



Join the Fellows of the Seventh Circuit for their annual Seminar on October 24, 2025. The seminar is free for all attendees and will be held at the Jenner & Block Conference Center at 353 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60654.

The program will consist of five panels covering the National Year in Review; Bankruptcy and the Rule of Law; When Bankruptcy Crosses International Borders; Consumer Crystal Ball: What's Next?; and Navigating the Ethical Problems Arising in the Small World of Bankruptcy. Lunch will be provided and will feature keynote speaker Professor Jennifer Nou of the University of Chicago Law School.

There will be a separately ticketed dinner.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30 – 9:00 AM: Check in

9:00 - 9:15 AM: Welcome

Panel 1: 9:15-10:15 AM (60 min)

National Year in Review

This panel includes practitioners and a bankruptcy judge. Their discussion will examine some of the most important cases affecting the practice of bankruptcy from the last year. The discussion will include Supreme Court cases, such as *United States v. Miller*; circuit court cases, such as *Marshall v. Johnson* and *Carrington v. Davis*; and a number of district court and bankruptcy court cases, such as *In re Marla Martin*.

Moderator: Chad Husnick, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Chicago, IL

Chad Husnick is a partner in Kirkland & Ellis' Restructuring Practice Group. He represents debtors, creditors, equity holders, and other stakeholders in all aspects of corporate liability management, restructuring, bankruptcy, and insolvency proceedings. Chad has represented clients in a variety of industries, including energy, retail, real estate, infrastructure, manufacturing, transportation and distribution, hospitality and gaming, automotive, and printing. He works closely with his clients to address issues proactively and efficiently. He regularly advises clients on corporate governance issues facing financially distressed companies, including liability management strategies, fiduciary duties, and executive compensation. Chad was named a "Dealmaker of the Year – 2016" by The American Lawyer for his role in the \$40+ billion restructuring of Energy Future Holdings Corporation and "Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyer - 2017" by Turnarounds and Workouts. Chad is a Lecturer in the Law at the University of Chicago Law School and a Contributing Author for Collier on Bankruptcy—the leading treatise on bankruptcy law.

Education

- University of Chicago Law School, J.D. with Honors - 2004
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.S., Political Science and Behavioral Science & Law with Distinction - 2001

Speakers:

Hon. Janet Baer, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D. Ill.

Judge Baer served as a bankruptcy attorney from 1982 to 2012 and assumed the Bankruptcy Bench in Chicago on March 5, 2012.

Practice Areas: Chapter 11 Bankruptcy; Chapter 13 Bankruptcy; Chapter 7 Bankruptcy

John Hauber, Chapter 13 Trustee, Chicago, IL

John M. Hauber was appointed as the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division on April 1, 2015. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Hauber was a partner in the Indianapolis, Indiana office of Tom Scott & Associates, P.C. His practice included business and consumer bankruptcy, debtor and creditor's rights including financial restructuring and workouts, and all aspects of bankruptcy litigation. Mr. Hauber received his A.B. from Wabash College in 1990 and his J.D. from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1993. He worked for the Indiana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division from 1993 through 1997 as a Deputy Attorney General and was a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Indiana Home Defense Task Force. He worked in private practice from 1997 through 2002 emphasizing the representation of consumer bankruptcy debtors. Mr. Hauber was a staff attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Robert A. Brothers in December 2002 before returning to consumer bankruptcy practice in August 2008. Mr. Hauber is currently an adjunct professor at the I.U. McKinney School of Law. He is admitted to all Indiana state courts, federal courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Catherine Steege, Jenner & Block LLP, Chicago, IL

Education

- Northwestern University, B.S.J. (1978)
- DePaul University, J.D. (1982)

Professional Career

- Associate (1982-90); Partner, Jenner & Block, LLC (1990-)
- Adjunct Professor, John Marshall Law School (1994-)

Affiliations

- American Bankruptcy Institute
- National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees
- Chicago Bar Association, Bankruptcy Section
- International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation

Break: 10:15-10:35 AM

Panel 2: 10:35-11:50 AM (75 min)**Bankruptcy and the Rule of Law**

This panel of academic experts explores how bankruptcy law and practice are responding to growing political, regulatory, and institutional pressures. Topics will include third-party releases and due process concerns, student loan discharge standards, the evolving role of the U.S. Trustee Program, and distress in politicized sectors like higher education and healthcare. Panelists will provide doctrinal and practical insights relevant to both consumer and commercial bankruptcy practitioners.

