

2024 Annual BASIL Bankruptcy Seminar Schedule & Panelists

2024 Bankruptcy Seminar Schedule	
Registration	8:00 AM – 8:25 AM
Opening Remarks	8:25 AM – 8:30 AM
5 Things to Change About Bankruptcy	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM
National Case Law Update	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Break	10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
Technology Advancements Impacting Bankruptcy – The US Trustee’s Perspective	10:45AM – 11:45 AM
Lunch	11:45 AM – 12:45 PM
A View from The Bench	12:45 PM – 1:45 PM
Observations on Bankruptcy Filings and the Economy	1:45 PM – 2:45 PM
Break	2:45: PM – 3:00 PM
Striving for Diversity	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Closing Remarks	4:00 PM – 4:15 PM

5 Things to Change About Bankruptcy

Panelist:

Hon. Terrence L. Michael

Hon. Terrence L. Michael is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma in Tulsa and a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit. He has authored more than 170 published opinions, as well as articles in the Tulsa Law Review, Texas Tech Law Review and Creighton Law Review. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Michael joined the firm of Baird, Holm, McEachen, Pedersen, Hamann & Strasheim in Omaha, Neb., where he was a member of the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. His practice included all types of bankruptcy matters and general civil litigation. While at Baird, Holm, Judge Michael chaired the Bankruptcy Section of the Nebraska State Bar Association and was a member of the local rules committee responsible for drafting local rules in chapter 12 cases. He also authored and presented numerous papers at various continuing legal education seminars. Judge Michael has taught courses for the American Banker's Association School of Agri-Finance and Metro Technical Community College. On June 9, 1997, he began his career as a bankruptcy judge, and on June 7, 2000, he was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Tenth Circuit, a position he still holds. As a member of the BAP, Judge Michael chaired the committee charged with revising the local rules of that court. He is an associate editor of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal and an adjunct professor of law at the University of Tulsa, and he has served as a speaker at various seminars presented by the Federal Judicial Center, the Eighth Circuit Judicial Conference, the Tenth Circuit Judicial Conference, ABI, the Nebraska State Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Tulsa County Bar Association, the West Texas Bar Association and the Southwest Regional Turnaround Management Association.

Judge Michael is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, having served on various committees and the Board of Governors. He received the President's Award for Distinguished Service to the Conference in 2018.

Judge Michael is an emeritus member of the Council Oak/Johnson-Sontag American Inn of Court, which awarded him the John A. Athens Leadership Award in 2004, and the Nebraska State Bar Association. He was part of a multi-state select choir, which sang in Carnegie Hall in 1999, and recorded his first studio album in collaboration with Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame member and Grammy winner David Teegarden in 2018.

Judge Michael received his B.A. magna cum laude in history from Doane College in 1980 and his J.D. from the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law in 1983.

National Case Law Update

Panelists:

Hon. Bonnie L. Clair

Bonnie L. Clair presently sits as the Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Chief Judge Clair previously worked in private practice where she handled bankruptcy, commercial and consumer finance litigation, and financial institution compliance; she also spent time in-house at a large financial institution and served in the Attorney General's Honors Program of the United States Department of Justice as an attorney with the Office of the United States Trustee.

Judge Clair received her law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, where she was an articles editor for the Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law (now the Journal of Law & Policy) and a national competitor in the New York City Bar Moot Court Competition. She received her undergraduate degree from Duke University, where she served on the editorial and business boards of The Chronicle, debated varsity and camped in "Tent 2" in the Krzyzewskiville line during the 1989-1990 basketball season. However, no one wants to talk about any of that once they find out that she was on Jeopardy! in 2006 and Who Wants to be a Millionaire? in 2002.

Hon. Brian C. Walsh

Brian Walsh was appointed as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri in January 2023. Before taking the bench, he practiced for more than 25 years in Atlanta and St. Louis, principally in bankruptcy, restructuring, and related fields. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

Judge Walsh is a graduate of Duke University and Harvard Law School. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Pasco Bowman of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Brian Hockett

Brian Hockett is a Partner at Thompson Coburn, LLP in St. Louis. Brian's practice focuses on protecting and advancing the financial interests of secured creditors, unsecured creditors, landlords, and debtors in all aspects of debtor-creditor relationships, including work out, foreclosure, litigation and bankruptcy.

