

Spring 2025

Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee

Chair's Welcome by: Mary Leuthner

Welcome to the first glimmer of spring, that hope that summer is right around the corner. As I am gathering my thoughts, the weather outside is 54 degrees, there is a gentle southern wind and baseball spring training games have begun in earnest. It is that tease of spring that we always get for the brief few days in late February, early March; it only lasts a few days until the bitterness of the Northern March winds howl off Lake Michigan again reminding us nothing lasts forever.

I am reminded of how much baseball spring training is like the bankruptcy court. It is the promise of getting back on your feet, establishing economic self sufficiency, saving homes, and budgeting. Just as everything is fresh in spring training, no matter what happened in the past, the debtors and the creditors are given a fresh start. Regardless of whether you are similar to Aaron Judge or have a physique closer to Ron Karkovice, as you start the first inning, the first trustee meeting or payment, you approach as equals. The same ground rules, 9 innings, 3 strikes or 4 balls, and the rounding of the bases apply equally to everyone before the court and the ballfield. The baseball scorecard and statistics, as it documents every play, every action on the field, is like the bankruptcy petition and schedules. Just as every pitch, every play is documented, every source of income, every asset and every debt is documented in the bankruptcy petition. Bankruptcy court, like baseball, accepts that humans fail- Josh Gibson, the best batting average ever, was .372 meaning that he failed more times than he succeeded. But as hope springs eternal, and the promise of spring training or bankruptcy is there- where every person, every debtor, every creditor, every team, has a chance to be undefeated and has a chance to get their life back together again and to have the simplest of goals met- to come back home.



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Co-Editors

Mary Leuthner
Prairie State Legal Services

Claudia Badillo
Badillo Law Group, P.C.

Attorney Spotlight: Julia Jensen Smolka, Shareholder at Robbins Dimonte

Julia Jensen Smolka
*Shareholder at Robbins
Dimonte*



Julia has over 20 years of experience representing diverse business industries and individuals as debtors in reorganizations, bankruptcy, and debt restructuring. She has been lead and co-counsel in Chapter 11 bankruptcies on behalf of real estate developers, hospitality companies, commercial landlords, manufacturers, fabricators, logistic companies and high net-worth individuals. She also has significant experience representing lenders and creditors in bankruptcy court and state court, including stay modification litigation, adversary actions, priority lien disputes and commercial collection and foreclosure, as well as contractors and homeowners in construction and mechanic's lien litigation.

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

A. I fell into bankruptcy. I was hired out of law school as a commercial litigation attorney, primarily suing on behalf of local banks and filing mechanics lien complaints on behalf of subcontractors. The economy was great in the early 2000s. But here and there, defendants started to file bankruptcy. So I learned how to file claims and "modify the automatic stay." Then 2008 happened, Lehman Brothers fell and it was all hands on deck. I exclusively handled bankruptcy work for the next eight years. Now my practice flows with the economy. I really enjoy the congenial atmosphere that our local bankruptcy bar enjoys. Everyone is great and we work together because we all keep running into each other again and again. As I continue to work in state court, it's just not the same there.

Q. What are your typical types of engagements?

A. My typical engagements fall into a few categories: (1) debtor or creditor representations in state court or prior to litigation being filed (2) debtor and creditor representation in contested collection or reorganization proceedings, and (3) consulting with small and medium size businesses on best practices to avoid litigation, including drafting loan documents and agreements.

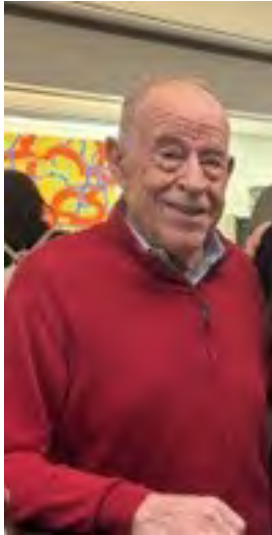
Q. What are you most looking forward to this year, personally and professionally?

A. Professionally, I'm looking forward to expanding our restructuring practice at Robbins DiMonte, Ltd with my partner Carolina Sales. This year I have an expanded leadership role and I'm on our executive committee and head our litigation department. I am mentoring and training some newer attorneys. Personally, I am celebrating my 50th birthday and 20th wedding anniversary this year. So I am planning a nice trip this summer around two trials and college visits with my two teenage daughters.

