



From the Chair

G. Christopher Meyer, Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP



Looking Back - - And Looking Ahead

As the year-end approaches, it provides a time to look back and reflect on the past year, to appreciate those whose contributions have made the year better and to begin planning for the year to come. It is in that same spirit that the Nominating Committee for the College approached its

charge to prepare a slate for leadership positions to be elected at the spring meeting in Washington. We have tried to draw inspiration from the College's past, recognize those who have helped make its successes possible and plan for the next group of leaders to take the College forward to ever better things.

Under the College's By-laws, the Nominating Committee is comprised of four designated officers and three "at large" members selected by those four officers. This year's Nominating Committee consisted of myself, as College Chair; **Marc Levinson**, as College President; **Rick Mikels**, as Chair of the Board of Regents; **Mark Bloom**, as Chair of the ACB Foundation; and at-large members **Melissa Kibler**, **Claudia Springer** and **David Warfield**. The at-large selections reflected an effort to obtain some balance for the committee in terms of geography, gender and practice, in addition to seeking members with broad contacts and outstanding judgment.

This year, as we have done in the recent past, the Committee solicited nominations from all Fellows. We are gratified that this request has produced an increasing number of worthy suggestions each year. In addition, the Committee also solicited recommendations from each individual completing their term as to possible successors. Those recommendations have also served as a rich source of ideas for possible candidates.

The Committee completed its preliminary slate in November and has been engaged in confirming the willingness of those selected to accept their proposed nomination. We expect to have final slate ready well in advance of our March meeting.

As mentioned above, the nomination process, like the impending year-end, provides an opportunity for reflection, for appreciation and for forward planning. Each year, we face the task of replacing volunteers who have made substantial contributions to the College. As we do that, I would like to warmly thank all those whose have served the College as volunteers in 2017. It is

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From the President

Marc A. Levinson, *Orrick, Herrington
& Sutcliffe LLP*



For years, the College board has discussed the prospect of holding the March meeting and induction ceremony outside of the District of Columbia. In 2016, the board decided that 2019 was the perfect year to seriously consider alternative venues because both the NCBJ conference and, as always, the ABI annual meeting, will be held in the District. A number of officers, working with Shari Bedker and her staff, explored several alternatives, applying the following list of factors and requirements: (1) a Central, Mountain or Pacific time zone location to give Fellows in those regions a travel break for a year; (2) an iconic location for the induction ceremony; (3) space for the education sessions, for the College and Foundation board meetings and for all of the various committee meetings; (4) cost and quality of the hotel rooms; (5) a nearby airport to which there are nonstop flights from across the country and around the world; and (6) better weather than DC in March.

The search team carefully explored a number of options, including Austin, Phoenix and Seattle. But none of those checked all the boxes. I'm happy to report, though, that San Diego did, and that the College has booked the Hotel Del Coronado

for the 2019 meeting and induction ceremony. I suggest that you check it out at www.hoteldel.com.

The Del has hosted celebrities, royalty and beach-loving guests for generations. Its founders, Elisha Babcock and H.L. Story, dreamed of building a seaside resort that would be "the talk of the Western world." Built in 1888 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977, it's an American treasure with more than a century of stories to tell. The resort has become a living legend, visited by celebrities, dignitaries and U.S. presidents including Benjamin Harrison, William Howard Taft, Franklin Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Charlie Chaplin and Marilyn Monroe. Within the past two years, the hotel underwent millions of dollars of renovations and upgrades.

The induction ceremony will be held on March 15 in the Crown Room, so named for its crown chandeliers designed by Wizard of Oz author L. Frank Baum and featuring a 30-foot wood-domed ceiling. It channels the glamour of Old Hollywood, and has played host to countless notable events over the years. We are confident that it will provide for a memorable ceremony.

