

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

To: Law 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 Bankruptcy Law Student Awards

The American College of Bankruptcy ("ACB") is soliciting your help to identify candidates for the 2027 Distinguished Bankruptcy Law and Business 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 Students Awards, which are selected on a national basis. This is a great opportunity and honor for an exceptional law school student who has demonstrated an interest in the field of bankruptcy and restructuring, for you and your law 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 law and practice. Feel free to visit our website at 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 Bankruptcy Law Student Award, the nominee must have been enrolled in law 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.

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

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- Please consider (a) achievement in bankruptcy-related courses, (b) publication of an article or notes on bankruptcy-related topics, (c) service as a research assistant to a bankruptcy professor, and (d) participation in a legal aid program assisting with 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 bankruptcy law, and the writer's personal experiences with the candidate.

So that we will have sufficient time to select the honoree from this circuit, 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.

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.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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