

# College Columns

May 2017



## From the Chair

G. Christopher Meyer



Greetings from Sarasota! Our busy winter season has pretty much wound to its close. The snowbirds have returned to their northern homes, leaving the rest of us to face the hot and sticky Florida summer. However, it is now much easier to get a dinner reservation or to drive across town. I certainly never had all these issues during the many years I lived in Cleveland.

It was a pleasure to see many of you in Washington DC for our Annual Meeting and Induction. And it was a special pleasure to welcome the new Fellows from Class 28 into the College. The comments on the meetings and events have generally been quite positive. We continue to welcome your thoughts on how we can improve the experience for attendees.

**State of the College.** The College's financial condition remains strong. In 2016, we had a net surplus of \$63,000, compared with a budgeted \$22,000 surplus. Our core receipts exceeded budget by \$35,000, primarily as a function of increased donations through the Patrons and Sponsors Program. The results for the various expense categories tended to even out largely consistent with the 2016 budget. Both the College and the Foundation received clean audit opinions for 2016 with no special changes or adjustments.

**Current Initiatives.** In the last edition of College Columns, we alerted you to several initiatives that came out of our fall meeting at the NCBJ conference in San Francisco. In March, the College Board considered the initial reports from the groups involved in those initiatives.

**Endowment and Reserve Funds.** The first initiative considered our investment and handling of funds held by the College and by the Foundation. The first is a fund of approximately \$1.4 million held in an informal "endowment" fund by the Foundation. The task force had been asked to consider how that fund should be treated in light of the growing number of requests for pro bono assistance from the College - - whether the fund should be continued, formalized and expanded, under what circumstances we should consider invading the principal of the fund to support current grants and whether we should modify our investment policy on the funds held.

The initial recommendation of the task force was to continue efforts to grow the endowment fund, as well as to consider a more

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# Induction Ceremony at the Annual Meeting

Marc A. Levinson, President



It is my pleasure to report on the March 10, 2017, Induction Ceremony at the Smithsonian Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art

and Portraiture Museum, held in conjunction with the College's Annual Meeting. The event drew approximately 450 attendees, and once again the venue, the ceremony and the reception thereafter drew rave reviews. We look forward to another successful event at the Museum on March 16, 2018.

Other than the welcoming remarks from Chairman of the Board, Chris Meyer, the induction ceremony consisted of two distinct parts. The first was the introduction of the recipient of the College's Distinguished Service Award followed by the remarks of the honoree, Judge Thomas L. Ambro. The second was the induction of the members of Class 28. Rick Mikels, Chair of the Board of Regents, discusses the latter in his column, so I will focus on the Distinguished Service Award.

The criteria for selecting the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award were approved by the Board in October of 2012, and may be found under the News & Events tab at the top of the College website. A list of past recipients may be accessed by a link under that tab. The criteria

are stringent:

1. The recipient must have made significant accomplishments in improving the administration of justice in the insolvency and bankruptcy field;

2. The recipient must have provided distinguished service consistently rendered over a considerable period of time or a single outstanding achievement in a particular year. (The fact that a single achievement may have occurred before the year of recognition is not material.);

3. The accomplishments must arise from voluntary activities rather than for services rendered to a client as a paid professional. (This is not intended to exclude members of the judiciary, Congress, or the academic community.);

4. The recipient shall be a member of the American College of Bankruptcy; and

5. The recipient must distinguish himself or herself or his or her institution in a manner and in matters that are consistent with the goals and purposes of the College.

The recipient of the Distinguished Service Award selects the person to introduce him or her, and Judge Ambro chose D.J. (Jan) Baker, the esteemed former College President and Chairman of the Board. Baker first discussed Judge Ambro's "paper" qualifications for the Award: Among others, outstanding bankruptcy practitioner in Delaware prior to his becoming a judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in 2000, active participant in the College, the National Bankruptcy Conference and the American Law Institute, former Chair of the Section of Business

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Law of the American Bar Association, recipient of countless honors and awards, etc. Baker noted that while on the Court of Appeals, Judge Ambro had written over 1,000 opinions, dissents, concurring opinions or orders, and had sat on panels that had issued over 4,000 decisions or orders. He added, unnecessarily for the Fellows in the audience, that Judge Ambro's bankruptcy opinions were widely respected both inside and outside the insolvency community.