Brian represents clients in bankruptcy cases and in adversary proceedings. In addition to work in bankruptcy court, Brian has extensive experience representing clients in state and federal courts primarily in debtor-creditor disputes, and often in cases involving pre-judgment remedies and post-judgment enforcement.

Technology Advancements Impacting Bankruptcy – The US Trustee’s Perspective

Panelist:

Nancy J. Gargula

Nancy J. Gargula is the United States Trustee for Region 10 (Indiana and Central and Southern Districts of Ill.), having been appointed in June 2002, who also served as the United States Trustee in Region 21 (Georgia, Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) from March 2019 through July 2021, and as the United States Trustee for Region 13 (Missouri, Nebraska and Arkansas) from May 2006 through December 2014. Prior to serving as U.S. Trustee, she was a partner with the Commercial, Financial and Bankruptcy Services Team at the firm Baker & Daniels (now Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP) in Indianapolis. Before joining Baker & Daniels in 1997, she was in-house counsel at Bank One, Indiana, NA, for 12 years, including serving as general counsel and secretary to the board of directors of the bank and its holding company. Mrs. Gargula received her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1981, and graduated from Ball State University, summa cum laude, in 1977. Mrs. Gargula is active in a number of professional associations, including the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, the Indianapolis Bar Association, the Indianapolis Bar Foundation, the Indiana State Bar Association and the Indiana Bar Foundation, where she has held a number of leadership positions. Mrs. Gargula is also a frequent speaker on bankruptcy, banking, commercial law and related topics and has spoken on a wide variety of panels at conferences for the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, the National Association of Chapter 7 Trustees, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the American Bankruptcy Institute. In addition, she serves on the NCBJ Liaison Committee with other members of the Executive Office of U.S. Trustees.

A View from the Bench

Panelists:

Hon. Laura K. Grandy

Judge Grandy was appointed Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Illinois in 2010. Prior to her appointment, Judge Grandy was a principal with the law firm Mathis, Marifian, Richter & Grandy, where her practice concentrated in corporate reorganizations, bankruptcy and banking. She also served as a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee for 18 years. While in private practice, Judge Grandy successfully argued a case before the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Grandy serves as the bankruptcy representative to the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council. She also serves on the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council Space and Facilities Committee and on the Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Judge Grandy is a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Missouri Bar, the St. Clair County Bar Association, BASIL and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees. In her spare time, she can also be found volunteering at local events. A little-known tidbit — she was also a co-producer of a Broadway show that was nominated for a Tony Award.

Hon. Kathy A. Surratt-States

Kathy A. Surratt-States was sworn in as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri on March 17, 2003 and served as Chief Judge on February 1, 2013 to June 30, 2022. She was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Eighth Circuit on January 13, 2023. Judge Surratt-States was born and raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She received her B.A., cum laude, from Oklahoma City University and her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

Judge Surratt-States began her legal career as law clerk to now retired Bankruptcy Judge James J. Barta. In 1993, she was an associate at Campbell & Coyne, P.C. where her work focused on bankruptcy, commercial litigation and foreclosures. She moved to Ziercher & Hocker, P.C. in 1998, where she became partner. This firm later merged with Husch Blackwell, where she was a partner in the insolvency practice group until her appointment to the Bankruptcy Court.

In 1997, she was appointed to the Panel of Bankruptcy Trustee for the Eastern District of Missouri. In 1999, she served as the Chapter 7 Trustee for Family Company of America, then the third largest grocery store chain in St. Louis.

Judge Surratt-States serves on the boards of several charitable organizations in St. Louis. She is also a member of Altrusa International, Inc. of St. Louis, an international association of professionals dedicated to serving their community.

Judge Surratt-States is a member of Missouri Bar, Mound City Bar Association, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, American Bar Association, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, American College of Bankruptcy, American Bankruptcy Institute and International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC).

Hon. Mary P. Gorman

The Honorable Mary P. Gorman is a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Judge Gorman was appointed to the position in September 2005 by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. She completed service as the Chief Judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois in August 2019. Her chambers are located in Springfield, Illinois.

