



# American College of Bankruptcy

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
OCTOBER 5, 2021

*Whereas*, the Honorable Barbara J. Houser received her B.S. with high distinction from the University of Nebraska (1975) and her J.D. from the Southern Methodist University School of Law (1978);

*Whereas*, after graduating from law school, Judge Houser was an attorney in private practice specializing in bankruptcy through 1999, during which time she was named by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 most influential women lawyers in America;

*Whereas*, Judge Houser was appointed by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to serve as a bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Texas in January 2000;

*Whereas*, during her tenure as a bankruptcy judge, Judge Houser:

*was the first woman bankruptcy judge in the Northern District of Texas;*

*served as an active judge in the Northern District of Texas until May 2020 and is continuing her judicial service as a recalled judge;*

*served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Texas for 15 years (2005-2020);*

*since June 2017, has served as lead judicial mediator over the Puerto Rico insolvency cases pending under Title III of PROMESA, 48 U.S.C. § 2161, leading a distinguished team of sitting federal judges in facilitating confidential settlement negotiations in those cases;*

*served as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System (October 2011 - September 2018) following her appointment to the committee by the Chief Justice;*

*served as the only bankruptcy judge member of the Federal Judicial Center Board of Directors (April 2017 - May 2020) following her appointment to the board by the Chief Justice;*

*served on the Federal Judicial Center Bankruptcy Judges Education Committee (April 2008 – April 2014) and as faculty at countless FJC education programs, including those for newly appointed bankruptcy judges at what is affectionately called “baby judge school;” and*

*was the lead named plaintiff in a case before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims to enforce the rights of bankruptcy judges to receive the full amount of compensation owed them;*

*Whereas*, Judge Houser is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, having been inducted as a member of Class V in 1994 and having served as a Vice President (2009-2013), a member of its Board of Directors, and Chair of its Judicial Outreach Committee;

*Whereas*, Judge Houser is an active member of other insolvency organizations:

*an active member of the American Bankruptcy Institute since 2003, serving as its President (2020-2021), a member of its Board of Directors, and on various committees;*

*an active member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, serving as its President (2009-2010), a member of its 5th Circuit Board of Governors, and on various committees;*

*an active member of the National Bankruptcy Conference since 1996; and*

*active in many other local, state, and national organizations and pursuits;*

*Whereas*, Judge Houser has vigorously supported the bankruptcy system with her intellect, integrity, principled analyses and scholarship;

*Whereas*, Judge Houser has been a mentor, colleague and friend to a vast number of insolvency professionals;

*Whereas*, Judge Houser has embodied the highest ideals of the legal profession for over 40 years;

*Whereas*, based on the foregoing achievements and accomplishments, Judge Houser meets and exceeds the criteria for the Distinguished Service Award in that, among other things:

*she has made many significant contributions to improve the administration of justice in the insolvency and bankruptcy field;*

*she has provided distinguished service consistently rendered over many years;*

*her accomplishments arose from her outstanding dedication and voluntary activities;*

*she has distinguished herself and the judiciary in a manner and in matters that are consistent with the goals and purposes of the College; and*

*she has been a committed Fellow and provided exemplary service to the College.*

*Therefore*, be it resolved unanimously by the Board of Directors that the American College of Bankruptcy proudly awards its 2021 Distinguished Service Award of the American College of Bankruptcy to the Honorable Barbara J. Houser

*Awarded at Indianapolis, this 5th of October, 2021.*

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Mark D. Bloom  
Chair, Board of Directors

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Melissa S. Kibler  
President



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Melissa S. Kibler  
President