One other factor to consider: According to AccuWeather, the average mid-March temperature in Washington DC is a high of 56° and a low of 37°. And we know that it often rains then. AccuWeather tells us that the averages in San Diego are 66° and 53°. That extra 10° will come in handy during the day when you (or, more likely, your guests) will be able to walk along the miles of broad sandy beach surrounding the Del. It does rain in

San Diego, but the chances of precipitation are far greater in DC.

If the foregoing hasn't convinced you to attend, I'll add that the Champagne reception following the Friday afternoon education session will be held on the Thomas Lawn, and the reception after the induction ceremony will be held in the Garden Patio. An optional indoor plated dinner will follow. A committee of local Fellows (**Judge Louise Adler**, **Judge Margaret Mann**, **David Osias** and **Victor Vilaplana**) will be working with Shari and her team on locations for the Circuit luncheons and possible activities for guests, among other things.

In sum, the Del will be a great location and we hope to see you there.

Before I close, on behalf of all Fellows, I want to publicly thank outgoing Chair **Chris Meyer** for his great leadership of the College during his service as Chair, and before that as President and as Chair of the Board of Regents. I'll add that on a personal level, I couldn't have asked for a better person with whom to work during the last two years. During that period, we likely exchanged hundreds if not thousands of email memoranda and participated in hundreds of telephone conversations. Even during those rare occasions when we disagreed, Chris was constructive, collegial and a total class act. Thank you, Chris! 🏠



The Twenty-Ninth Class of Fellows

Richard E. Mikels, Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
Chair, Board of Regents



I am pleased to report that the Board of Regents has successfully completed its task of choosing new Fellows for induction at the American College of Bankruptcy Annual Meeting on March 16, 2018 in Washington D.C. The process was quite grueling considering the wealth of talent in our field throughout the world. The task is not simply finding qualified members of the bankruptcy community; it is determining who is "the best of the best" for inclusion into the College. Each new Fellow had to have a resume of excellence as a practitioner while also demonstrating what we call "part B". Part B means that in addition to practicing at the highest level in the profession, a new Fellow must have a history of contributing to the profession or their communities. This standard may be satisfied through writing, speaking, teaching, or engaging in leadership roles in charitable or community activities. In fact, the College's Mission Statement provides:

"The American College of Bankruptcy is an honorary public service association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals who are invited to join as Fellows based on a proven record of the highest standards of professionalism plus service to the profession and their communities..."

Further, a review of our bylaws shows that the criteria for admission is reflective of the Mission Statement:

"...The College honors those professionals whose sustained performances in the practice of their profession exemplify the highest standards of professionalism among bankruptcy specialists by granting them

membership as Fellows. Membership shall be restricted by invitation to honor those individuals who have proven to their peers, and to the bar, bench and public, through long, continuous performance in their bankruptcy specialty that they possess (i) the highest professional qualifications and ethical standards; (ii) that high level of character, integrity, professional expertise and leadership which demonstrates the likelihood that they will continue to contribute to the enhancement of bankruptcy scholarship, continuing education, and the bankruptcy process; (iii) a commitment to fostering and furthering the objectives of the College; (iv) sustained exceptionally high quality professional services to clients, bar, bench, and public; and (v) significant evidence of scholarship, teaching, lecturing, and/or distinguished published writings on bankruptcy practice, procedure, philosophy, improvements and reforms which demonstrates a consistent contribution to the enhancement of bankruptcy literature, education, practice and process..."

Needless to say, these criteria are difficult for any candidate to satisfy, and candidates who do meet the criteria are difficult to find. That is the job of the Board of Regents.