But the introduction went beyond that, with Baker warmly discussing Judge Ambro the person: Dedicated to justice, gracious, kind, humble and unassuming. This was not news to those of us fortunate enough to know Judge Ambro, but sent a message to all attendees that one could reach the pinnacle of our profession and yet remain the kind of a person we all aspire to be.

After thanking Baker for the wonderful introduction, Judge Ambro surprised the audience by not talking about substantive law or even the practice of law. In fact, he didn't talk about himself at all. Instead, he taught us a life lesson about how one act could impact the lives of countless people over several generations. It was the story of Chester Wernecke, a soldier who risked his life to save the life of Joseph F.

Weis, Jr., who was severely wounded during a World War II battle in France. Weis went on to become a respected lawyer in Pittsburgh, a state court judge, a federal district judge for three years and, from 1973 until his death in 2014, a judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Weis was an outstanding jurist, and in 1995, the federal courthouse in Pittsburgh was named in his honor. During his 40 years on the federal bench, Judge Weis mentored numerous law clerks, many of whom later rose to great heights in the legal, academic and judicial communities. If not for Wernecke's selfless act, Judge Weis would have died on the battlefield, would not have become a judge, would not have mentored all those law clerks, and would not have made his substantial contributions to the administration of justice. And, of course, Judge Weis's family, would not have existed. Judge Ambro's talk reminded us that our actions matter, and that they touch not only ourselves and those directly impacted by them, but also how they can affect many others, including those who have not yet been born. The talk was both riveting and instructive, and was a wonderful illustration of the reason why Judge Ambro was selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award. 🏆



*Judge Ambro (left) receives the 2017 DSA from presenter D.J. (Jan) Baker (right).*

## A New Season

*Richard E. Mikels, Chair,  
Board of Regents*



For the Board of Regents, the induction ceremony held in March, 2017, for Class 28, was a wonderful conclusion to the process that brought the College 30 new Fellows. It also was the beginning of a new season of identifying

and vetting next year's inductees. As a Red Sox fan, my sense of anticipation reminded me of what I feel on "Truck Day". That occurs at the end of winter when the trucks carrying Red Sox equipment leave Fenway Park for spring training in Florida. I know I am filled with great expectation every "Truck Day". A new baseball season will finally begin. The induction ceremony is such a time for those of us on the Board of Regents as we look forward to the process that will lead to the induction of Class 29.<sup>1</sup>

The process will include eleven Circuit Regents, one for each judicial circuit and three at-large Regents. Each Circuit Regent chairs a Circuit Council.

The Regents are: Michael J Goldberg (1st Cir.), Dennis F. Dunne (2nd Cir.), David B. Stratton (3rd Cir.), Richard L. Wasserman (4th Cir. and D.C. Cir.), Berry D. Spears (5th Cir.), Taft A. McKinstry (6th Cir.), Kenneth J. Malek (7th Cir.), David A. Warfield (8th Cir.), Thomas E. Patterson (9th Cir.), Kenneth L. Cannon II (10th Cir.), Sarah Robinson Borders (11th Cir.), Timothy R. Coleman (At-large), Hon. Jeffery P. Hopkins (At-large), and Professor Ingrid Michelsen Hillinger (At-large).

In addition we have two Nominating Committees; the Judicial Nominating Committee chaired by Daniel A. Zazove and the International Fellows Nominating Committee chaired by Hon. Charles G. Case. Approximately 100 Fellows will participate directly in the process of choosing new Fellows by serving on the Board of Regents, the Nominating Committees and the Circuit Councils. This requires a major time commitment for everyone involved and we are grateful for the immense

efforts of so many Fellows.

We encourage all Fellows to be involved. You have all received material from the College, and a letter from me, inviting you to participate in the process. You have also been provided with instructions for how to do so. Nothing is more important to the future of the College than insuring that the best insolvency professionals are made part of our organization. I encourage you to contact your Circuit's Regent to discuss any recommendations you have. Recommendations from Fellows from other Circuits are also welcome and encouraged, as are recommendations to the International Fellows Nominating Committee and the Judicial Nominating Committee.

Submissions by Fellows are due on, or before, June 9, 2017. While you are thinking about potential candidates for Class 29, we note that the College is under-represented by women and minorities. We also would be pleased to see younger professionals among those considered for Class 29. If you are aware of professionals that fall into this category, please bring their names to the attention of the appropriate Regent or Chair of a Nominating Committee.