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

A. As a teen and young adult, I was never really into music except pop music that I would hear on a radio. I spent all my money and free time traveling around the world. I married a man who hates to fly and drives around to follow the band Phish in his free time. (He is a teacher.) So since we've been married, I haven't been to Europe but I've been to Pittsburgh twice to see Phish. And Maine, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Texas....

Attorney Spotlight:
Ben Kahn, Retired staff attorney- Thomas Hooper's office



Ben Kahn, retired attorney
We all wish you a happy retirement!

If you have been around the bankruptcy world in the Chicagoland area for say the last 40 years, you likely know Ben.

He started working in bankruptcy-land in 1979 working for another longtime bankruptcy attorney, Melvin Kaplan, and was there for over 30 years before working for the Chapter 13 Trustee's office under Trustee Tom Vaughn and then Thomas Hooper.

Now happily retired, Ben spends most of his days surrounded by grandkids and family. He now has the time to read entire books in peace, marveling at just how much reading can be done on an uninterrupted afternoon, and can help his family by taking his grandkids to and from school.

Ben continues to play tennis with old friends and never stops rooting for Notre Dame in the hopes that they win another championship in his lifetime, their most recent championship being in 1988 when Lou Holtz led the Irish in defeating West Virginia 34-21 in the Fiesta Bowl.

His career is legendary, and he is known to everyone I've met as smart, kind and hardworking. During his time as a Debtor's attorney he prided himself on working hard to ensure the cases were filed correctly showing empathy and compassion to Debtors struggling to stay afloat in life. He found a deep sense of satisfaction in helping people solve their financial problems. As he transitioned to the Trustee's office he worked with Debtors, Debtors' attorneys and court staff, to ensure a smooth confirmation process.

In the 1980s, Ben was also an early member of our very own Bankruptcy Liaison Committee. To his knowledge he may well have been the very first consumer attorney on the committee, at a time when the committee was made up of mostly creditor attorneys, and business bankruptcy attorneys. His accomplishments are too long to list but include countless speaking engagements over the years discussing updates in the law including teaching attorneys how to navigate the 2017 National Model Plan, and authoring the Chapter 13 section in the ICLE books for several years.

Over the span of his long career he is fortunate to have made a significant impact on his former clients, attorneys, paralegals, and judges that he interacted with over the years. He had countless stories to tell about some of his favorite judges including Judge Schmetterer who passed away in 2021 and former Trustee Tom Vaughn who passed in 2020.

Perhaps the greatest joy for Ben now is reflecting back on his successful career and being able to sit-back and enjoy the "dolce far niente", "l'art de ne rien faire", and "bocetto", all meaning the art of doing nothing, a luxury that we all wish to have.

Thank you Ben Kahn for your years of hard work and leaving us with a reminder that passion and kindness has an important place in our bankruptcy community. You made a significant impact on everyone you encountered in your career, especially me. Enjoy your retirement, you certainly earned it!

-Claudia Badillo
Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney

Pat Layng served as the U.S. Trustee for Region 11 (Illinois and Wisconsin) from December 2010 through September, 2024. I had a chance to talk to him about his career and his time as our U.S. Trustee:

Tell us about your background:

I grew up in Rockford, Illinois as one of ten children. I attended the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign for both undergraduate and law school. More importantly, that is also where I met my wonderful wife of 35 years (Karen). After law school, I was a law clerk for two years for the Honorable Stanley J. Roszkowski with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. I then worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois for 15 years and then was a Regional Criminal Coordinator for the U.S. Trustee Program where I prosecuted bankruptcy fraud as well as mortgage servicing matters. I was appointed the U.S. Trustee for Region 11 in December 2010 and was appointed the U.S. Trustee for Region 19 (Colorado, Utah and Wyoming) in May 2014, and remained in both roles until I retired.

What were some of the things you enjoyed about being a U.S. Trustee?

Well, I enjoyed the ability to come in and help solve problems in a multitude of matters ranging from legal to H.R. and not be stuck on just one case for a significant amount of time. I also really enjoyed working on national projects with other U.S. Trustees and offices.

What do you think were some of your best accomplishments?