We believe that the process this year included efforts by more Fellows than ever before. Last Spring the process began with a letter to all Fellows asking for nominations. We are pleased that so many Fellows responded by making suggestions to their circuit's Regent. Armed with those suggestions, the Circuit Regents and the Circuit Councils undertook the task of considering and distinguishing among the candidates in order to present the circuit's list of nominees to the Board of Regents. Each Circuit Regent then circulated the list of nominees to the Fellows in their circuit and provided them with the opportunity to comment on the selections. As if all that was not enough vetting, each Circuit Regent was tasked with doing a further vetting on candidates from another circuit that was assigned to her. While this process was occurring, the Judicial and

International Nomination Committees were going through a similar process to identify excellent Judicial Candidates and International Candidates. At the conclusion of their processes, the Chairs of the Judicial Nominating Committee and the International Nominating Committee presented their recommendations to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents meeting was held on October 8, 2017 at the NCBJ Conference. The Board of Regents spent most of a full day going over each and every nominee's application in detail. At the end of that day, we were able to choose those nominees that would be invited to join the College.

The results of this year's process was the selection of twenty-nine candidates who have been invited to become Fellows in the College. The twenty-nine come from from 18 states, the District of Columbia, Singapore and Canada. 28% of the New Fellows are women. In terms of occupation, the new Fellows include three bankruptcy judges, one law professor, one bankruptcy court clerk, seventeen lawyers and seven financial advisors/investment bankers.

The Circuit Regents and Chairs of the nominating committees all performed exceptionally well and the credit for the success we experienced this year is all on account of their hard work and diligence in completing their very important tasks. Thanks also the all of the members of the Circuit Councils and Nominating Committees. It was great to see the broad participation by so many Fellows, who may not have had official roles, but demonstrated their interest in the College, and its future, by participating in the process of nominating and helping to vet candidates.

On a personal note, while my term as Chair of the Board of Regents will officially end in March 2018, I consider this role to have been one of the most rewarding I have ever experienced professionally. The Board of Regents is responsible for nothing less than the future of the American College of Bankruptcy. My thanks to all of the Fellows in the College and to the current and past leadership of the College, because you created the opportunity for me to serve in this capacity. It does not get better than that. 🏛️

In Remembrance of R. Glen Ayers

Roger S. Cox, Underwood

I must tell you that Glen was very proud of being a Fellow. But more importantly, I am old enough to remember Glen as my bankruptcy professor in law school (back in the dark ages). He was the one professor I grew to know and one who ended up affecting my career to this day (30+ years later).

Having crossed paths with Glen early on, I have observed both up close and from afar (I live across the state from where Glen practiced) the profound and lasting impact that Glen had on the profession and in his community. In sports, folks talk about a "coaching tree." Glen had a "lawyering tree," and big one at that. An astounding number of outstanding bankruptcy lawyers (and at least one bankruptcy judge, if not more) were heavily influenced by Glen in law school or early in their careers. More importantly, Glen always remained a career-long mentor and good friend.

I say all of this because I fear that younger lawyers and his out of state colleagues may not have seen that side of Glen; but those that are my vintage would no doubt agree with my observations.

Glen was one of a kind.



And While You're At It, Please Remember the Foundation!

Mark D. Bloom, Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Chair, ACB Foundation



As I sit down to write this Column each December, it always sharpens my focus on all of the charities that our family tries to support. There's the local United Way chapter, of course; the Camillus House homeless shelter in Miami; Autism Speaks (for my little grandson Jorgie, age 6 1/2); my college alma mater; causes important to family and close friends; and all of the other national and local organizations that we try to remember, at least a little bit, each year in our charitable giving.

And with all of the natural disasters – hurricanes, floods and fires -- and human tragedies in the U.S. and around the world this year – too numerous and too horrible even to look back on so many of them – I recognize that all of us who are fortunate enough to be on the giving end of the charitable cycle have the obligation to dig deeper and more thoughtfully at the end of such a difficult year. And then, of course, my thoughts return to our Foundation, and its proper place in these considerations.

Simply put, the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation fills a need that no other organization does. In good years and bad, the least fortunate among us turn to legal services organizations in their communities for help to address mountainous debt loads arising from loss of job, home, income, or the family breadwinner, crippling medical bills, or other financial burdens beyond their ability to bear. And as our indomitable Pro Bono Committee Chair **Jim Baillie** tells me, the trickle-down effect of natural disasters like we've seen in such cruelly outsize proportion this year is an escalating need for assistance to those organizations in succeeding years – after the first responders have come and gone, government

assistance has run out, and innocent people are left to deal with a new and often terrifying financial reality.