The College can only induct a limited number of candidates each year, even though many more may be qualified. The Board of Regents assesses the excellence of a candidate's skills and accomplishments. We also consider how the candidate has contributed to our field and within their communities. Writing, teaching, speaking, community service and charitable endeavors are important criteria for becoming a Fellow. In addition to all of the above criteria, the Regents strive to admit only candidates with the highest standards of ethics and professionalism.

A summary of the process for this year is described below (subject to some variation among the circuits):

- The first step, as discussed above, is to identify qualified candidates.
- Fellows will participate in preparing the applications that provide the information that the Circuit Councils and Nominating Committees will need to make their nominations.
- The applications must contain detailed information about each candidate, including

4 <sup>1</sup>Of course, we have a better winning percentage than the Red Sox.

cases handled, employment history and examples of the ways in which the candidate has contributed to the field and to his/her community.

- The application must be signed by a nominator and two sponsors. Each nominator and sponsor must submit a letter containing substantive reasons why the candidate has the qualifications to be admitted. Three to five other recommendation letters should also be provided for each candidate.

- It is very important that this process must be entirely confidential. Since many candidates are not admitted, it could cause unwanted embarrassment if the candidate were to know that he/she was considered for admission, but not invited to join the College. The information required must be obtained from sources that are willing to maintain the confidentiality of the process.

- Each Circuit Council and Nominating Committee will discuss and consider the potential nominees.

- On or before July 21, 2017, the Circuit Councils will have decided on which candidates they intend to nominate.

- Fellows in each circuit will be confidentially notified of the selections. Fellows will be entitled to comment on candidates, if there is disagreement with any of the Circuit Council's decisions.

- By August 3, 2017 all comments from Fellows shall be submitted to the appropriate Regent.

- By August 10, 2017 the Circuit Councils will be required to have completed any requested reviews regarding the Council's candidates.

- On or before August 14, 2017, each Regent and Chair of a Nominating Committee shall report all nominations to the Chair of the Regents. All applications and letters of support will be provided to the Chair. The Chair will then send each Regent a complete report on all candidates so that the Board of Regents will be prepared to discuss each candidate.

- Even after the materials have been prepared and circulated, each Regent vets the nominees from another Circuit. The nominees recommended by the two Nominating Committees also undergo further vetting. Sometimes new issues are uncovered which are important to the consideration of nominees by the entire Board of Regents.

- On October 8, 2017 at the NCBJ Conference in Las Vegas, the Regents will meet for final determinations. The Chairs of each Nominating Committee will report on each of their nominees to the Board of Regents. Each Regent will report on the nominees of his/her Circuit Council. After a full day of discussion, final decisions will be made and new Fellows will be chosen. Six months of intense effort will have culminated in the selection of class 29.

Next year's Induction Ceremony will be on March 16, 2018, when class 29 will be inducted. That will also mark the time of our equivalent of "Truck Day". The scent of spring will be in the air and the much anticipated beginning of a new season for us will be at hand. 🗓️



*Class 28 Fellows inducted on March 10, 2017*

## Foundation Raises and Grants Record Amounts in 2016

Mark D. Bloom, Chair  
ACB Foundation



It's baseball season once again, and inspired by the great Column that it appears in this edition from our Board of Regents Chair Rick Mikels, I'm offer to you the play-by-play of the Foundation.

**The Wind-Up!** Once again this May, I have the privilege and pleasure to report that 2016 was another record year for the Foundation. Not only did donations from our Fellows exceed \$300,000 for the first time in history -- **\$303,958** to be exact – but in combination with other funding generously provided by the College we were able to award a record **\$468,000** in grants – almost \$150,000 more than the previous record set in 2015.

As much as I hate to bore you with statistics, permit me to express my gratitude to the 529 Fellows – 72% of whose 2016 contributions met or exceeded their gifts in the prior year – who caused us to exceed both our record 2015 total and 2016 target by just over 10%.

For the first time we rolled out our Four Figure Club, a target for those in position to donate \$1000 or more. The response again was overwhelming, with 100 Fellows participating at that special level.

As in the past, we relied so heavily on our Circuit Campaign Chairs to motivate the extraordinary level of giving that enables us to set new records year after year. This year in particular, the Foundation would like to recognize all of those Campaign Chairs whose tireless efforts – pushed, prodded and encouraged by our Treasurer **Marti Kopacz** -- produced this outstanding result:

William W. Kannel (1st Cir.)  
Kenneth H. Eckstein (2nd Cir.)

