

Spring 2023

Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee Newsletter

*Foreword from the Co-Chairs
Desirae Bedford and Peter C. Bastianen*

Dear Bankruptcy Colleagues:

Peter and I are grateful to everyone for bestowing us with the opportunity to serve as co-chairs of this wonderful committee. We remained committed to continuing the efforts to make the committee useful to the Bankruptcy Bar. This past April, in conjunction with the Advocates Society and Robbins DiMonte, Ltd., we hosted the committee's first ever CLE. Thank you for welcoming us and change.

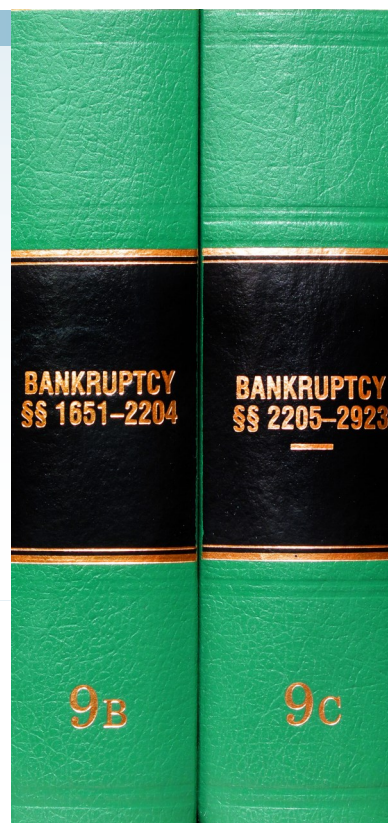
Now that Spring is here, we are counting down the days to when we will have to embrace another change — the retirement of our beloved, integral, insightful, compassionate, humble, but firm Judge Carol A. Doyle. Join us as we celebrate “Her Honor” and rejoice with her in the next chapter of her life. Judge Doyle, thank you so much for your many years of service.

Judge Carol A. Doyle Retirement

Prior to her retirement from the bench, Judge Carol A. Doyle was kind enough to meet with committee member Samantha Ruben to discuss her career.

During her tenure as a bankruptcy judge for nearly 24 years, Judge Doyle has presided over countless chapter 7, 11, and 13 cases, leaving a lasting impact on the Chicago bankruptcy landscape. She has been a dedicated and respected member of the bankruptcy bench and has served as a role model to new lawyers. Judge Doyle's passion and commitment to justice, objectively resolving disputes, and mentorship, have influenced countless lives, and she will undoubtedly continue to serve as a powerful voice going forward in her retirement.

Judge Doyle earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and law degree from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law where she graduated with distinction. Immediately after graduating, Judge Doyle clerked for Judge John A. Nordberg at the Northern District of Illinois District Court for three years. Reflecting on her experience, Judge Doyle described clerking as an incredible and challenging job, humbly explaining that she was grateful and



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Co-Editors

Peter C. Bastianen
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Julia Jensen Smolka
Robbins Dimonte, Ltd.

Judge Doyle Retirement Continued

lucky to have worked for Judge Nordberg.

After drafting opinions and being exposed to a litany of types of litigation as a clerk, Judge Doyle found herself most marketable as a litigator. Post-clerkship, she worked at Sidley Austin in the business and environmental litigation group.

So, what led Judge Doyle to the bankruptcy bench? To put it simply – a mix of hard work, an interest in serving the public, a curiosity about bankruptcy, and perhaps most importantly, an exceptional mentor who tapped her on the shoulder and said, “you would be great at this!” The bankruptcy judge application sought an attorney with experience in complex federal litigation, an area in which Judge Doyle was already well-versed.

After her appointment to the bankruptcy bench in 1999, Judge Doyle allowed herself a one-year grace period dedicated to gaining a deep understanding of bankruptcy law and procedure. She quickly realized it would be a lifelong career of learning. After two decades on the bench, Judge Doyle notes that while the area is ever-changing and complex, that is what makes bankruptcy fun and challenging. What is different about bankruptcy compared to other areas of law is that there are a multitude of issues that arise throughout the case that usually require quick rulings.

