

## **Memo from the Distinguished Law and Business School Committee of the American College of Bankruptcy**

**To:** Business School Professors and Deans

**From:** Elizabeth Futrell, Chair of the Distinguished Law and Business School Committee

**Date:** August 15, 2026

**Re:** American College of Bankruptcy's 2027 Distinguished Business School Student Awards

The American College of Bankruptcy ("ACB") is soliciting your help to identify candidates for the 2027 Distinguished Law and Business School Student Awards to be honored by the ACB in March 2027. Distinguished Bankruptcy Law Students are selected annually from each judicial circuit. The ACB separately solicits nominations for Distinguished Business School Student Awards, which are selected on a national basis. This is a great opportunity and honor for an exceptional business student who has demonstrated an interest in the field of bankruptcy and restructuring, for you and your school, and for the ACB.

The ACB is dedicated to enhancing professionalism, scholarship and service in the bankruptcy and insolvency profession. Our Fellows are practicing attorneys, circuit, district, and bankruptcy court judges, professors, accountants, appraisers, financial institution officers, government officials, investment bankers, and financial advisors. Each has demonstrated the highest professional qualifications and ethical standards, as well as a sustained commitment to the enhancement of professionalism, scholarship, and service in the bankruptcy and insolvency practice. Feel free to visit our website at [www.americancollegeofbankruptcy.com](http://www.americancollegeofbankruptcy.com) for more information about the ACB, its activities, and the Distinguished Student program.

The ACB began the Distinguished Student program in 2003 to identify and promote prospective leaders in the bankruptcy and insolvency practice. To be eligible for the 2027 Distinguished Business Student Award, the nominee must have been enrolled in business school in the spring, summer, or fall terms of 2026, even if he or she graduated in 2026. This eligibility criterion recognizes that many important courses may not be offered each school term.

Each student who is selected to receive the Distinguished Student Award will be invited, at our expense, to the ACB's Annual Meeting. Past participants have been enthusiastic about the experience, welcoming the chance to meet prominent practitioners, scholars, and judges, and participate in high caliber seminars. At the Annual Meeting, there will be many leaders of the bankruptcy bar, distinguished jurists, and insolvency academics from around the world. The next ACB Annual Meeting is in Washington, D.C., and begins on March 18, 2027, with a reception and dinner for the Distinguished Students, and educational sessions over the next two days. The ACB also formally recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of each Distinguished Student at the Annual Meeting.

### **Officers**

Patricia Redmond  
*Chair*  
Sandeep Qusba  
*President*  
Jennifer C. Hagle  
*Vice-President*  
Paul E. Harner  
*Vice-President*  
Hon. Clifton R. Jessup, Jr.  
*Vice-President*  
Berry D. Spears  
*Vice President*  
Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff  
*Secretary*  
Cynthia Nelson  
*Treasurer*

### **Board of Directors**

Scott Atkins  
Michael St. Patrick Baxter  
E. Franklin Childress, Jr.  
Charles T. Coleman  
Christine E. Devine  
Douglas M. Foley  
Jay S. Geller  
Debra Grassgreen  
Marie Ann Greenberg  
Hon. Mary Jo Heston  
Hon. Peggy Hunt  
Demetra Liggins  
Caroline A. Reckler  
Lisa M. Schweitzer  
Paul Steven Singerman  
Paul Douglas Stewart

### **Ex Officio Directors**

Charles A. Beckham, Jr.  
*Past Chair*  
Vincent E. Lazar  
*Chair, ACB Foundation*  
Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.)  
*DEI Co-Chair*

### **Board of Regents**

Brian L. Shaw (*Chair*)  
Douglas R. Gooding (*1st Cir.*)  
Paul Leake (*2nd Cir.*)  
Norman L. Pernick (*3rd Cir.*)  
Lynn Lewis Tavenner (*4th Cir.*)  
William Wallander (*5th Cir.*)  
Rozanne M. Giunta (*6th Cir.*)  
Felicia Gerber Perlman (*7th Cir.*)  
Monica L. Clark (*8th Cir.*)  
Ori Katz (*9th Cir.*)  
Annette W. Jarvis (*10th Cir.*)  
Derek F. Meek (*11th Cir.*)  
Prof. Angela Littwin (*At Large*)  
Bradley D. Sharp (*At Large*)  
Hon. Deborah Thorne (*At Large*)  
Catherine Steege (*DEI Representative*)

