



American College of Bankruptcy

WASHINGTON, D.C.
MARCH 18, 2016

Whereas, Henry J. Sommer graduated from Harvard College in 1971, magna cum laude, and from Harvard Law School, cum laude, in 1974;

Whereas, following graduation from law school, Henry began devoting his legal talents to helping the poor at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia;

Whereas, Henry now serves as the Supervising Attorney of the pro bono Consumer Bankruptcy Assistance Project in Philadelphia;

Whereas, Henry has devoted his entire career to helping low-income consumers, by representing them in cases involving civil rights, consumer law and bankruptcy, and by advocating for consumer debtors on a national scale, through litigation around the country to establish or change case law on consumer bankruptcy issues;

Whereas, Henry has worked with Congress throughout his career in efforts to enact compassionate and sensible consumer bankruptcy legislation;

Whereas, Henry has testified before the National Bankruptcy Review Commission and has served as a member of the Federal Reserve Board Consumer Advisory Council;

Whereas, Henry was appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules for two consecutive three-year terms;

Whereas, as a member of the Advisory Committee, Henry helped make the Official Bankruptcy Forms more user-friendly and sensible;

Whereas, Henry has participated for decades in countless educational programs to ensure that lawyers became skilled in representing consumer debtors;

Whereas, Henry has been a frequent lecturer at the Federal Judicial Conference seminars for bankruptcy judges and has spoken at annual meetings of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges on a variety of consumer bankruptcy issues;

Whereas, Henry has also spoken at programs sponsored by, among others, the Executive Office for United States Trustees, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees;

Whereas, Henry has also served as an adjunct faculty member at the law schools of the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University;

Whereas, Henry helped establish and served as President of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the most highly respected and influential voice for the rights of consumer debtors;

Whereas, Henry's book, *Consumer Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, is a leading publication in the field;

Whereas, Henry has served as contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy*, and is also the author of *Collier Consumer Practices Guide* and co-author of *Collier Family Law and the Bankruptcy Code*;

Whereas, since 2003, Henry has served as co-editor in chief of all *Collier* bankruptcy publications;

Whereas, Henry was elected to the American Law Institute;

Whereas, Henry was the first recipient of the National Consumer Law Center's Vern Countrymen Consumer Law Award, and received the prestigious National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Excellence in Education Award in 2011;

Whereas, Henry has been a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference since 1983;

Whereas, throughout his distinguished career, Henry has been an active and passionate member of his community, committed to improving the welfare of others;

Whereas, Henry has been a devoted and loving husband and father;

Therefore, be it resolved unanimously by the Board of Directors of the American College of Bankruptcy, that Henry J. Sommer be, and hereby is, awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Bankruptcy for 2016.

Done at Washington, D.C., this 18th day of March, 2016.

Michael L. Cook
Chair, Board of Directors

G. Christopher Meyer
President