Yet again in 2017 the College and Foundation stepped up to meet the increasing demand for grants to pro bono legal services organizations providing insolvency and bankruptcy-related assistance. As reported in Jim's separate Column, the Pro Bono Committee approved **63 grants in 27 states and the District of Columbia**, and through the extraordinary generosity of our Fellows and contributions from the College we funded those grants to the tune of **\$480,000** – another record year. Yet the demand continues to grow, leaving us no choice but, sadly, to deny funding to several meritorious grant applicants and fund others only partially.

Our 2017 target for the Circuit Campaigns is **\$285,000**. Under the "gentle guidance" of our wonderful Treasurer **Marti Kopacz** the Campaigns are well underway in all of our Circuits, and unless you've managed to hide successfully under your desk for the past several weeks I suspect you've already received a similar form of "gentle guidance" from your Circuit Campaign Chair.

And so when you get that call or that email (or that email followed by a call and yet another email), consider that *no other organization does what our Foundation does*, year after year. We are and consistently have been the largest provider, *anywhere in the country*, of grants and assistance to pro bono consumer bankruptcy legal services agencies, *everywhere across the country*. The role that the Foundation plays in providing relief to the people served by these organizations – through the educational materials developed and maintained on our website to the hard dollars advanced by our growing number of grants – is truly unique, simply not replaceable from any other known source.

And so as you consider all of the charitable requests you will receive this season, please remember to include the Foundation. Our soft ask is relatively modest – one billable hour, please – or whatever you can offer. Our Four Figure Club netted 100 Fellows who gave \$1000 or more in its inaugural year in 2016, and we'd love to increase that number in 2017. By giving

to the Foundation you can take pride in supporting organizations that truly make a difference in the lives of the people they serve. And after the storms and floods and fires of 2017 we know the demands on these organizations and their need for financial support will increase substantially in 2018 and 2019.

So, to borrow a phrase, "pay it forward" as we anticipate and address that need. Please remember the Foundation in your 2017 charitable giving, and help us exceed our target again this year as you did so impressively in 2016.

And finally, with sincere and heartfelt gratitude for your interest (hey, you've read all the way to the end of this Column!) and support of the Foundation, wishing you all a peaceful and joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling New Year. 🍷

From the Chair ***continued from page 1***

through your efforts that the College has continued to establish itself as a renowned organization of consummate professionals in the bankruptcy and insolvency field. In addition, without detracting in any way from the contributions of others, I would like to single out three individuals whose special contributions have made a profound impact on the College.

Among those we will be seeking to replace this year is **Bill Perlstein**. Bill has served as the College's counsel for a number of years. In recognition of its special status, College Counsel is the only position that does not have term limits. Bill has served with distinction, giving us the benefit of exceptional judgment, clear and concise drafting and steady guidance. He is truly one who can be followed but never really replaced. He leaves huge shoes to fill, but we believe that we have identified a candidate richly suited to follow in Bill's footsteps.

We also face the task of replacing **Susan Freeman** as the Secretary of the College. The Secretary is truly one of the unsung heroes in any volunteer organization. Given the constant turnover in leadership, it is a continuing challenge to maintain continuity and

institutional memory. The Secretary's minutes are one vital source to help leadership meet that challenge. Susan has done an exceptional job of providing the institutional memory that enables the College to keep itself on track and moving forward as intended. Once again, her skills will be difficult to replace, but the Committee believes that we have a candidate to carry on Susan's good work.