Whether written or oral, Judge Doyle’s procedure for issuing an opinion is the same. In a concise manner, with no legalese, the process involves: (1) teeing up the issue, (2) providing the relevant standard and only important facts, (3) deciding the outcome, and (4) explaining why the winner wins and the loser loses, paying careful attention to address each party’s arguments. Explaining why the losing party is incorrect is vital to ensuring that the party understands they have been heard and have had their day in court.

Aside from drafting opinions, the collegiality between the judges is one of Judge Doyle’s favorite parts of being on the bench. When she first started, she would often turn to her mentor-judge or walk down the hallway to chat with other judges about tougher issues. As a bankruptcy judge – *i.e.* a neutral decision maker with access only to party filings and presentations in court – Judge Doyle understood that she only saw the tip of the iceberg. She often needed

to look deeper to understand why parties were making certain arguments, or who held the “power” in the case, to make a learned decision.

One of Judge Doyle’s fondest memories is being the unofficial “social committee chair” of the Bankruptcy Court. She often organized social events and lunches that were well-attended. As someone who was always close with her chambers, once COVID hit, Judge Doyle turned to Zoom to hold weekly meetings with her clerks and staff, where they would discuss work and non-work related topics.

What will Judge Doyle miss most about the bench? First is her colleagues, who have become lifelong friends. She has enjoyed the camaraderie and the togetherness that comes with working with a big group and having to make important decisions for the bankruptcy community at large. Judge Doyle will also miss the challenge and the sense of contributing to the bankruptcy system, humanity, and justice.

Judge Doyle has been working since she was fourteen years old, so she has always had a “to do list” and a planned, structured week. After she retires this spring, she is looking forward to having additional free time to work on her gardening skills, spending time with family, and traveling.

What is clear from my conversation from Judge Doyle is how impactful mentors were to her career, and on the other side of the coin, how devoted Judge Doyle is to mentoring young lawyers. Judge Doyle explained that the most important inflection point in her professional career was her mentor at Sidley Austin suggesting she apply to the judgeship. In the same vein, Judge Doyle has made it a point give back by mentoring young lawyers in the community. While the purpose of our meeting was to discuss Judge Doyle’s career and retirement plans, Judge Doyle went out of her way to offer this (among many other golden nuggets) impactful advice: mentor and be mentored, and take the time to establish meaningful, human relationships with others in the community.

Judge Doyle would like to express her gratitude to the Chicago bankruptcy community for their trust and support throughout her career.

Attorney Spotlight

In order for our readers to become better acquainted with fellow members of the bankruptcy community in the Northern District of Illinois, the committee will spotlight two attorneys in each newsletter.

Steve Jakubowski

Shareholder

Robbins DiMonte, Ltd.



Q. How did you become interested and involved in bankruptcy?

The bankruptcy code was 4 years old. The country was coming out of a decade of stagflation and a deep recession in the early 80's, the third in 12 year span. A newly-minted professor—Doug Baird at the University of Chicago Law School—treated bankruptcy as a subject worthy of scholarly analysis and popularized it with his students. After graduating from law school, I joined Kirkland & Ellis as not just a first-year associate, but the second most senior associate in its then 4-person bankruptcy group. What I've always liked about bankruptcy is that it is the rare practice area that combines transactional work and litigation. And unlike traditional litigation, where cases can linger for years, bankruptcy litigation can be intense, taking just days, weeks, or months to get to trial. I've also enjoyed the unique collegiality, which extends nationwide, among the bankruptcy bar, the bench, and other restructuring professionals.

Q. What are your typical types of engagements?

My typical engagements now fall into five categories: (1) debtor representations in out-of-court restructurings, liquidations, and chapter 11 reorganizations, (2) UCC foreclosure sales, (3) debtor and creditor representation in contested reorganization proceedings, (4) avoidance action litigation and related transactional advice, and (5) post-restructuring general corporate representation. Fortunately, my fellow partners at Robbins DiMonte—including BCLC member Julia Smolka—provide quality support that enables us to handle multiple complex corporate restructurings and related adversary litigation.