David B. Stratton (3rd Cir.)  
Guy A. Davis (4th Cir.)  
R. Patrick Vance (5th Cir.)  
M. Colette Gibbons (6th Cir.)  
Vincent E. Lazar (7th Cir.)  
Scott J. Goldstein (8th Cir.)  
Thomas E. Lumsden (9th Cir.)  
David E. Leta (10th Cir.)  
Mark M. Maloney (11th Cir.)

**The Stretch!** The exemplary work of the Foundation is gaining increasing notice across our profession. As reported elsewhere in these Columns, on May 5, 2017 I proudly accepted on behalf of the Foundation the first Access to Justice Award presented by one of our long-time grant recipients, Dade Legal Aid/Put Something Back. Nothing as Foundation Chair has made me prouder than to accept this award in my own hometown of Miami, in recognition of the Foundation's nationwide contribution to providing access to justice for consumer debtors all across the country.

In addition, on May 7, 2017 I appeared on behalf of the Foundation at the Presidents Roundtable Meeting and Breakfast at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys in Orlando. Sharing our vision and experience with the NACBA audience, the other panelists from such familiar organizations as the ABI, NCBJ, NABT, and others like the National Association of Consumer Advocates, National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees and The Creditors Bar Association, reminded me again of the leading role that our Foundation plays in the delivery of pro bono bankruptcy legal services to those truly in need.

**And the Pitch!** Again in 2017 there remains so much to be done. Our Pro Bono Committee headed by **Jim Baillie** already is out soliciting and beginning to evaluate grant applications from legal services organizations across the country, and with more federal budget cuts looming the need will be greater than ever. In response, the Foundation has established the following goals and objectives for 2017:

- Increasing overall participation, at least a return to record 2015 level of 553 Fellows

representing almost 70% of College membership;

- Promoting our Four Figure Club, and seeking an annual 10% increase in the number of Fellows who contribute at that level – target 110 members for 2017;

- Continuing to promote the “one billable hour” request to the broader membership;

- Focusing on encouraging additional giving from historically underperforming Circuits, to raise the levels of both participation and average donation;

- Increasing participation among non-lawyer Fellows of the College, through the involvement of additional fund-raising captains and Circuit Campaign Chairs from that sector;

- Publicizing and increasing the geographic penetration of our pro bono grants, so as to promote the local benefit of our grants in every one of our Circuits;

- Continuing to build on the work of our Development Committee to advance our initiatives and develop alternative sources of funding in the areas of corporate outreach, creditor trusts and major gifts, taking advantage wherever possible of the relationships and financial participation of our Senior Fellows;

- Seeking and encouraging new and innovative means of fundraising both within, and increasingly outside of, the College.

Note particularly these last two bullet points above. If we hope to increase our fundraising capacity without relying so heavily on our Fellows to make their annual contributions, **we need volunteers** to serve on our Development Committee and tap these additional funding


sources. That Committee currently consists of **8 members** -- Marc Abrams (2d Cir.), Steven N. Berger (9th Cir.), Richard P. Carmody, Chair (11th Cir.), Robert C. Furr (11th Cir.), William W. Kannel (1st Cir.), Jeffrey W. Kelley (11th Cir.), David E. Leta (10th Cir.), and Mark G. Stingley (8th Cir.).

**We need 18 members!** Now more than ever the Foundation has a compelling story to tell about the vast and expanding network of pro bono consumer legal services organizations supported by our grants, and the meaningful difference those grants have made in people’s lives. If you’re looking for a way to serve the College – and the profession – and your own community – a place on the Foundation Development Committee is a terrific opportunity and a valuable use of your time!

And if you’re a Senior Fellow looking to remain active in the College, draw upon the vast professional network you’ve developed over your career, and even acquaint friends in that network with the tax advantages of directing mandatory redemptions from qualified IRAs and other retirement accounts to the Foundation, this is the place for you! Open for business!

**Volunteers needed!**

Having exhausted myself with this cheerleading effort, permit me to close this Column by extending again my truly heartfelt thanks to all for making 2016 a record year for the Foundation. And hey, don’t forget to sign up to support the Foundation as your designated charity on AmazonSmile! If you’ve not done that yet, click on the image below.

Hope to see a great turnout at the College Luncheon that will precede the NCBJ Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in October! 



