

Please Join Us for the Nancy C. Dreher Lecture on Bankruptcy Law and Practice

April 21, 2026 | 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Reception immediately following. (See below for virtual option)

The American College of Bankruptcy, the University of Minnesota Law School's Corporate Institute, the MSBA / HCBA / RCBA Bankruptcy Section, and The Turnaround Management Association invite you to join us at the University of Minnesota Law School on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. for a dynamic presentation, free 1.5 CLE credits for practitioners (requested), and a networking reception immediately following the program across the street at the Courtyard by Marriott.

Topic: Riding the Receivership Wave: Insight from Receivers, Lawyers and the Bench

Receiverships are increasingly used by courts and practitioners as a flexible remedy in distressed and contested matters. This CLE panel brings together a receiver, experienced bankruptcy counsel, and a judge to examine the legal framework governing receiverships and how they are applied in practice. The discussion will address standards for appointment, the respective roles and responsibilities of receivers and counsel, judicial oversight, and common issues that arise during administration. Panelists will offer practical insights on advising clients, managing risk, and navigating receivership proceedings, with a focus on lessons learned from recent cases and the evolving expectations of the bench.

Featured Speakers:

Eric Johnson | Partner | Spencer Fane LLP

Timothy Becker | Partner | Lighthouse Management Group

Hon. Christian Sande | Judge | Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota

Ryan Murphy (moderator) | Shareholder | Fredrikson & Byron P.A.

The Nancy C. Dreher Lecture on Bankruptcy Law and Practice has been established by the American College of Bankruptcy and the Corporate Institute at the University of Minnesota Law School to recognize Judge Dreher's lifetime commitment to excellence, the ethical practice of law, and scholarship. Each year, the Minnesota Fellows in the College invite distinguished practitioners, academics, or judges to Minnesota to discuss emerging issues in bankruptcy law and practice.

There is no charge for this program, however, preregistration is required. We have applied for 1.5 CLE credits.

Seminar	Reception	Virtual
University of Minnesota Law School Walter F. Mondale Hall – Room 25 229 19th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455	Courtyard by Marriott Minneapolis Downtown 1500 Washington Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55454	Live Zoom link shared upon registration

RSVP by Friday, April 17: <https://events.spencerfane.com/dreher26>

This event is co-sponsored by:



Reception Sponsors:

Roger Minch and Serkland Law Firm, Frederik & Byron P.A., Spencer Fane

About the Speakers



Eric Johnson | Partner | Spencer Fane LLP

Eric Johnson is a partner at Spencer Fane in the Banking and Financial Services and Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Creditors' Rights Groups.

Over the course of his 20-plus year career, Eric has represented almost every constituency in insolvency proceedings including trustees, receivers, secured lenders, debtors in possession, buyers of distressed assets, creditors' committees, trade creditors, landlords, and defendants in insolvency related litigation.

Eric has focused his practice on the representation of bankruptcy trustees, judicial receivers, and assignees for the benefit of creditors in complex litigation and liquidations. Eric has also served as a federal equity receiver, state court appointed receiver, Chapter 11 trustee, and is currently a member of the panel of Chapter 7 trustees for the Western District of Missouri. Eric is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.



Timothy Becker | Partner | Lighthouse Management Group

As the co-founder of Lighthouse Management Group, Tim has more than 30 years of executive-level financial management experience, serving as an advisor to distressed organizations in developing and implementing customized corporate renewal solutions. He has worked with companies across multiple industries, including food production, retail, real estate, transportation and technology, and brings a thoughtful, hands-on approach to his client engagements. Throughout his career, he has served in many interim management roles, including as CEO, CFO, and CRO.

Tim has been appointed as receiver in both state and federal courts. Examples of his work include serving as a receiver for a 55-megawatt biomass power plant during the sale of its facility and related contracts and CRO for one of the nation's largest sporting goods retailers, successfully navigating the company through a Chapter 11 bankruptcy and sale. He also served as receiver charged with recovering funds for victims of a Ponzi scheme and as CEO and Board member, advised one of the nation's largest commercial real estate developers through the real estate crisis that began in 2008. He has served as an expert witness and has testified in state courts of MN and WI and the US Bankruptcy Court. Tim is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.



Hon. Christian Sande | Judge | Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota

Hon. Christian M. Sande is a judge for the 4th Judicial District Court of Minnesota in Hennepin County. He was appointed to the bench by former Governor Mark Dayton in 2016. Over this time, he has presided over a number of receivership matters.

Prior to his appointment, he managed his own private practice, Christian Sande LLC, since 2006. Before opening his law firm, Christian was an attorney at Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP (1996 to 2005). His areas of practice included class action antitrust, consumer fraud, securities fraud arbitration, commercial litigation, and election and political law.

He received a B.A. in international relations from Hamline University in 1990. Christian went on to complete a J.D. at William Mitchell College of Law in 1996.



Ryan Murphy (moderator) | Shareholder | Fredrikson & Byron P.A.

Ryan is recognized as a leading restructuring lawyer in the upper Midwest and has led many complex restructurings on behalf of companies and individuals to success. He is the chair of Fredrikson's Bankruptcy, Restructuring & Workouts Group.

Ryan is a skilled negotiator and regularly resolves issues out of court. He is also a seasoned litigator and represents parties in bankruptcy, receiverships and commercial litigation across the country. He has extensive experience representing companies and individuals in and out of court as well as buyers and sellers of assets in distressed situations. He has handled matters for clients in industries as varied as manufacturing, retail, hotel, real estate, banking, entertainment, transportation and energy. He has extensive experience advising owners and boards of directors, and representing debtors and creditors in workout, insolvency, restructuring and bankruptcy planning matters. Ryan also has extensive experience representing companies and creditors in state and federal court litigation, including bankruptcies, receiverships, assignments for benefit of creditors, foreclosures, fraudulent transfer, and preference claims. Ryan is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.