Moderator: Prof. Diane Lourdes Dick, The University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, IA

Professor Diane Lourdes Dick focuses her teaching and scholarship on business and tax law, with particular emphasis on commercial finance, business bankruptcy and out-of-court restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, and business entity taxation. A prolific author, Diane has published or forthcoming articles in law reviews, peer-reviewed journals, practitioner-oriented publications, and on prominent commercial law blogs. She has been invited to deliver lectures at the Harvard Kennedy School, The Brookings Institution, and at professional association meetings, law schools, and graduate tax programs around the country. Her scholarship has been showcased by The New York Times and Reuters BreakingViews, and has been cited and discussed by courts and litigants. Diane is also active in practitioner circles around the country and regularly consults with attorneys, investors, private equity funds, and think tanks about commercial finance, bankruptcy and insolvency, and business taxation. She is a member in good standing of the Washington, Florida, and District of Columbia bar associations, and has co-authored reports in Washington and Florida providing guidance for lawyers involved in business and commercial real estate transactions.

Speakers:**Prof. Douglas Baird, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, IL**

Education

Yale College, B.A. (1975)

Stanford Law School, J.D. (1979)

Professional Career

Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago (1999-)

Dean, University of Chicago Law School (1994-99)

Professor, University of Chicago Law School (1984-94)

Assistant Professor, University of Chicago Law School (1980-84)

Affiliations

National Bankruptcy Conference, Chair (2020-)

American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Fellow (1996-)

Prof. Robert Lawless, University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, IL

Education

University of Illinois, B.S. (1986), J.D. (1989)

Professional Career

Professor, University of Illinois College of Law (2006-)

Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law (2002-06)

Professor, University of Missouri School of Law (1993-02)

Associate, Zuckert, Scoutt & Rasenberger (1990-92)

Law Clerk, Hon. Harlington Wood, Jr., U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (1989-90)

Affiliations

American Law Institute

Society for Empirical Legal Studies

Illinois Program on Law, Behavior & Social Science at the University of Illinois College of Law, Co-director (2009-)

Prof. Adrian Walters, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, IL

Education

Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge, BA (History) (1986-1989)

Nottingham Trent University, Law (1989-1991)

Professional Career

Trainee & Associate Solicitor, Eking Manning (1991-1994)

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer; Reader; Geldards Professor of Corporate & Insolvency Law, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University (1994-2002 (Lecturer/Senior Lecturer); Reader (2002-2005); Geldards Professor of Corporate & Insolvency Law (2005-2011))

Ralph L. Brill Professor of Law, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law (2011-present)

Affiliations

International Insolvency Institute, Member (Since December 2015)

American Bankruptcy Institute, Member

Chancery Bar Association (U.K.), Hon. Member (Since 2009)

INSOL International, Member

Lunch and Keynote Speaker: 12:00-1:15 PM

Prof. Jennifer Nou, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, IL

Jennifer Nou is the Ruth Wyatt Rosenson Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School. Her main research interests are in administrative law, executive branch dynamics, regulatory policy, and constitutional separation-of-powers. She is a senior fellow of the Administrative Conference of the United States and a former senior advisor at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Professor Nou is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, and received an MPhil in Politics from Oxford University as a Marshall Scholar. After law school, she was a law clerk to Judge Richard A. Posner of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then to Justice Stephen Breyer of the US Supreme Court.

Panel 3 (Concurrent Session): 1:15-2:15 PM (60 min)
When Bankruptcy Crosses International Borders

This panel will look at problems and questions that arise in the area of cross-border cases. Practitioner panelists will the question of when cases a foreign debtor belongs in a bankruptcy case in the U.S.; the practical problems that arise when a U.S. bankruptcy estate of a foreign or domestic debtor seeks to enforce U.S. bankruptcy law against foreign parties; and when a foreign bankruptcy estate representative should seek recognition and assistance from a U.S. bankruptcy court?

Moderator: Richard Mason, Mason Pollick & Schmahl LLC, Chicago, IL

Education

University of Illinois, B.A. (with Honors)
University of Chicago, M.B.A., Finance
University of Notre Dame, J.D.