## American College of Bankruptcy Foundation Recognized with Inaugural Access to Justice Pro Bono Award

In a ceremony on May 5, 2017 in Miami, Florida, the Dade Legal Aid - Put Something Back inaugural *Access to Justice Pro Bono Award* was presented to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation for its extraordinary leadership and contributions resulting in greater access to justice for those in dire need of free legal assistance.

States Karen Josefsberg Ladis, Executive Director of Dade Legal Aid, "The Foundation has truly answered the call to help disenfranchised members of our community by actively soliciting and awarding financial grants on a nationwide basis to community-based pro bono legal services organizations that offer ongoing recruitment trainings, support pro se clinics and educational programs, and mentoring others to assist individuals in need of Chapter 7 & 13 bankruptcy assistance. Thanks to this dedicated group, which includes local practitioners and judges, tens of thousands of indigent debtors have received the help they so desperately need."


ACB Foundation Chair **Mark Bloom**, of Greenberg Traurig, was present to accept the award on behalf of the Foundation. 

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

formal fund structure and a revised investment policy. The Board has asked the task force to prepare final recommendations on each of these issues for consideration at the College meetings during the NCBJ in Las Vegas this fall.

Second, the College currently has approximately \$800,000 in operating reserves. The task force viewed this amount as an appropriate cushion for future operations. However, the task force also recommended consideration of modification to our existing, highly-conservative, investment model in an effort to seek greater returns on these monies. Final recommendations from the task force on this issue also will be presented and discussed at the October Board meeting

**2019 Induction Venue.** The other initiative begun after our fall meeting in San Francisco was an effort to consider possible alternative locations for our 2019 Induction. That year, the NCBJ meeting will be held in Washington DC, so it was felt that an alternative location would be worth exploring.

Over the past several months, we have considered Seattle, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona; Austin, Texas; and San Diego, California as alternative induction locations. The issue proves to be more difficult than we first anticipated. For example, our induction timing conflicts with the huge SXSW event in Austin and with spring baseball in Phoenix. Those conflicts make hotel and venue reservations more expensive if not completely unavailable. The Executive Committee will be discussing the 2019 site this month, and we hope you have  Board conclusion in the relatively near future.



Mark Bloom accepts Access to Justice Pro Bono Award on behalf of the ACB Foundation





## International Bankruptcy Course Adds Canada and Changes Course Leader

The College's innovative International Bankruptcy course reached an important milestone recently when Western Law, a public law school in Ontario Canada, agreed to join the course. With the addition of a Canadian law school, the course is now shared by law schools in all three NAFTA countries, probably a first in legal education.


The course was already very unusual in that it involved eight to ten law schools annually that were linked together through audio and video over the internet in a shared real-time class. The course is sponsored and generously supported by the College, which provides the funding needed to bring the world's leading experts in as lecturers. An internet bridge provided by the University of Utah, where Fellow **Hon. Ralph Mabey** is a professor, allows multiple schools to share the lectures and class discussions. A Mexican law school, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), where College Fellows **Dr. Luis Manuel C. Meján** is a professor and Fellow **Agustin Berdeja-Prieto** is a lecturer, was already a participating school. The eight United States law schools expected to participate next year are Chicago-Kent, Georgetown, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania, St. John's, Southern University Law Center, and University of Utah.

The expansion to Canada caps off the term of course leader and Fellow **Prof. G. Ray Warner** of St. John's. During Warner's tenure the course was revamped to reflect modern trends in cross-border practice. Warner also added more Fellows, and a more diverse range of Fellows, as lecturers, commentators and instructors at the participating schools. At least 15 Fellows participated in those roles this year.

Next year, Fellow **Robert (Bob) Lapowsky**, will replace Warner as course leader. Lapowsky is the co-chair of Stevens & Lee's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Department and a Lecturer in Law at the University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught the course for

several years. In addition, Penn, where Fellow **Prof. Charles Mooney** is a professor, will replace St. John's as the course's host school.

The course consists of thirteen weeks of video lectures that are presented live at one of the schools, with the other schools able to participate and ask questions using the internet link. The lectures cover the gamut of international insolvency law. The course begins with a series of comparative law lectures that introduce students to the insolvency systems of nine non-U.S. jurisdictions around the globe. The course then turns to cross-border practice with two lectures on the European Union Insolvency Regulation and four lectures on the Model Law, as embodied in U.S. Chapter 15. The course ends with a lecture of the use of U.S. Chapter 11 by non-U.S. entities.