Q. Share any other information about yourself that you think our readers would enjoy.

My parents, of blessed memory, were both holocaust survivors. My father survived the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and a death march to Dachau. My mother was liberated from Bergen Belzen. Having lost everything until there was nothing left to lose, they left the ashes of Europe behind and came to America with \$300 and three suitcases. They thrived here with kindness, hard work, and a forward looking optimism, but not religion. On a whim on the day I turned 40, I walked into a synagogue in Chicago for the first time and accepted the Rabbi's invitation to come again the next day, and the day after that too. Six weeks later, my Dad unexpectedly passed away, and I was saying kaddish for him morning, noon, and night for the next 11 months. After the year had passed and my divorce was complete, I met—and in 2000 married—a woman from Northbrook who reached out to me in response to an ad I placed on an orthodox Jewish website. (She was the only one to answer my ad over the entire life of the site!) We moved to Lincolnwood and have three healthy children; a daughter who just graduated from college and will be going to PA school in the fall and twin boys in 10th grade at Skokie Yeshiva. Meanwhile, my son from my first marriage started a non-profit while at Northwestern that was wildly successful, connecting Jewish college students traveling abroad with local Jewish communities. Before COVID killed travel-abroad programs, his charity in only its fifth full year had placed 4,600 students for the Passover seder with Jewish families in 155 cities in 60 different countries. So life has indeed come full circle. I'm not the great Hasidic rebbe my great-grandfather was, nor will I ever be. But I don't think any one who knew me in law school or during my days at Kirkland and Skadden would ever have imagined that I'd shut down for the Sabbath, send my children to local Jewish day schools, or develop an index and study guide to the Talmud that is 62% complete and has 2.3 million words. My faith and my observance now define me; the Good Lord's rod and staff comfort me.

Attorney Spotlight Continued

Shelley A. DeRousse

Partner

Freeborn & Peters, LLC



Q. How did you become interested and involved in bankruptcy?

When I was in law school, I wanted to be a litigator and took every skills class toward that goal. In my last year, I took a Mergers & Acquisitions class and loved it. It made me rethink my whole career plan. I sought out advice and someone told me that I want to be a bankruptcy attorney, because that would allow me both litigate and do transactions. Without even taking a bankruptcy course, I sent my resume to bankruptcy groups in town and became a bankruptcy attorney.

Q. What are your typical types of engagements?

I practice mostly chapter 11 commercial bankruptcy, but have on occasion filed chapter 7 cases. In bankruptcy cases, I have significant experience representing debtors, creditors' committees, equity committees, and lenders. I have represented a lot of creditors' committees appointed in the Northern District of Illinois.

Q. What are you most looking forward to this year, personally and professionally?

I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to lead the bankruptcy practice group at my firm. In that role, it has been a priority for me to provide women and other underrepresented attorneys with opportunities to take leadership roles in cases to further develop their skill sets and gain recognition in the bankruptcy bar. I am also a board member and the *ex officio* President of the Women's Bar Foundation of Illinois. I previously served as President for four years. The Women's Bar Foundation raises money and awards scholarships to women in all 9 of the Illinois law schools. I look forward to continuing to promote the interests of women and help provide them with opportunities in both the bankruptcy field and in law generally.

Q. Share any other information about yourself that you think our readers would enjoy.

In addition to my law practice, I am a busy mom of three kids at different stages—one in college, one in high school, and one in elementary school. I have been juggling 3 schools for 5 years now. To complicate matters further, my husband is a high school Latin teacher, so we have to manage a 4th school calendar. This alone is a part-time job. I love live music, am a White Sox fan and rarely turn down the opportunity to go to a game, do crossfit workouts almost every weekday, and read a lot of celebrity biographies so I know a lot of odd facts about some famous people.



*Liaison Committee CLE
Diversity in the Courtroom*

On Thursday April 27, 2023, the bankruptcy liaison committee, in conjunction with law firm Robbins DiMonte, Ltd and the Advocates Polish Attorney Bar Association presented a one-hour CLE titled Diversity in the Courtroom. Speakers Hon. Jesse Reyes, 1st district Appellate Court, Juan Perera, Professor at Loyola University Chicago Law School and Ava George Stewart, Lake County States Attorneys Office, were lead in a discussion by J. Isreal Greene of Green Consulting Group on how diversity is a benefit in the court room, and how we could all assist in creating a more diverse law practice. It was an excellent and well attended event hosted at Robbins Dimonte's Chicago offices.