First and foremost, I am very proud of the Assistant U.S. Trustees I appointed for all our offices. They are tremendous, and I expect great things from them. Second, Region 19 was the pilot program for the permanent change to 341s via Zoom, and we created the practices and documents for all of it. Now, the entire U.S. Trustee Program is successfully using them. Third, due to my time with the U.S. Attorney's office, I was able to successfully bring some of their quality control ideas to the U.S. Trustee's office, particularly using our AUSTs to enforce them.

(continued)

I am also proud that we were able to help eliminate many underperforming attorneys and petition preparers from practicing in the bankruptcy court.

Is there anything you wish you had accomplished?

I wish that we were able to set up a better nationwide system for case management and document sharing within the Program but that is thankfully in process. I also wish that I had done a bit more outreach to the bar and Chapter 13 Trustees and their staff. I very much enjoyed interacting with them when I could.

What are you doing now in retirement?

Doing some traveling and golfing. I'm also umpiring high school baseball and certified to referee basketball as well. I continue to play senior league baseball. I am also considering doing some examiner work and assisting my wife in her arbitration and mediation work for her company, M.A.I.T. Co.

Is there anything you would change in the Code?

I think Chapter 13 Trustees should be able to keep their fees in a pre-confirmed dismissed case.

Final thoughts?

When I was doing criminal enforcement, I bought into the notion that there was a stigma to filing bankruptcy, but I quickly realized how wrong I was, and that bankruptcy is a necessary and extremely useful method of allowing fresh starts and that is good for everybody. Also, I must mention that there are so many good and qualified people in the bankruptcy community here. Finally, to the bankruptcy bar, you are all in great hands with UST Adam Brief going forward. Everyone will get a fair shake and believe me the Program's mission is not trying to prevent you all from making a living. Best of luck to all.

-Interview by: Nathan E. Curtis
Supervising Attorney at Geraci Law

Special thank you to Julia Jensen Smolka

Thank you, Julia Jensen Smolka

Too often, people don't receive their flowers until it's too late. Today, I want to take a moment to publicly thank and recognize Julia Smolka for her incredible contributions to the growth and success of the Bankruptcy Liaison Committee for the Northern District of Illinois.

From the very beginning, Julia has been a vital force behind many of the committee's most impactful initiatives. When new ideas were proposed, she didn't hesitate—she made sure they became reality. One shining example is the Diversity CLE. What began as just a concept—a roundtable discussion that was delayed time and again due to logistical hurdles—turned into a successful and meaningful event because of Julia's contribution. Once she heard about the struggle to secure a venue, she immediately stepped up and offered her firm as the host site. She also ensured that our speakers were properly recognized with gifts, and her efforts helped bring the event to life.

This CLE became the first formal program organized by the Diversity Committee, and it paved the way for future CLE events. These events matter—not only because they provide vital credit hours on often-overlooked topics like diversity and inclusion, but because they offer accessible, cost-free opportunities for attorneys who may otherwise struggle to afford CLE programming. I'll admit, even I had forgotten about the diversity credit requirement until we planned this. Julia's commitment made a real difference, not just for others, but for me personally.

Julia's contributions go far beyond formal education. After COVID-19 put a halt to most professional gatherings, opportunities for attorneys to connect and build relationships faded. But Julia once again stepped in—initiating discussions around social events and helping to make them happen. Thanks to her, we were able to continue our Summer Social and attempt to bring back the White Sox outing. While the baseball game was rained out, her efforts ensured that the spirit of community remained alive.

She has been more than a collaborator—she's been a coach, a connector, and a consistent advocate for creating a stronger, more supportive bankruptcy bar. Her ability to see a need and immediately act on it, often without being asked, is what makes her a true leader in our community.