Judge Gorman graduated with honors from Rosary College (now Dominican University) and also attended the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. She graduated with high honors from the University of Illinois College of Law serving as a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif. She has been admitted to practice by the Illinois Supreme Court, the Northern District of Illinois, the Central District of Illinois, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Supreme Court. Prior to her appointment, Judge Gorman practiced in the areas of bankruptcy and commercial transactions and litigation.

Judge Gorman is a past president of the Winnebago County Bar Association and has been active on the Illinois State Bar Association's Task Force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and the Commercial, Banking, and Bankruptcy Section Council. From 1999 to 2003, Judge Gorman was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy law at the Northern Illinois University College of Law. She is currently a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Illinois State, Winnebago County, and Sangamon County Bar Associations. Judge Gorman has served on the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group and on the Administrative Office's Budget and Finance Advisory Council. Judge Gorman recently completed seven years of service as one of the five bankruptcy judge representatives on the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System. During her service on the Bankruptcy Committee, Judge Gorman served as a liaison to the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules and the Judicial Conference Budget Committee's Economic Subcommittee. She was also a member of the task force created by the Bankruptcy Committee to review current policies, rules, and regulations regarding unclaimed funds.

She currently serves as a member of the Administrative Office's Judiciary Data Working Group.

The Honorable William V. Altenberger

Judge Altenberger was made Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois on December 23, 1985. Prior to that time he was a partner with the law firm of Kavanagh, Scully, Sudow, White & Frederick, P.C. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in 1957, then served three years in the U.S. Air Force. He received his law degree from the University of Illinois in 1963. He was engaged in the general practice of law, with emphasis in banking and commercial work.

He was designated Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois on October 1, 1993. Judge Altenberger's term as Chief Bankruptcy Judge ended in June of 2000, and he was immediately appointed to recall status by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

As a Recalled Bankruptcy Judge, his primary judicial responsibilities involve holding court in the Seventh Circuit in the Central District of Illinois (Peoria Division); the Southern District of Illinois

(East St. Louis & Benton Divisions); the Northern District of Illinois (Chicago & Rockford Divisions); and the Western District of Wisconsin (Madison Division). He has previously held court in the Central District of California (Los Angeles Division); the Central District of California (Riverside Division); the Northern District of Indiana (Hammond Division); and the Eastern District of Wisconsin (Milwaukee Division).

Hon. Peter W. Henderson

Judge Henderson was appointed on April 1, 2023, as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Central District of Illinois. Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Henderson was an Assistant Federal Public Defender in the Central District of Illinois for over a decade. Judge Henderson received his bachelor's degree from Brown University and his J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Observations on Bankruptcy Filings and The Economy

Panelist:

William T. Rule II, PH.D.

William Rule is Senior Economist in the Judicial Services Office of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. His primary role is the application of quantitative methods to the analysis of the bankruptcy system. Most of his analyses are provided to the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and to the Chief of the Judicial Services Office to assist with recommendations and determinations related to bankruptcy rules, policies, and procedures and numbers of judgeships. In addition to his work for the Administrative Office, he works directly with bankruptcy courts on long range planning, court performance analyses, location decisions and other issues. He also provides assistance to the Judicial Data and Analysis Office, the Associate Director for the Department of Program Services and the Space and Facilities directorate.

Prior to joining the staff of the Judicial Services Office, he staffed the Judicial Conference's Long Range Planning Committee and assisted in the development of the first comprehensive long range plan for the federal judiciary.

Before joining the Administrative Office, he worked in the management consulting divisions of Coopers & Lybrand and KPMG Peat Marwick where he was senior project manager responsible for economic analysis, econometric and mathematical modeling and statistical analysis for domestic and international clients in the private and public sectors.

He holds an undergraduate degree in economics with a math minor from Macalester College, and a Ph.D. in economics from Virginia Tech, where he specialized in monetary theory and policy, industrial organization and econometrics. He has taught in the Virginia Tech graduate economics program as well as for the USDA Graduate School in Washington, D.C. He has also served as an adjunct scholar and member of the advisory committee for the Beacon Hill Institute for Public Policy Research. He is a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

While he has published a number of really boring papers on various subjects, he has tended to spend much more time assisting others in their research by providing data and analysis. Thus he is mentioned much more often in footnotes than in author citations

Ethics & Diversity

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