Some years ago, the College amended its By-laws to limit the offices of Chair, President and Chair of the Board of Regents to a single two-year term. The goal of that change was to provide greater opportunity for Fellows to participate in College leadership. However, a single term does place greater demands on individuals selected to learn the responsibilities of the position and to organize to accomplish the tasks at hand. Unquestionably, the most difficult job in College leadership, and the most important, is the Chair of the Board of Regents ("BOR"). Truly, the BOR Chair creates the future of the College, by guiding the Regents in the selection of Fellows who will become the College in the years to come. This year, the Nominating Committee is choosing a successor to **Rick Mikels**, as BOR Chair. Rick has done a superb job in his two years as Chair, helping the College in its efforts to increase diversity and to identify younger professionals who will become the College leaders of the future. By virtue of Rick's leadership and the efforts of the BOR, we can all be confident in the continued success of the College. As he passes the mantle to a successor we believe will carry on his good work, we all can thank Rick for a job well done.

Finally, as I approach the conclusion of my term as College Chair, I want to thank the Fellows for the singular privilege of allowing me to serve the College. It has been an enjoyable and enriching experience, made better by the great assistance of Shari and her staff, by the wonderful partnership I have shared with President **Marc Levinson**, and by your collective support and encouragement. Through the decisions made by the Nominating Committee, I know I will be leaving College leadership well-positioned to continue its progress. Thank you all. 🍷

Pro Bono Committee Awards Grants in 2017

*James Baillie, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
Chair, Pro Bono Committee*



The College and the Foundation continue to be the largest supporter of bankruptcy pro bono programs in the country. The Pro Bono Committee this year received 87 applications and selected 63 programs to receive grants of up to \$15,000 with \$10,000 being


the max in most situations, for a total of \$480,000. Over a three-year period alone, our ACB grants have totaled \$1,268,277. The grantees are in all parts of the country. Over the years all circuits have been the beneficiaries of these grants. Another service of the Committee and College staff is to make available to all programs around the country the materials generated by those grantees.

The Committee is a committee of the Foundation, but its funds come from both the College and the Foundation. Nearly all funds raised by the Foundation- meaning from us personally- are devoted to these grants. As members of the College we contribute several ways: by contributing money, by strengthening the network of these programs through our website, and by our personal pro bono services provided through our local programs.

The thirty-one regular members of the committee made the policy decisions and plans for the year, prepared written evaluations of each of the applications, made oral presentations, and participated actively in the fifteen conference call meetings to select the grantees. The Committee members come from all of the circuits.

Despite the fact that we have sufficient numbers of grant applications for the funds we have available the Committee especially wishes to help start new programs or to assist programs new to us. So, we encourage College Fellows to lead development of new programs to provide

bankruptcy pro bono services in your own communities, working with the local bankruptcy judges, bankruptcy bar associations and law schools. Or College Fellows can encourage existing programs to apply for one of our grants. The deadline for next year is likely to be July 1, 2018.

The other takeaway is to give generously to our Foundation. A related idea is to direct cy pres type funds, such as undistributed chapter 11 plan dividends, or foundations that would like to make bankruptcy pro bono one of the objects of their charity to our Foundation. Those dollars will help strengthen our bankruptcy systems and assist people who really need representation and won't get it without our help. 



Heartfelt Thank You

*A Message from a 2016 ACB Foundation Pro Bono Grantee
Jill Friedman, Adj. Professor and Associate Dean
Pro Bono & Public Interest Program, Rutgers Law School*

* * * * *

Dear Ms. McNamara,

I am writing to share good news from New Jersey, specifically about the Hon. Morris Stern Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project. In January 2017, Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, our Project's guiding light, was kind enough to host a New Year's luncheon for attorney and student volunteers and for the bankruptcy bench and court staff, all in her courtroom. It was truly a pleasure to celebrate Judge Stern's memory, to honor the lawyers and law students who have volunteered with the Project, and to enjoy a lovely lunch and convivial conversation with judicial and clerk's office staff, representatives from Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, and Chief Judge Ferguson, Judges Gambardella, Meisel, Papalia and Sherwood.

Sam Della Fera of Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera Sodono was named as our attorney volunteer of the year, and student volunteer Rebecca Schaefer also was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the Project.