Professional Career

Partner, McGuireWoods LLP (2003-2020)
Partner (1989-03); Executive Committee (1998-00), Ross & Hardies
Partner, Levit, Mason & Fishman (1977-89)
Adjunct Professor, Chicago-Kent College of Law (1984-)

Affiliations

American College of Bankruptcy, Fellow/Member Regent for Seventh Circuit (2010-2012), Chair of National Education Committee (2014-2018) (2000-)
American Bar Association, Member, Business Bankruptcy Committee 1984-2016; Chair, Subcommittee on Use and Disposition of Property, 1993-1998; Delegate, United Nations Commission on Model Insolvency Law
International Bar Association, Member, Insolvency and Restructuring Section, 1990-Present; Co-Chair of Section, 2016-2018
American Bankruptcy Institute, Member (1986-present)
Illinois State Bar Association, Member, Former Section Counsel, Commercial Banking and Bankruptcy Law
Private Panel Maintained by Region 11 of the Office of the U.S. Trustee, Trustee (Current)
Illinois Farm Legal Assistance Foundation, Director (1985-1988)

Speakers:

James H.R. Sprayregen, Hilco Global, Chicago, IL

James H.M. "Jamie" Sprayregen serves as Vice Chairman at Hilco Global. As a key advisor and strategic growth partner to CEO and founder Jeffrey Heckman, he shares direct oversight of the firm's rapidly expanding financial services platform with other key members of the executive leadership team. Jamie is one of the most well-known and highly regarded dealmakers and thought leaders in the restructuring, corporate reorganization and M&A community. He founded Kirkland and Ellis' worldwide Restructuring Group, building it from inception in 1990 to become the premier restructuring group in the world, and the only one ranked tier 1 in every major region globally. As a partner in the Chicago and New York offices of Kirkland & Ellis, he served on the law firm's worldwide management committee from 2003-2006 and 2009-2019.

He joined Goldman Sachs in 2006 and served as co-head of its Restructuring Group, advising clients in restructuring and distressed situations. He rejoined Kirkland three years later. From 2013-2015, Jamie was appointed to serve a two-year term as the President of INSOL International, the world's leading international insolvency association. Jamie is also an Adjunct Full Professor of Finance at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania where he teaches a combined Wharton/Penn Law course on "Corporate Restructuring." Jamie received his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law and his B.A., cum laude, from the University of Michigan.

Matthew Warren, Paul Hastings, Chicago, IL

Matthew Warren is a partner in the Financial Restructuring group at Paul Hastings and is based in the firm's Chicago and Houston offices. He advises clients on restructuring matters with a particular emphasis on distressed debt and insolvency issues. Matthew represents lenders and bondholders, as well as companies and asset buyers, in connection with restructuring and insolvency related matters.

Admissions

Texas Bar

Illinois Bar

Education

The University of Arizona - James E. Rogers College of Law, J.D. 2008
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, B.S. 2005

Panel 4 (Concurrent Session): 1:15-2:15 PM (60 min)

Consumer Crystal Ball: What's Next?

This panel of practitioners and a judge will discuss legal issues arising in consumer bankruptcy cases. Topics covered will include the recent developments in chapter 7 and chapter 13 consumer cases including a discussion about the intersection of bankruptcy law and state tax law and the impact of debtor discharge on mortgage claims.

Moderator: John M. Hauber, Chapter 13 Trustee, Chicago, IL

John M. Hauber was appointed as the Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Southern District of Indiana, Indianapolis Division on April 1, 2015. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Hauber was a partner in the Indianapolis, Indiana office of Tom Scott & Associates, P.C. His practice included business and consumer bankruptcy, debtor and creditor's rights including financial restructuring and workouts, and all aspects of bankruptcy litigation. Mr. Hauber received his A.B. from Wabash College in 1990 and his J.D. from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 1993. He worked for the Indiana Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division from 1993 through 1997 as a Deputy Attorney General and was a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and the Indiana Home Defense Task Force. He worked in private practice from 1997 through 2002 emphasizing the representation of consumer bankruptcy debtors. Mr. Hauber was a staff attorney for Chapter 13 Trustee Robert A. Brothers in December 2002 before returning to consumer bankruptcy practice in August 2008. Mr. Hauber is currently an adjunct professor at the I.U. McKinney School of Law. He is admitted to all Indiana state courts, federal courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana and the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Speakers:

Hon. James M. Carr, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, S.D. Ind.

Education

Indiana University, B.A. (1972)

Indiana University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif (1975)

Professional Career

Partner (formerly Associate), Baker & Daniels (1975-12)

Affiliations

Indianapolis Bar Association, Chair, Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Section (1987-88)

Indiana State Bar Association, Chair, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Section (1986-87)

American Bar Association

American Bankruptcy Institute

Lex Mundi Bankruptcy and International Insolvency Committee, Former Chair

Indianapolis Bar Foundation, Distinguished Fellow

Hon. Catherine Furay, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, W.D. Wis.