Desirae Bedford, Brigid Ndege and Julia Smolka of the Diversity Sub-Committee of the Bankruptcy Liaison Committee put together the CLE. There is hope that CLE becomes a regular event of this group.

The Advocates are a bar association for attorneys of Polish decent and people who have polish affinity. We are all cordially invited to attend their meetings, which typically have both pierogi and beer.



Back: J. Israel Green, Peter Bastianen, Desirae Bedford

Front: Pamela Menakar, Judge Jesse Reyes, Ann Meichar, Julia Smolka, Juan Perera, Ava George Stewart

Peter and Desirae are current co-chairs of the Bankruptcy Liaison Committee and Ann is the current president of the Advocates.

*Credit Abuse Resistance Education
(C.A.R.E.)*

Credit Abuse Resistance Education (C.A.R.E.) is a nationwide, all-volunteer organization that teaches basic financial literacy to high school students and adults. The Chicago chapter of CARE is particularly robust.

CARE's volunteers present primarily to high school students throughout the Chicagoland area, both remotely and in-person. CARE also presents to community and professional groups. CARE provides a brief training seminar to volunteers, who may sign up to give presentations at their convenience. At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, CARE made an abrupt pivot into "virtual" presentations to carry on the vital work of spreading financial literacy. The organization's website, www.carechicago.org, houses presentations and quick access to schools and groups wanting to invite CARE to present. Presentations, which run 40 minutes to an hour, cover student loans, credit basics, credit scores and reports, identity theft, budgets and savings, and bankruptcy.

CARE also publish a weekly newsletter through which it solicits volunteers for upcoming presentations.

Volunteer opportunities are currently available for presentations on various topics. If you are interested in volunteering with CARE, please submit a volunteer application from www.carechicago.org.



Opinion Summaries: Decisions by the Bankruptcy Judges of the Northern District of Illinois November 2022 — April 2023

Chief Judge Goldgar

In re: Stewart, 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 1049 (04/13/23). Creditor (an individual) and Debtor (an individual) went on a date. Subsequently, Debtor accused Creditor of rape. Creditor sued Debtor in state court alleging defamation and other state law claims, and Debtor counterclaimed alleging battery and other state law claims. Before the state court had entered a judgment, Debtor filed chapter 13 staying the state court action. Creditor filed a proof of claim. Debtor filed adversary complaint objecting to the claim. Creditor filed adversary complaint that his claim was nondischargeable. Creditor also filed motion for stay relief to allow state court action to proceed which is the subject of this opinion. The Court considered *Fernstrom* factors and granted stay relief to allow state court to liquidate/value Creditor's claim. The Court distinguished its prior decision in *In re: Prate*, 634 B.R. 72 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 2021) on which Debtor heavily relied. Both adversaries were stayed to allow state court to liquidate/value Creditor's claim and proceed through final judgment and any appeals.

Judge Baer

In re: Edelstein, 635 B.R. 603 (11/07/22). Chapter 13 Debtor filed form model chapter 13 plan in use in district at the time bankruptcy case was filed. Plan listed pre-petition arrears to mortgage lender of \$17,513.56. Plan contained provision that pre-petition arrears listed in plan controlled over contrary proofs of claim. Mortgage lender filed timely proof of claim listing pre-petition arrears of \$35,016.96. Mortgage lender received proper notice but failed to object to plan and plan was confirmed. Debtor completed plan payments. Trustee filed notice of final cure stating pre-petition arrears had been paid in full. Lender responded that \$17,503.40 difference between arrears listed in plan and its proof of claim remained due and owing. Debtor filed motion for entry of order that pre-petition arrears had been cured. Court held that pre-petition arrears had been cured and that lender was barred from recovering difference between arrears listed in confirmed plan and its proof of claim. All parties agreed that post-petition arrears of \$5,494.96 remained due and owing.