If you are affiliated with a law school and would like it to join the consortium, please contact College Executive Director, **Shari Bedker** ([sbedker@amercol.org](mailto:sbedker@amercol.org)), or Fellow **Robert Millner** ([robert.millner@dentons.com](mailto:robert.millner@dentons.com)), Chair of the International Committee. 



## Judicial Fellows Diversity Initiative: It's Just A Beginning

*Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff*<sup>1</sup>



Two years ago, the ABA reported that the bankruptcy bench is the least diverse of the federal judiciary. While those numbers are improving there is still a long way to go. Diversity in the law continues to be a challenge, and diversity

in the bankruptcy field is even more challenging. Around the country judges, bar associations and practitioners have various diversity initiatives, reaching out to students in high schools and colleges to encourage law as a career choice, and reaching out to students in law schools to encourage bankruptcy as a field of practice.

The judicial fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy are committed to diversity and, over the past year, have been working on an initiative to gather information about various diversity projects around the country, highlight a few, and push this information out to our colleagues, judicial and non-judicial. We formed four subgroups, to look at programs focused on high school outreach, college outreach, law school outreach and minority bar association outreach. For example, Judge Jeffrey Hopkins told us about a program in Ohio called The Law and Leadership Institute. The Institute is a statewide initiative in Ohio in collaboration with the legal and educational communities that inspires and prepares students from underserved communities for post-secondary and professional success. The comprehensive four-year curriculum includes the study of law, analytical thinking, problem solving and writing as well as opportunities to develop leadership skills and professionalism both inside and outside of the classroom. The nearly 1,000 students served through the program have received 700 hours of tuition-free programming and boasts a 100% high school


graduation rate with 95% of participants being admitted to college. Learn more at [www.lawandleadership.org](http://www.lawandleadership.org).

Judge Maureen Tighe has been working on a college outreach program of primarily disadvantaged students that includes a college pre-law club scheduled for a mock trial/meet legal professionals day at the courthouse in October. Judge Tighe is hoping to supplement the outreach with some speaking and writing skills workshops as well as several mock trial opportunities. I recently put together a program at University of Miami School of Law. The panel was made up of five minority attorneys, all of whom are well known and widely respected and none of whom are sports and entertainment lawyers - including a corporate lawyer who is the managing partner of the Miami office of Greenberg Traurig, and a bankruptcy attorney who recently left a large law firm and started her own practice (she also was my first law clerk). The panel spoke to a group of about 40 law students about their practices, and their journeys that brought them to those fields of law and to their firms. The panel was mediated by the president of the U of M Black Law Student's Association (and my intern from Summer of 2016). Judge Margaret Mann recently spoke on a panel on Effective Legal Writing and invited several minority bar associations to attend. The Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida just had a young lawyers' mingle and pro bono event with the Cuban American Bar Association. And these are just a few examples.

Where do you fit in? Every one of us has the opportunity to improve diversity in the law, in our practices, in College membership. There are so many programs with which you can get involved at every level. If you are interested in seeing the list the Judicial Outreach Committee has put together, please let me know. While it is still being "made pretty", the information is all there. Indeed, it is our intent to make our list into an all-encompassing database. To that end, if you are involved with, or you are aware of, any diversity outreach program in your area, please let me know. The more information we have, the more useful our information can be.

In the meantime, start with yourself. Take on

**10** <sup>1</sup>Judge Isicoff is the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of Florida, a member of Class XVII of the College, and Chair of the Judicial Outreach Committee.

a diverse intern or mentee. Judges - there are many internship programs aimed at diversity that will provide you with a summer intern. I have had interns from these programs every summer that I have been on the bench, and with only one exception, every one has gone on to be a bankruptcy attorney. In fact, one of my summer interns went on to clerk for Judge Alan Trust. Insolvency professionals do your part as well. It just takes a little time and not only will your efforts be personally rewarding, you will help us enrich the bankruptcy world for all. 

## Heartfelt Thank You

*A Message from a 2016 ACB Foundation Pro Bono Grantee*

*Kelly Henrici, Executive Director, Greater Dayton Volunteer Lawyers Project*

We are so grateful to the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation for its generous grant in support of our debt collection defense initiative! We held a "triage" clinic in mid-March and it was a great success. I know our final report is due when the grant funding expires but we wanted to give you a sense of what we can accomplish with your support.