This lovely event alone would have been cause for celebration, but I thought the Foundation would be pleased to learn that as a result of the luncheon, we recruited 15 additional attorney volunteers, 11 of whom have been able to participate in our spring Chapter 7 petition drafting workshops.

Though final statistics are still pending and will be reported in due course, we anticipate that for the academic year 2017-2018, the Program will have provided representation to 28 clients in Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions, and will have provided legal assistance to over 100 clients through the intake project.

We are so grateful to the American College of Bankruptcy and Foundation for its support of this worthwhile Project, and wanted you to know about this substantial development.

With gratitude,
Jill Friedman

True Public Service

Michael L. Cook, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP

The author dedicates this review to his late partner, Fellow Lawrence V. Gelber, a devoted member of the College's Pro Bono Committee who greatly admired the books discussed here.



College Fellows, generally recognized for their public service, should read two important books once a year: Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains* (2003) (312 pages) and *Strength in What Remains* (2009) (277 pages). Those who have

read these powerful books know that we College Fellows still have a lot to learn about public service. When we live comfortably and think of the world's misery-laden hell-holes, we often "send money," as Kidder writes. But Paul Farmer in *Mountains* and Deogratias ("Deo") Niyonzonkiza in *Strength* have devoted their lives, not just their livelihoods, to public service.

Mountains tells the riveting story of Dr. Paul Farmer, founder of Boston-based Partners in Health ("PIH"), which builds medical clinics for poor people around the world. Farmer, brilliant and gifted, was one of six children who grew up in a bus, trailer parks and an occasional boat. His brilliance won him a scholarship to Duke from which he graduated summa cum laude, majoring in anthropology. He later obtained a combined M.D. and Ph.D. degree from Harvard in medical anthropology. But those are mere credentials when compared to his accomplishments [Disclosure: PIH has long been a pro bono client of my law firm.]

Farmer visited Haiti after graduating from college. Its appalling health conditions and lack of effective health care registered deeply. Mortality rates among children and their mothers were staggering. Living in Haiti enabled Farmer to find his life work.

Farmer's fellow Harvard medical students recall his frequent trips to Haiti and his returning for examinations at the last minute. Farmer's

combination of medicine, public health and anthropology was just the right prescription for Haiti's suffering poor. He worked long, hard hours, walking huge distances to serve patients, apply for grants and speak to prospective donors.

PIH did attract donors, enabling it to build medical clinics in poor communities around the world, from Haiti to Cuba, South America and Russia. An obsessed, dedicated and ascetic physician, Farmer turned over his MacArthur "Genius" Award to PIH. He also donated his salary as a professor at Harvard Medical School to PIH.

According to Farmer, medicine "is a social science." "Medical education," he says, "does not exist to provide students with a way of making a living, but to insure the health of the community." Kidder shows Farmer fighting poverty full time around the world despite repeated difficulties and failures.

Farmer was not a one-man show. Happily, he inspired others to join his cause, including Ophelia Dahl, daughter of the writer Roald Dahl and movie actress Patricia Neal, who had come to Haiti in 1993 intending to do "good works" at Eye Care Haiti; Tom White, owner of the largest heavy-construction firm in Boston who became a regular major donor to PIH; and Jim Yong Kim, Farmer's Korean American fellow Harvard anthropology and medical student who first served as his "second in command" for eight years and later became a key leader of PIH.

Mountains inspires and disturbs at the same time. It pushes us to do more; but it also challenges our complacency. As Kidder concludes, "I don't idolize [Farmer], but I am grateful that he is living on this planet."

Strength tells the story of Deo, a refugee from the horror of Burundi in 1993. Helped by other humans along the way, Deo was a medical student who escaped to Rwanda first and then to New York City in 1994 during the Rwandan genocide. Twenty years old, Deo was homeless, lived in an abandoned tenement and in Central Park, worked for a local supermarket (Gristedes) for \$15 a day, and taught himself English.