### **Scholar in Residence**

Donald S. Bernstein

### **Counsel**

Stephen D. Lerner

### **Executive Director**

CC Schnapp

A short video about the ACB's Distinguished Student program can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/pHHbFvVwRes?si=JIKNgWmW2A55iczG>, and a short video with testimonials from Distinguished Student Alumni can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Km9DmIYZwQU?si=iHWnkLR0jp9F4Yel>.

We encourage your school to submit a single nominee if that is reasonably manageable. In selecting a nominee:

- Please consider (a) achievement in bankruptcy-related courses, (b) publication of an article or notes on insolvency or bankruptcy-related topics, (c) service as a research assistant to a bankruptcy professor, and (d) participation in a legal aid program assisting with insolvency or bankruptcy problems; and
- Please submit (a) the candidate's name, contact information and the other information requested on the attached nomination form, (b) a statement from the student expressing his or her interest in being considered, (c) your letter of recommendation, and (d) any additional letters of recommendation. Letters will be most helpful if they address the candidate's interest in insolvency and bankruptcy, and the writer's personal experiences with the candidate.

So that we will have sufficient time to select the honoree, we ask that you submit the nomination materials **no later than January 15, 2027**.

You may complete the nomination form, and upload the related nomination materials, at <https://lynx.jotform.com/261045921756863>. If you need assistance using the online form, please contact Celia Miller at [cmiller@amercol.org](mailto:cmiller@amercol.org).

If you have any questions about the ACB's Distinguished Student program, please call me at 504-495-7616, or email me at [efutrell@joneswalker.com](mailto:efutrell@joneswalker.com).

Thank you very much for your consideration.

#### **Officers**

Patricia Redmond  
*Chair*  
Sandeep Qusba  
*President*  
Jennifer C. Hagle  
*Vice-President*  
Paul E. Harner  
*Vice-President*  
Hon. Clifton R. Jessup, Jr.  
*Vice-President*  
Berry D. Spears  
*Vice President*  
Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff  
*Secretary*  
Cynthia Nelson  
*Treasurer*

#### **Board of Directors**

Scott Atkins  
Michael St. Patrick Baxter  
E. Franklin Childress, Jr.  
Charles T. Coleman  
Christine E. Devine  
Douglas M. Foley  
Jay S. Geller  
Debra Grassgreen  
Marie Ann Greenberg  
Hon. Mary Jo Heston  
Hon. Peggy Hunt  
Demetra Liggins  
Caroline A. Reckler  
Lisa M. Schweitzer  
Paul Steven Singerman  
Paul Douglas Stewart

#### **Ex Officio Directors**

Charles A. Beckham, Jr.  
*Past Chair*  
Vincent E. Lazar  
*Chair, ACB Foundation*  
Hon. Joan N. Feeney (ret.)  
*DEI Co-Chair*

#### **Board of Regents**

Brian L. Shaw (*Chair*)  
Douglas R. Gooding (*1st Cir.*)  
Paul Leake (*2nd Cir.*)  
Norman L. Pernick (*3rd Cir.*)  
Lynn Lewis Tavenner (*4th Cir.*)  
William Wallander (*5th Cir.*)  
Rozanne M. Giunta (*6th Cir.*)  
Felicia Gerber Perlman (*7th Cir.*)  
Monica L. Clark (*8th Cir.*)  
Ori Katz (*9th Cir.*)  
Annette W. Jarvis (*10th Cir.*)  
Derek F. Meek (*11th Cir.*)  
Prof. Angela Littwin (*At Large*)  
Bradley D. Sharp (*At Large*)  
Hon. Deborah Thorne (*At Large*)  
Catherine Steege (*DEI Representative*)

#### **Scholar in Residence**

Donald S. Bernstein

#### **Counsel**

Stephen D. Lerner

#### **Executive Director**

CC Schnapp