Judge Barnes

In re: Ace Track Co., Ltd., Debtor in a Foreign Proceeding, 647 B.R. 919 (01/27/23). Chapter 15 case was closed following show cause hearing because there was no activity in the case for five years and foreign representative had not communicated with his counsel. Counsel's motion to withdraw was granted, and foreign representative was barred from acting as foreign representative in future cases without first obtaining express authorization from Court.

In re: Collum, 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 726 (03/22/23). Chapter 13 Debtor filed adversary complaint against City of Chicago based on City's refusal to return Debtor's vehicle, which had been impounded pre-petition for failure to pay parking tickets, unless Debtor paid 25% of the ticket debt. City filed a motion to dismiss based on local rule 9020-1 arguing that the relief sought should have been brought by motion and that adversary was time barred. Court denied motion to dismiss because local rule does not require a request for contempt to be brought by motion, adversary complaint did not request that City be held in contempt, adversaries are preferred method to adjudicate complex matters, and since adversary had already been filed it would be in the interests of judicial economy and public policy to allow it to proceed. Court also denied motion to dismiss based on adversary being time-barred because statutes of limitations are affirmative defenses, dismissal based on statute of limitations is disfavored, out-of-circuit cases cited by City were unpersuasive, and under Seventh Circuit authority there is no statute of limitations for stay violations.

In re: NCW Properties, LLC, 20-00246 (03/24/23) (unpublished). Court denied Defendant's motion for summary judgment in fraudulent transfer litigation initiated by trustee of a liquidating trust, holding that on three key issues – whether transfer at issue was property of Debtor, whether Debtor was solvent, and whether good faith defense applied – neither party demonstrated that the material facts at issue were not in dispute.

Judge Cleary

In re: Conway, 22-12839 (01/09/23) (unpublished). Debtor financed a vehicle from Creditor and made approximately two payments before defaulting. Creditor repossessed vehicle but returned it when Debtor filed first chapter 13.

Opinion Summaries Continued

First chapter 13 was quickly dismissed, so Creditor repossessed vehicle again, but returned it again when Debtor filed a second chapter 13 case. Second case was also quickly dismissed, but before Creditor could repossess vehicle again, Debtor filed a third chapter 13 case. Creditor filed a stay relief motion. Following briefing, motion granted because although Debtor had insurance, his pleadings indicated that he had no disposable income with which to fund his proposed plan. Creditor did not waive argument that cause existed to modify stay, and Debtor failed to meet burden to show that Creditor was adequately protected.

In re: Tesler, 22-00102 (01/18/23) (unpublished). Creditor in chapter 7 case filed five count adversary complaint seeking denial of Debtor's discharge pursuant to §727. Debtor filed motion to dismiss. Court partially granted motion, holding that Creditor plausibly alleged claims under §§727(a)(2), 727(a)(3) and 727(a)(4)(A), but not §727(a)(4)(D). Creditor withdrew its claim under §727(a)(6).

In re: 1600 Hicks Road, LLC, 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 708 (03/17/23). Single asset real estate chapter 11 Debtor filed adversary complaint to enjoin creditor bank from enforcing a deficiency judgment. Court entered preliminary injunction in favor of Debtor's principals to temporarily stay collection efforts on a guarantee. In granting injunction, Court observed that affording Debtor's principals the ability to focus on a plan of reorganization under which Debtor would regain title to certain real estate, enter into a market-rate lease with an affiliate, and fund a 100% plan, supported issuance of injunction under section 105(a).

In re: Johnson, 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 776 (03/28/23). Pre-petition agreement between Debtor and Creditor provided for arbitration of all disputes. Debtor filed a chapter 13 case and Creditor filed a proof of claim. Debtor filed a three-count adversary complaint objecting to claim and for damages under Illinois state law. Creditor filed a motion to compel arbitration of all three counts, which caused Court to consider the following narrow issue of first impression in the Seventh Circuit: When an arbitration demand is made in a bankruptcy case pursuant to a valid pre-petition arbitration agreement, should the Court compel arbitration pursuant to Federal Arbitration Act or deny arbitration in favor of its in rem jurisdiction over claims under Bankruptcy Code? The parties, and some non-circuit case law, focused on whether the adver-

sary implicated the Court's core or non-core jurisdiction. The Court found that distinction to be informative but not dispositive. In the Court's view, dispositive issue was whether arbitration would conflict with purposes of Bankruptcy Code. Court held that Counts I and III impacted allowance or disallowance of a claim against bankruptcy estate, so compelling arbitration conflicted with purposes of the Bankruptcy Code and was denied. Count II did not impact allowance or disallowance of a claim against bankruptcy estate, so compelling arbitration did not conflict with purposes of Bankruptcy Code and was granted.