A remarkable New Yorker discovered Deo when he delivered her groceries and found him a home with an older New York sociologist and

his artist wife. Deo then worked his way through Columbia's School of General Studies (he clinched the calculus entrance test) and then moved to the Harvard School of Public Health. There, he met Paul Farmer who hired him as a PIH research assistant. Inspired by Farmer's work at PIH, Deo went to Dartmouth Medical School and then returned to Burundi in 2006 to found Village Health Works. Its medical clinic treated 28,000 patients in its first year, largely free of charge.

Kidder then goes back in time to detail Deo's harrowing escape from Burundi where Hutu and Tutsi were slaughtering each other in a ghastly civil war. Only with the help of a fellow medical student's family was Deo able to escape to this country. But Kidder also describes the many other fine people who repeatedly saved Deo from instant slaughter before his trip to New York.

Mountains and Strength tell gripping true stories of extraordinary human beings. Kidder's vivid prose not only inspires us with the examples of Farmer and Deo, but also helps us to grasp the misery of so many other people around the world. 📖



Dr. Deo Niyonzonkiza



Dr. Paul Farmer

2017 Foundation Donations

As of December 8, 2017, 302 Fellows have donated nearly \$188,000 to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. The current list of contributors can be found below. As we always hope for 100% participation by our Fellows, please consider helping us to surpass our 2017 goal of \$275,500. You may make a Foundation donation at any time—simply visit www.amercol.org to access the online donation form. Thank you for your support!

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Focus on Fellows

We invite all Fellows to submit information about awards, news, and/or recent publications. Member highlights will be published on a bi-monthly basis to all Fellows through email or the College Columns as appropriate. If you have news about yourself or a colleague, please send announcements to Carole McNamara, ACB Communications Director, at focus@amercol.org.

Ronald R. Peterson became the 36th President of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees in September of 2017. The NABT represents the country's 1200 chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees and focuses on educational programs for its members and the public, bankruptcy legislation and filing amicus briefs to support issues directly impacting Chapter 7 trustees.

The Commercial Law League of America (CLLA) and its Bankruptcy Section presented the Lawrence P. King Award to **Nancy B. Rapoport** at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) in Las Vegas in October 2017. Each year, the Executive Council of the Commercial Law League's Bankruptcy Section presents the King Award to recognize a lawyer, judge, teacher or legislator who exemplifies the best in scholarship, advocacy, judicial administration or legislative activities in the field of bankruptcy. The award is designed to recognize the lifetime achievements of Professor King, which include

contributing to the practice of bankruptcy law through teaching, by working to elevate the profession and through bankruptcy-related legislative activities. Nancy is Special Counsel to the President of University of Nevada Las Vegas, Garmen Turner Gordon Professor of Law at William S. Boyd School of Law and Affiliate Professor of Business Law and Ethics at Lee Business School.

Bob Wessels, emeritus professor international insolvency law University of Leiden, the Netherlands, and international Fellow since 2004, has published the fourth edition of his book: International Insolvency Law Part II. European Insolvency Law (Wessels Insolvency Law Volume X), Deventer: Wolters Kluwer, 4th ed., 2017, CCXXX + 950 pp.; ISBN 9 789013 145021. Further information at <http://www.bobwessels.nl/blog/2017-09-doc4-wessels-international-insolvency-law-part-ii-european-insolvency-law/>. 





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For more information and to register please [click here](#).

Upcoming Circuit Events

Saturday, January 27, 2018

[First Circuit Annual Wine-Tasting Event](#)

Monday, February 19, 2018

[2018 American College of Bankruptcy Fourth Circuit Moot Court Event](#)

Thursday, February 22, 2018

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Friday, April 6, 2018 – Saturday, April 7, 2018

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For details and registration information about these and other regional events, please visit www.amercol.org. If you know of an upcoming event that is not listed, please contact Shari Bedker at 434-939-6004 or sbedker@amercol.org.

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