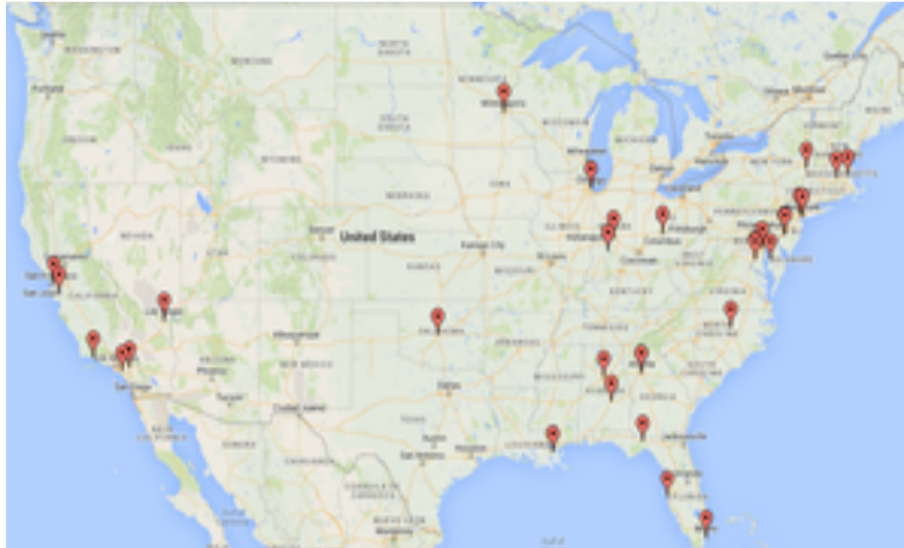
Here is what you can do:

1. Contribute generously to the Foundation.
2. Encourage the development of new bankruptcy pro bono programs in your local area.
3. Encourage the local programs in your area to apply for a grant.
4. Help us find additional sources of funding. Perhaps there are foundations you know of who would like to partner with us to distribute their funds to thoroughly vetted pro bono programs.
5. Encourage chapter 11 lawyers to provide for the distribution of unclaimed funds under chapter 11 plans to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation and to your local programs. Better yet, build that idea into a local rule such as that adopted by the Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of Florida, which can be accessed at www.flsb.uscourts.gov. 



2014 Pro Bono Grantees

Your Donations At Work!



The grants issued in 2014 include the following:

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Alameda County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services
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Boston, MA

Heartfelt Thanks

Upon receipt of their 2014 grant checks, Laura Tuggle of Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and Jill Friedman of Rutgers School of Law-Camden sent emails to James Baillie, Pro Bono Committee Chair, thanking the Foundation for its support. The emails are reprinted below and offer concrete examples of your Foundation donations at work across the country!

Dear Mr. Baillie,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of the \$10,000 grant awarded to Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and to give you our most heartfelt thanks! Your generous support will allow us to recruit, expand, and train volunteer attorneys in our North Shore Pro Bono Program to handle consumer debt matters for low-income households. With the Foundation's funding, we will also be able to develop pro se materials for the Self-Help desk we staff as well as provide at least four community education events on consumer debt and bankruptcy topics to vulnerable populations such as domestic violence survivors, veterans, the elderly, and community college students.

We are excited about this partnership and will make sure that the Foundation is recognized in all publicity and any publications produced in connection with activities undertaken to accomplish the goals of the grant. Thank you.

*Respectfully,
Laura Tuggle, Executive Director
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services*

Dear Mr. Baillie and Ms. Bedker,

Since you so generously invested in our work, I wanted to share this wonderful news with you: at the annual Camden County Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Conference on February 12, the Rutgers Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project was renamed in honor of Hon. Judith H. Wizmur, its founder and guiding light. It will hereafter be known as the Hon. Judith H. Wizmur Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project.



Hon. Andrew Altenburg, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, along with Ann Gorman from South Jersey Legal Services and Pam Mertsock-Wolfe from the Rutgers Law School Pro Bono Program, spoke warmly of Judge Wizmur's role in establishing this critical project over 20 years ago, and of her continued support over the years. Regrettably, Chief Judge Burns was unavailable, but had a role in planning this event as well.

The best part was that the renaming and ceremony was a surprise for Judge Wizmur! Please see the attached photo and accept our continued thanks for your role in making our work possible.

*Best,
Jill Friedman, Associate Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest
Rutgers School of Law – Camden*

2015 Foundation Donations

As of May 1, 2015, 88 Fellows have donated nearly \$41,166 to the Foundation. Please note that you may make a Foundation donation at any time. Simply [click here](#) to access the online donation form.

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As of March 16, 2015



Save the Date!

In Memoriam

Robert F. Ames
January 11, 2015

Harvey Miller
April 27, 2015

On Sunday, September 27, 2015, in conjunction with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) 89th Annual Conference, the American College of Bankruptcy will host the 2015 Fall All-Fellows Luncheon in Miami Beach, Florida at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

Hotel reservations can be made through the NCBJ block of rooms. Luncheon registration will be available shortly!



American College of Bankruptcy
P.O. Box 249
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Tel: 434-939-6004 Fax: 434-939-6030
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