

American College of Bankruptcy

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MARCH 20, 2026

Whereas, Professor S. Elizabeth Gibson received her B.A. cum laude in Political Science from Duke University in 1972 and her J.D. with High Honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1976, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as Note and Comment Editor of the North Carolina Law Review;

Whereas, following law school, Professor Gibson clerked for Judge J. Braxton Craven, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1976–1977) and for Justice Byron R. White of the Supreme Court of the United States (1977–1978); thereafter, she was in private practice at Shea & Gardner (now Goodwin Procter) from 1978–1983;

Whereas, Professor Gibson has served on the faculty of the University of North Carolina School of Law since 1983, was appointed the Burton Craige Professor of Law in 1993, and has taught, among other subjects, Civil Procedure, Federal Jurisdiction, and Bankruptcy, shaping generations of lawyers through her clarity, rigor, and mentorship;

Whereas, Professor Gibson has been a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy since 2003, a long-standing Conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference (Emeritus as of 2023), and a member of the Board of Editors of Collier on Bankruptcy, to which she has contributed core chapters including Chapter 106 (Sovereign Immunity) and Chapters 7026–7037 (Discovery Rules);

Whereas, in 2008, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. appointed Professor Gibson as Reporter to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, a role in which she continues to this day, and through which she has had a profound and continuing impact on bankruptcy practice nationwide by reviewing, researching, drafting, and advising on rules and forms that govern daily practice in every bankruptcy court;

Whereas, as Reporter, Professor Gibson led or materially advanced consequential initiatives including the comprehensive revision of all bankruptcy appellate rules, the modernization of the Official Forms, and guidance in response to Supreme Court decisions such as *Hamilton v. Lanning* and *Schwab v. Reilly*, while addressing intricate issues such as notices of mortgage payment changes in Chapter 13 cases—all with precision, diplomacy, and extraordinary diligence, as attested by current and former committee chairs and members;

Whereas, Professor Gibson's service to the federal judiciary extends beyond the Rules Committee to decades of judicial education through the Federal Judicial Center, including

authorship of seminal and widely used manuals—*Judicial Management of Mass Tort Bankruptcy Cases* (FJC 2005) and *Case Studies of Mass Tort Limited Fund Class Action Settlements and Bankruptcy Reorganizations* (FJC 2000)—that remain influential for judges, practitioners, academics, and policymakers;

Whereas, Professor Gibson's scholarship stands among the field's most respected work at the intersection of bankruptcy and federal courts, including foundational analyses of Article III authority, jury trials, and sovereign immunity, with enduring relevance and frequent citation in courts and leading treatises;

Whereas, Professor Gibson's mentorship has inspired and cultivated generations of bankruptcy professionals across the bench, bar, and academia; notably, six of her former students now serve on the bankruptcy bench in North Carolina, South Carolina, and California, and many more serve in leadership capacities within the profession and the College, reflecting her commitment to service, integrity, and excellence;

Whereas, colleagues and leaders across the profession—including judges who chaired or served on the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, editors of Collier, Fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy, and members of the National Bankruptcy Conference—uniformly commend Professor Gibson's unmatched mastery of the law, meticulous craftsmanship, fairness, collegiality, and leadership; and attest that bankruptcy professionals nationwide benefit daily from her work, whether or not they know it by name; and

Whereas, Professor Gibson continues to serve the profession with quiet resolve, grace, and unwavering dedication, embodying the very ideals of the American College of Bankruptcy and strengthening the College directly and indirectly through mentorship, support of nominees, and educational engagement.

Therefore, be it resolved unanimously by the Board of Directors of the American College of Bankruptcy that Professor S. Elizabeth Gibson be awarded the 2026 Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Bankruptcy, in recognition of her nearly five decades of transformative contributions to bankruptcy law and procedure, her exemplary service to the federal judiciary, her profound and lasting influence as a mentor and educator, and her steadfast commitment to improving the administration of justice.

Done at San Antonio, TX, this 20th day of March 2026.



Charles A. Beckham, Jr.
Chair



Patricia A. Redmond
President