In re: Smylie Bros. Brewing Co., 2023 Bankr. LEXIS 938 (03/31/23). Chapter 7 Trustee filed motion to reject a lease on commercial property and/or to approve transaction with Debtor's prepetition landlord under section 363 of Bankruptcy Code whereby landlord would pay estate \$10,000.00 and lease would be "terminated." Court denied motion as to lease rejection because motion, proposed order, and responses in support of motion each contemplated that rejection would result in termination of lease, which Court found inconsistent with Supreme Court's holding in *Mission Prod. Holdings, Inc. v. Tempnology, LLC*, __ U.S. __, 139 S.Ct. 1652 (2019). Court rejected motion to approve transaction under section 363 of Bankruptcy Code because Trustee did not provide for adequate protection of secured creditor's interest in estate property to be conveyed.

In re: Tasheen, 22-00016 (4/18/23) (unpublished). US Trustee filed adversary to revoke chapter 7 discharge alleging that Debtor failed to turn over estate property to Chapter 7 Trustee. Both parties filed motions for summary judgment. Court denied both motions for summary judgment because questions of fact existed regarding whether Debtor's conduct was knowing, fraudulent, willful, and intentional.

In re Gonzalez, 22-08732 (04/20/23) (unpublished). Chapter 13 Debtor objected to mortgage lender's proof of claim on grounds that ten year statute of limitations had expired. Mortgage lender responded that claim objection was barred under *Rooker-Feldman* based on state court foreclosure judgment and that statute of limitations restarted when Debtor made a payment in 2022. Court rejected *Rooker-Feldman* argument because foreclosure judgment was not final order in foreclosure case, but overruled objection to claim because statute of limitations restarted when Debtor made a payment in 2022.

Judge Cox

In re: Capital Land Equity Land Tr., No. 2410215, 646 B.R. 463 (11/17/22). Debtor (an Illinois land trust) filed chapter 11 and adversary complaint seeking to avoid transfer of real property to tax buyer. Tax buyer filed motion to dismiss chapter 11 alleging that land trust was ineligible to be a debtor in bankruptcy, and that case was filed in bad faith. Debtor argued it qualified to file bankruptcy as a business trust because subject property was commercial property, and although land trust had not leased property to tenants in the past, it could do so in the future if it could successfully regain title to the property. Court granted motion to dismiss because land trust (1) generated no income from the property in the past, (2) could not generate income from the property in the future, (3) had not filed a plan and (4) could not propose a feasible plan. Court held that case was filed in bad faith as a litigation tactic and dismissed with prejudice.

Judge Thorne

In re: Amanda Kang, 22-00095 (02/01/23) (unpublished). Chapter 7 Creditor/Plaintiff (an attorney) filed motion for default judgment in non-dischargeability adversary regarding \$15,000.00 loan, litigation costs of \$500.00 and attorney's fees of \$1,500.00 pursuant to a fee shifting provision in parties' pre-petition contract. Court granted default judgment for \$15,500.00, but disallowed attorney's fees of \$1,500.00. Creditor/plaintiff was not entitled to attorney's fees under Illinois law because he represented himself.

In re: Topica Heath, 22-06003 (02/14/23) (unpublished). Chapter 13 Trustee objected to confirmation of Debtor's proposed plan alleging that plan was not filed in good faith and was unfeasible. In support of her objection, Trustee pointed out discrepancies in Debtor's amended SOFA, application for a PPP loan, and business losses claimed on tax returns. Following a hearing where Debtor was the only witness, Court overruled Trustee's objection and confirmed plan.