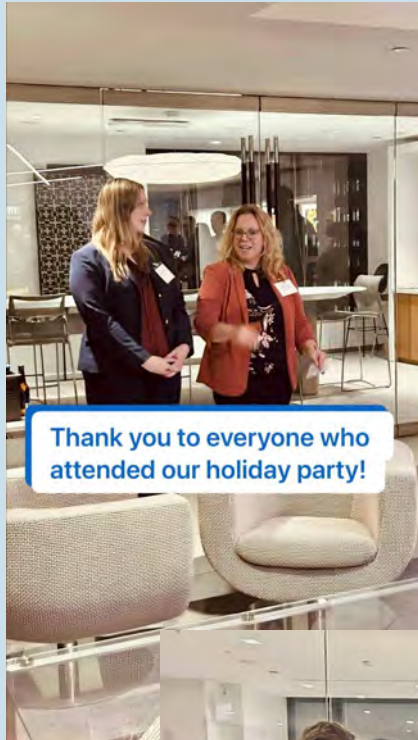
So today, I want to give Julia her flowers. Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your unwavering support of the attorneys and professionals who make up the Northern District of Illinois bankruptcy community. Your impact is felt—and appreciated—more than you know.

With sincere gratitude,

Desirae Bedford



Thank you to Denton's for hosting a fun and successful 2024 Holiday party!



Thank you to everyone who attended our holiday party!





Thank you to Denton's for hosting a fun and successful 2024 Holiday party!





Bankruptcy Liaison Committee Annual
White Sox Outing

 **VS** 

Tuesday 6/24/25 First Pitch @ 6:40 PM

Cost: \$86

Includes Ticket and Patio Package
Patio Package Includes:

- 2 Hours Inclusive Food and Beverage
- Begins at 5:10 PM and ends 30 minutes after First Pitch.

To Purchase Tickets:
Contact
Alex Wilson
ALX@Geracilaw.com

Menu:

Beverages: Modelo, Miller Lite, Coors Light, Wine, Coca-Cola Products, and Water

Food : BBQ Ribs, Cajun & Fried Chicken, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Coleslaw, Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, and Pasta Salad

GeraciLaw LLC
55 East Monroe Street
Suite 3400 Chicago Illinois
60603

Mental Health and the Importance of Lawyers Maintaining Well-Being: Resources in Illinois with ARDC

The legal profession is demanding, high-stakes, and often stressful, making mental health a critical issue for attorneys. Lawyers frequently manage heavy workloads, emotional cases, and the pressure to perform at the highest level, which can lead to burnout, anxiety, depression, or substance use issues. Addressing mental health is not just important for the well-being of attorneys but also for the integrity of their work and their clients' outcomes.

In Illinois, the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (ARDC) recognizes the unique challenges attorneys face and offers resources to support their mental health and well-being.

Why Lawyer Mental Health Matters

Lawyers are problem-solvers and advocates, but they often neglect their own well-being in the process. Mental health struggles in the profession are widespread. Studies have shown that lawyers experience higher rates of depression and anxiety than the general population. Without proper care, these issues can lead to professional misconduct, diminished performance, and strained personal relationships.

Maintaining good mental health allows lawyers to:

1. Make sound decisions.
2. Serve clients effectively.
3. Navigate professional and ethical challenges with clarity.

ARDC and Mental Health Resources

The ARDC in Illinois provides critical support to help attorneys maintain their mental health:

1. **Lawyers' Assistance Program (LAP):** LAP offers confidential support to Illinois attorneys dealing with stress, mental health challenges, or substance use. Services include counseling, peer support, and referrals for treatment.

2. **Educational Resources:** The ARDC provides guidance and training to help attorneys identify mental health challenges and understand how they intersect with professional responsibilities.

3. **Confidential Assistance:** Attorneys can seek help without fear of disciplinary repercussions. The ARDC emphasizes that mental health struggles are not a disciplinary issue unless they result in harm to clients or ethical violations.

Taking Action

Illinois attorneys are encouraged to proactively manage their mental health by:

- Seeking regular counseling or therapy.
- Maintaining a healthy work-life balance.
- Using resources like LAP when challenges arise.

By addressing mental health proactively, lawyers can better serve their clients, uphold their ethical obligations, and maintain a fulfilling personal and professional life. The ARDC's emphasis on mental well-being demonstrates its commitment to supporting attorneys as they navigate the pressures of the legal profession.

Help is available for lawyers at the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program by phone at (312) 726-6607 or by email at gethelp@illinoislap.org.



By: Desirae Bedford

United States Trustee Instructions for Joining a Zoom § 341(a) Meeting of Creditors

By now, most attorneys and trustees are well versed in how to use ZOOM to conduct a successful 341 meeting. However, there are still many Debtors who are not skilled in using ZOOM in their every day lives, and need additional assistance in connecting to their meeting.

Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Justice, United States Trustee Program has detailed instructions on how to use the ZOOM application in connection with attending a required § 341(a) Meeting of Creditors, including how to download the ZOOM app, how to join a meeting through different platforms, and how to understand the basic meeting controls. These can be found at this link below:

<https://www.justice.gov/ust/page/file/1590011/dl>

As we all know, each trustee has a unique ZOOM meeting ID and password for conducting their meetings, however many Debtors request an easy link to join their meeting. Instead of just sending the Debtor a series of numbers for their meeting ID and a long password that can easily be mistyped, Debtors and their attorneys can find the links to their trustee meetings easily online at the link below on the United States Trustee's Website.

<https://www.justice.gov/ust/ust-regions-rl1/region-11-section-341-meetings-1>

In conjunction with reading the detailed instructions on how to use zoom, the Trustee's office has a publication called: Best Practices for Debtors, Debtors' Attorneys, and Other Parties in Interest for Attending Virtual § 341(a) Meetings of Creditors in Chapter 7, 12, and 13 Cases ("Best Practices") which can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/ust/moc>

This document provides information regarding the conduct of virtual 341 meetings including discussing protocol, requirements for verifying debtor identification documents, and proper conduct during the meeting itself.

Finally, though the expectation is that most Debtors will be able to attend their meeting by ZOOM appearing with both audio and video capabilities, there can be extenuating circumstances where a Debtor may need to appear using only audio and not video, may not have a strong enough internet connection to conduct the meeting online, or have another circumstances that prevents them from attending the meeting virtually. One suggestion is that the Debtor travel to their attorney's office and have their attorney run the ZOOM meeting.

Afraid of joining the trial bar because you worry about being assigned pro bono cases outside of your practice area? Worry no more. Become a member of the Pro Bono Volunteer Panel

Get a few seasoned bankruptcy attorneys together, one will likely bring up the prisoner personal injury case or discrimination case they are currently prosecuting in the district court. Being assigned these cases has been a long-standing part of being a trial bar attorney. You are assigned cases outside your practice area, and you have to figure it out. This chills many attorneys from joining the trial bar. But fear no more.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois is pleased to announce that beginning immediately, any member of the District Court Trial Bar volunteering to represent a party on a pro bono basis in an adversary or other contested matter from the Bankruptcy Court Volunteer Panel will be exempt from obligations to take an assignment under Local Rule 83.11(h) of the Northern District of Illinois for the period of one year.

Volunteering for the panel is a great way to use your litigation skills for individuals who do not have the financial means to hire an attorney and to assist a younger colleague gain trial experience under supervision.

If you are not yet a member of the Pro Bono Volunteer Panel, please click below for the application form:

<https://www.ilnb.uscourts.gov/us-bankruptcy-court-volunteer-attorney-panel>

The program is administered by the Bankruptcy Court with support and assistance from the Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee and the Chicago Bar Association Bankruptcy and Reorganization Committee.

Judges of the court are responsible for identifying matters in which a party (generally a debtor, but occasionally a creditor) appears to qualify and would benefit from representation. When a suitable matter is identified, the judge notifies the clerk of the court. The clerk then contacts a panel member to obtain representation.

Panel members are never required to accept representation in a particular matter and may decline a request for representation because of a conflict of interest or for any other reason.

How to Contact the Court in Case of Conflict: A Guide for Attorneys

Managing court schedules can be challenging, especially when conflicts arise. This guide provides essential steps for reaching out to the court in the Northern District of Illinois to address scheduling conflicts, with details on procedures, timelines, and appropriate contacts for each judge's chambers.

Key Guidelines for Resolving Court Conflicts

1. Contact the Chambers Immediately in Urgent Matters

In the case of an emergency, contact the respective judge's chambers as soon as the emergency arises. Do not wait; prompt communication is essential. Include a clear explanation of the situation, case details, and the requested action. If the emergency arises on the day of or during the hearing, explore alternative methods, such as requesting to pass the matter or notifying chambers directly via email.

2. Provide Notice at Least a Day in Advance

For non-urgent scheduling conflicts, notify the court at least one day in advance. This allows adequate time for adjustments to be made and avoids unnecessary disruptions.

3. Join Zoom Hearings Early

Log in to Zoom 10-15 minutes before the court session starts to check in and address potential conflicts. If needed, request court staff to pass your matter to accommodate your situation.