After an initial training session, the clients arrived and the next 2.5 hours were a whirlwind! The participation for this clinic was:

- 20 clients scheduled for appointments
- 12 clients kept their appointments
- 3 attorneys with subject matter expertise participated
- 7 attorneys from LexisNexis participated
- 1 paralegal participated
- 1 credit counselor participated
- 3 VLP staff members participated



The results were:

- 3 clients were given documents we generated to file with the Court (Motion to Vacate, Motion for More Definitive Statement)
- 2 clients were given letters to send to creditors requesting information verifying the alleged debt
  - 1 client was given letter to send to creditors that the debt is not collectible because his income is protected
- 3 clients were given counsel and advice regarding their particular debt situation, without additional efforts being undertaken
- 3 clients were interviewed for bankruptcy assistance and given a list of items to gather for the preparation of bankruptcy pleadings
- 1 client created an attorney-client relationship with one of the subject matter experts as attorney fees are available in his situation, so the VLP could not provide further assistance
- 1 client, because of her cognitive issues, will be represented 1:1 in court pro bono by a subject matter expert from the clinic
- 1 client had a fact pattern so unique that it stumped all three subject matter experts so additional research is being undertaken to determine the "final answer" to report to the client
- All clients were given various materials (free, governmental brochures) about debt matters

We look forward to continuing these clinics through 2017. Again, thank you so much for your support!

## 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](mailto:focus@amercol.org).

**Barton Law Firm, PA** is pleased to announce that Christine Brimm is becoming a partner in the firm, which will be renamed Barton Brimm, PA. The firm is relocating to 3955 Hwy 17 ByPass, Suite D, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. It will continue to provide representation throughout the state of South Carolina in the field of bankruptcy law.

**Judy B. Calton**, Partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP (Detroit) was honored as a Leader in the Law 2017, by Michigan Lawyers Weekly on March 23, 2017, for demonstrating excellence in her field, a commitment to her clients and community, and respect for the law.

**Hon. Mary Grace Diehl** (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D. Ga) received the Benefactor level Endowment Award at the ABI Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.



On March 29, 2017, Fordham Law School dedicated the Kirpalani Commons in honor of **Susheel Kirpalani '94**, founder and chair of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP's bankruptcy and restructuring group. The honor celebrates Kirpalani's generosity in funding programs that support the School's students interested in pursuing public interest law. Through a leadership gift and significant bequest, he established the Kirpalani Scholars program, which provides full annual scholarships for four students, and he also underwrites summer fellowships for students through the School's Public Interest Resource Center.

The School also recognized Kirpalani with

one of three 2017 Louis J. Lefkowitz Public Service Awards. The awards, named for Fordham Law alumnus Louis J. Lefkowitz, a former Attorney General of the State of New York who embodied the highest standards of public service,

are given annually to alumni or friends of Fordham Law School who have made significant contributions to the Law School's public service programs or whose careers have had a significant impact in public interest law and community service.




**Patricia A. Redmond** (Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.) received the annual Anthony

H.N. Schnelling Leadership Award at the ABI Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C.



**Keith J. Shapiro**, Co-Chairman of the Chicago office at global law firm GreenbergTraurig, LLP and Co-Chair of the firm's Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice, received Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal's Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement on Monday, April 3rd at the Journal's 2017 Banquet in Atlanta.

The Distinguished Service award is presented annually to a member of the bankruptcy field who has made significant contributions to the legal community and practice. 

## 2017 Foundation Donations

As of May 3, 2017, 102 Fellows have donated nearly \$65,000 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](http://www.amercol.org) to access the online donation form. Thank you for your support!

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**American College of Bankruptcy**  
**Fall All-Fellows Luncheon**  
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Please join us in Las Vegas on Sunday, October 8th for the 2017 Fall All-Fellows Luncheon. Accommodations are available at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel. For reservations, [click here](#) or you may contact the hotel at 877-796-2096 and ask for the NCBJ block of rooms. The College does not have a separate block of rooms.

For a detailed agenda and to register for the event, please [click here](#).

## Upcoming Circuit Events

June 23-25, 2017

### **Ninth Circuit Retreat**

*Portland, OR*

[Click here](#) for more information.

July 13, 2017

### **Pro Bono and Pro Se Bankruptcy Services Presentation**

*Seattle, WA*

[Click here](#) for more information.

For details and registration information about these and other regional events, please visit [www.amercol.org](http://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](mailto:sbedker@amercol.org).



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