In re: John E. Kubin, 18-02853 (03/27/23) (unpublished). Court denied Defendant/Debtor's motion for summary judgment in three-count non-dischargeability adversary complaint because, although both parties represented to Court that they agreed on all material facts, the Court held that genuine disputes existed regarding material facts. The matter was set for trial.

Bankruptcy Court Mortgage Modification Mediation Program

In February 2022, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois implemented a Chapter 13 Mortgage Modification Mediation Program.

The Chapter 13 Mortgage Modification Mediation Program is designed to help qualified Chapter 13 debtors renegotiate their mortgages and keep their homes. The Program supplies an electronic portal that assists communication between debtors and lenders.

The Program is entirely voluntary: both debtor and lender must consent to participate. Debtors and lenders are also free to modify mortgage obligations without using the Program and the portal. The Program simply provides parties with a new vehicle for doing so.

Debtors' counsel who enter into the Court-Approved Retention Agreement and the new Addendum (Local Form 13-8.5) and who pursue a mortgage modification through the program will be presumptively entitled to additional flat fees as compensation.

The details of the Program are available on the Court's website: <https://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/chapter-13-mortgage-modification-mediation-program>

Bankruptcy Court Volunteer Attorney Panel

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois has formed a panel of volunteer attorneys to represent indigent parties on a pro bono basis in discrete adversary proceedings and contested matters.

The program is completely voluntary and limited strictly to representation in adversary proceedings and contested matters. No panel member is expected to file a bankruptcy case, complete schedules and similar forms, or attend a meeting of creditors.

The Bankruptcy Court encourages members of the bar to participate in this worthwhile program. Through the volunteer panel, attorneys have a real opportunity to improve the quality of justice in our district.

The details of the Program are available on the Court's website: <https://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/us-bankruptcy-court-volunteer-attorney-panel>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

To Judge Lashonda A. Hunt who has been confirmed to The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

ISSUES, CONCERNS, OR COMPLAINTS

Practitioners wishing to share any with the Committee may do so anonymously on the Bankruptcy Court's website at:

<http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-court-liaison-committee>

LINKEDIN

Stay in touch!

Follow the Liaison Committee on LinkedIn to receive all the latest news and announcements:

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/ilnb-bclc>

NEW MEMBERS

The Liaison Committee is seeking new members to begin two year terms beginning in August 2023. With that in mind please consider applying or nominating someone you know. You may send a letter of application and resume or CV to any of the attorney members via email who will pass it on to either of the co-chairs.

Mission Statement

The Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee for the Northern District of Illinois was formed to assist the Bankruptcy Court and its practitioners to create a more efficient and collegial environment throughout the entire Northern District of Illinois. To further that purpose, the Liaison Committee publishes a periodic newsletter, develops local practice questionnaires, and sponsors educational programs and social events to encourage interaction among judges and practitioners. Additionally, section 2.01 of the Committee's bylaws provides that practitioners may relay issues, concerns, or complaints about bankruptcy judges or the bankruptcy court to the Committee – anonymously – through the co-chairs or any other committee member. The information will then be anonymously presented to the appropriate bankruptcy judges for review and consideration under 28 U.S.C. § 154(b), which provides that the chief judge of the bankruptcy court “shall ensure that the business of the bankruptcy court is handled effectively and expeditiously.”

Practitioners wishing to share any issues, concerns, or complaints with the Committee may contact any of its Members anonymously via mail, email, phone, or on the Bankruptcy Court's website at: <http://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/bankruptcy-court-liaison-committee>.

United States Bankruptcy Court For The Northern District of Illinois

Chief Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar

Judge Janet S. Baer

Judge Timothy A. Barnes

Judge Donald R. Cassling

Judge David D. Cleary

Judge Jacqueline P. Cox

Judge Carol A. Doyle

Judge LaShonda A. Hunt

Judge Thomas M. Lynch

Judge Deborah L. Thorne

Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee

Honorable A. Benjamin Goldgar (Chief Judge)

Honorable Janet S. Baer

Honorable David D. Cleary

Honorable Thomas M. Lynch

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Clerk of Court

Sharon Zurowski
Chief Deputy Clerk

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Jenner & Block, LLP

Mary E. R. Walters Term 2022-2024
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