Education

University of Wisconsin - Madison, J.D. (1978-80)

University of Wisconsin - Stout, M.S. (1974-75)

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, B.A. (1970-74)

Professional Career

Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
(January 2013 to present)

Affiliations

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Board of Governors (2015-18); Technology Committee (2013-16); NextGen Committee (2013-15); Finance Committee (2014-21); Elections Committee (2018-19); E-Learning Committee (2017 --) (2013 to present)

Turnaround Management Association, Author: Body of Knowledge-Legal Principals; Certification Oversight Committee (2017 to Present), Past President and Chair; Board of Trustees (2019 -), Executive Committee (2017-18) (2016 to present)

American Bankruptcy Institute, Member; Past member of Asset Sales Committee, Bankruptcy Litigation Committee, Business Reorganization Committee; Wedoff Consumer Bankruptcy Advisory Committee; Central States Bankruptcy Seminar Advisory Committee, Judicial Co-Chair (1992 to present)

Ainat Margalit, Legal Aid Chicago, Chicago, IL

Ainat Margalit is Director of the Consumer Practice Group. She joined Legal Aid Chicago in 2012 and focused on home ownership preservation, bankruptcy, and debtor's rights. In 2020, she became a Supervisory Attorney. She has dedicated her career to serving the public interest and championing consumer rights is her passion. Before coming to Legal Aid Chicago, Ainat worked in the private sector in plaintiff-side consumer rights litigation and before that state government. Ainat is the 2018 recipient of Chicago-Kent Law School's Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Award and the 2018 recipient of the Jerold S. Solovy Equal Justice Award. Ainat received her undergraduate degree

from Tel-Aviv University and law degrees from Tel-Aviv University and Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Break: 2:15-2:30 PM

Panel 5: 2:30-3:30 PM (60 min)

Navigating the Ethical Problems Arising in the 'Small World' of Bankruptcy

This panel will explore ethical questions that arise in the representation of clients in bankruptcy matters. The discussion will cover various questions that arise for attorneys operating in the small world of bankruptcy professionals and cases involving a multitude of parties. The discussion will focus on conflicts that arise when professionals have overlapping current and former business relationships with various parties in a case.

Moderator: Kevin Krakora, Getzler Henrich & Associates, Chicago, IL

Kevin A. Krakora, CTP is a senior managing director, based in Chicago, with over 30 years of experience in corporate turnarounds, strategic consulting, financial and operational restructurings, and performance improvement. Kevin specializes in advising and working with under-performing companies to develop and implement business transformation strategies, operational/financial improvements and turnaround plans. He has extensive experience advising both companies and senior lenders in complex debt restructurings, financings and workouts. Kevin has served in numerous senior executive positions, including as a Chief Restructuring Officer and Independent Director. Kevin leads the automotive and transportation practice at Getzler Henrich. He has substantial experience in numerous industries, including airline, automotive/transportation, healthcare, industrial/manufacturing, and security/alarm among others.

Speakers:

Peter Roberts, Seyfarth Shaw, Chicago, IL

Pete represents clients in all matters of commercial insolvency, including bankruptcies, workouts, receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors, UCC Article 9 sales, and related litigation. He develops workout strategies for debtors and creditors, formulates and executes plans of reorganization, navigates asset sales in distressed situations, and litigates cases in state and federal courts. He has extensive trial and appellate experience, including several appeals before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Pete has been recognized by *Chambers and Partners USA* (2022-2024), *Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters) (2005-2022), and *Best Lawyers in America* (Woodward/White Inc.) (2012-2025). He has an AV rating from Martindale-Hubble and has been named an Illinois Leading Lawyer by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company (2018).

Education:

- JD, Duke University School of Law
- AB, Boston College

Hon. Deborah Thorne, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D. Ill.

Education

Macalester College, B.A. (1975)

Duke University, M.A.T. (1976)

IIT Chicago Kent College of Law, J.D. (with honors) (1983)

Professional Career

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court (2015-)

Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP (2002-15)

Partner, Fagel Haber (n/k/a Thompson Colburn) (1997-02)

Partner/Associate, Much Shelist (1988-97)

Associate, Antinow & Fink (1987-88)

Assistant Counsel, City of Chicago (1984-87)

Affiliations

American Bankruptcy Institute, Board of Directors (2007-2019)

American Bankruptcy Institute, Chair CIT Committee and Executive Committee Member
Unsecured Trade Creditors Comm./ABI, Co-Chair (2003-08)

7th Circuit Bar Association, Chair Bankruptcy Committee (2002-09)

Chicago Bar Association, Chair Bankruptcy & Reorganization Committee (1995-96)

Turnaround Management Assoc., Chair Women's Group Committee (2003-04)

IWIRC (2002-)