4. Communicate with Opposing Counsel

Inform opposing counsel of the conflict as soon as possible and work collaboratively to resolve matters ahead of the hearing. Open communication often prevents the need for court intervention.

5. File a Motion for Continuance or Request a Change

If additional time is required, file a motion for continuance in advance. Alternatively, work with all interested parties and the court to coordinate a request for rescheduling, providing clear justification and supporting information.

6. Emergency Chambers Contact

If an urgent issue arises just before the hearing, contact chambers immediately via email or phone, specifying the emergency and any proposed resolutions. Be prepared to act quickly and professionally.

Chambers Contact Information

Here is the contact information for judges' chambers in the Northern District of Illinois. Use the appropriate email address to address scheduling conflicts or request extensions:

- Judge Cox's Chambers: Josephine_Green@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Baer's Chambers: Alex_Dragonetti@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Barnes' Chambers: Annette_McClendon@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Cassling's Chambers: CRD_Cassling@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Cleary's Chambers: CRD_Cleary@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Slade's Chambers: CRD_Slade@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Lynch's Chambers: Mimi_Kuczynski@ilnb.uscourts.gov
- Judge Thorne's Chambers: Lester_Smith@ilnb.uscourts.gov

Best Practices for Communicating with the Court

- Use your professional email.
- Be concise but thorough in your email, including all relevant case details (case number, client name, and reason for conflict).

By adhering to these guidelines and maintaining open communication with the court, you can effectively manage scheduling conflicts and ensure smooth court proceedings. If you have any questions, contact the chambers directly or consult the court's administrative offices for further guidance.

By: Desirae Bedford

Welcome to our newest judge:
The Honorable Michael B. Slade

appointed to a 14-year term
on November 25, 2024

Mr. Slade succeeds Bankruptcy Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar who retired on August 30, 2024. Mr. Slade earned his bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and his law degree, with honors, from Harvard Law School. He is a partner in the Chicago office of the Kirkland & Ellis law firm, where he has a general litigation practice that includes substantial work in bankruptcy courts around the country. In March 2024, he was named "Bankruptcy Litigator of the Year" by Benchmark Litigation. Mr. Slade has also represented indigent clients on a pro bono basis for more than twenty years; in 2021 he received the Award for Excellence in Pro Bono Service from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Below are his updated Court Procedures
as of February 4, 2025

[LINK TO COURT PROCEDURES](#)

These procedures can be found on Judge Slade's
page on the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy
Court website under the tab: Procedures

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS

To Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar who retired!
To our new Judge Michael B. Slade. Congratulations!

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 2025. 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 Jacqueline P. Cox

Judge Janet S. Baer

Judge Timothy A. Barnes

Judge Donald R. Cassling

Judge David D. Cleary

Judge Thomas M. Lynch

Judge Michael B. Slade

Judge Deborah L. Thorne

Bankruptcy Court Liaison Committee 2023-2024 term

Honorable Jacqueline P. Cox (Chief Judge)

Honorable Janet S. Baer

Jeffrey P. Allsteadt
Clerk of Court

Honorable David D. Cleary

Honorable Thomas M. Lynch

Sharon Zurowski
Chief Deputy Clerk

Shenitha Burton
Assistant Operations Manager

• • • • •
Attorneys:

Desirae Bedford, Esq. (Co-Chair)
Recovery Law Group

Kenneth M. Thomas
Fox, Swibel, Levin & Carroll, LLP

Neema T. Varghese
NV Consulting Services

Mary Leuthner (Co-Chair)
Prairie State Legal

Alex Wilson
Geraci Law, LLC

Nathan Curtis
Geraci Law, LLC

Angelica M. Harb
U.S. Small Business Administration

Claudia F. Badillo
Badillo Law Group, P.C.

Derek V. Lofland
Law Offices of Derek Lofland

Dana O'Brien
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

Lars A. Peterson
The Law Office of William J. Factor Ltd.

Chapter 13 Trustees:

Thomas H. Hooper
Chapter 13 Trustee

Glenn Stearns
Chapter 13 Trustee

United States Trustees:

Jennifer Niemeier
Office of the United States Trustee

Suhey Ramirez
Office of the United States Trustee