



American College of Bankruptcy Inducts New Fellows in Washington, D.C.

Neal Batson Presents Distinguished Service Award to Leonard H. Gilbert

Grant T. Stein, Co-Editor

The March 18, 2011, 2011 Induction Ceremony for the 22nd Class at the Supreme Court included the admission of 40 New Fellows to the American College of Bankruptcy. The very diverse group of Inductees in the academic, commercial, consumer, international, and judicial areas reflected the qualities admission to the College seeks to recognize and honor.

Michael Cook presented the new inductees and explained the nomination process. He discussed the evolution of the nomi-

nation form and the work of the Circuit Councils in investigating and recommending nominees to the Board of Regents. He explained that the process concludes with a day-long meeting of the Board of Regents at which each nominee is thoroughly considered. The focus of the review of nominees is on ethics, professional competence, character, sustained contribution to the profession, leadership, scholarship, and public service. After Mike's comments, Jan Baker introduced the new inductees.



▲ Leonard Gilbert receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Neal Batson.

organized, efficient, meticulous, had great personal integrity, and was a gentlemen, a role model, and a class act. He concluded his comments with high praise by referring to Robert W. Woodruff, an Atlanta icon, former President of the Coca Cola Company, and benefactor of Emory University and Woodward Academy among other important institutions, and the motto attributed to him that "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." Neal said that this motto also summed up Leonard's career of service.

In his remarks, Leonard Gilbert thanked and complimented Neal for his kind comments and personal professionalism.

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▲ 22nd Class of the American College of Bankruptcy at the Supreme Court, Washington, D.C., March 18, 2011.

After the introduction of the new Fellows, Neal Batson presented the Distinguished Service Award to Leonard Gilbert. Neal reviewed Leonard's early life and career, including his birth in Minnesota, move to Florida at the age of 10, college years at Emory University in Atlanta, and law school at Harvard, from which he graduated in 1961. Neal also covered Leonard's long and high-quality service to the College as, among other things, a Regent, Director, Chair

of the Judicial Nominating Committee, and Treasurer of the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation. Leonard's service to the Bar and his community, including service as the Presidents of the Florida Bar, American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, Tampa Museum of Art, and the Midtown Kiwanis Club were also explored.

Neal noted that Leonard's qualities as a person set an example. He explained that Leonard was "hard working; disciplined



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Chair's Column

Paul M. Singer, Chair



▲ Paul M. Singer

The purpose of the American College of Bankruptcy is to recognize bankruptcy professionals of the highest professional qualifications and ethics, in order to set standards for achievement in the insolvency community and thereby to improve the bankruptcy process. Significantly however, our Fellows not only participate in activities that strengthen the bankruptcy system but also are active in other parts of their communities. This fact was evident at our Annual Meeting during the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Leonard Gilbert. Even beyond his brilliant bankruptcy career, Leonard, as we learned, dedicated his time and talents to other organizations, serving as president of both the Tampa Museum of Art and the Florida Bar Association.

Most of our Fellows, like Leonard, make an impact outside the bankruptcy world. For instance, Marc Abrams (the Regent for the Second Circuit) was recently honored by the United Jewish Appeal in New York (Mike Cook, the Chair of the Board of Regents was honored last year), and this morning's mail brought news that Bob Greenfield was being honored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation at its dinner in Los Angeles at the end of May.

And service outside the insolvency world is not just the purview of our older Fellows. Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting heard about the good works of some of our recent inductees. For those that did not attend, you can read about their distinguished activities in Mike Cook's column in this issue. Our College continues to attract not only the brightest and best but also those who make a difference.

Speaking of those who make a difference, at last fall's meeting in New Orleans our imaginations were captured by Randy Newsome's presentation of the oral histories of important insolvency professionals. It was a project that Randy started on his own, long before we formed our Archives Committee to preserve Randy's work. It is not clear why Randy chose to volunteer his time and money in the initial stages of this project,

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President's Column

D.J. (Jan) Baker, President



▲ D.J. (Jan) Baker

The College year doesn't really seem to begin until the induction of each new Class of Fellows and Annual Meeting, and this year was no exception. We could not have asked for a better event than the March 2011 induction of 40 new Fellows into the College. Presentation of the very well deserved Distinguished Service Award to Leonard Gilbert immediately before the induction of new Fellows only added to the quality of the Friday night ceremony at the Supreme Court.



▲ Attendees at the Educational Session

Friday's induction ceremony and award presentation was followed on Saturday by a great educational program organized by Douglas Baird that was exceptionally well received. The luncheon following the educational program included presentations on the College's Distinguished Law Student awards program and its educational and pro bono programs. Those presentations detailed for the Fellows at the luncheon the extraordinary work done by the College in these areas. The weekend's events concluded with a Saturday night dinner for the International Fellows who were in attendance, reminding us of the increasing role our international members play in the College.

Congratulations for the induction certainly also go to the Board of Regents, chaired by Michael Cook, and to the Circuit Admissions Councils in each Circuit. Each of the Councils and their members pored over nomination forms last summer and worked to select the best possible candidates to be considered by the Regents at the Fall 2010 meeting. The diligence and thoroughness of their efforts was reflected in the quality of the 2011 Class of Fellows who were inducted.

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Editor's Column

Cecily A. Dumas, Co-Editor

Barney Shapiro Leaves the Mark of a Great Mentor



▲ Cecily A. Dumas



▲ Bernard Shapiro

When Grant Stein asked if I would be willing to act as Co-Editor of College Columns, he was offering me an opportunity. In a sense, he was acting as a mentor. Grant's gesture reminded me of how important mentorship is to our professional development. We all remember those who guided us as we took our first awkward steps toward competence. ACB Fellows Patrick A. Murphy and Margaret Sheneman were my mentors years ago, and I remain deeply indebted to them. This column, though, is dedicated to one of the most influential mentors with whom I have been privileged to become acquainted – Bernard Shapiro, who passed away on April 16, 2011. Barney Shapiro was a mentor to many outstanding lawyers, including ACB Fellows Paul Aronzon, Robert Jay Moore, Lawrence Peitzman and Ninth Circuit Regent Howard Weg.

Barney graduated from Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley, in 1942; he was Order of the Coif and an Associate Editor of the California Law Review. Upon graduation, he clerked for Roger Traynor, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court. Barney settled in Los Angeles, where he practiced law with Gendel, Raskoff, Shapiro & Quittner, then Murphy Weir & Butler and Murphy Sheneman Julian & Rogers, representing debtors, creditors and committees. Some of Barney's large cases were Wickes Furniture, L.J. Hooker and Apex Oil Co. Barney returned to Boalt Hall to teach law as a visiting professor in 1975 and 1978, and was an adjunct professor at UCLA School of Law in 1980.

When Barney was not practicing law or teaching, he was contributing to the development of bankruptcy law. He served, in turn, as the Chair of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Los Angeles Bar Association, Chair of the State Bar of California Business Law Section, Uniform Commercial Code

Committee, Member of the Committee on Bankruptcy Rules, Judicial Conference of the United States, and President of the Financial Lawyers Conference. Barney was most proud of his work as a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference; he served as Vice Chair for eight years and then as its Chair from 1992 to 1996.

Barney's contributions to the field of bankruptcy were enormous. But no less important to those of us who knew Barney were his gifts as a mentor. His mentorship was often subtle, delivered through wry humor. He not only shared his considerable legal knowledge and expertise with young lawyers, he also used his sharp wit to teach judgment, that intangible quality we recognize in great lawyers. With his characteristic humility and wisdom, Barney gave lessons that cannot be found through reading cases. Although he used the term about

himself, Barney Shapiro was anything but a "country bankruptcy lawyer." As a mentor and a College Fellow, he will be greatly missed. ☞

Postscript: After this article was prepared, Howard Weg became aware of it and commented as follows: *Interestingly, at the memorial service, Bob Moore spoke about the same thing, observing that Barney mentored so many young lawyers after he was already over 60 years old, showing sincere interest in our professional and personal development. Those lawyers now attribute part of their success to Barney's mentoring. How many of the generations of lawyers that have followed Barney are continuing to serve as 60-year-old-plus mentors to new lawyers freshly minted by our law schools? It seems the profession may be losing an essential element of its tradition if we fail to recognize our responsibility to mentor young lawyers through our own careers.*

Barney Shapiro — In His Own Words

Last month, many of Barney Shapiro's friends and colleagues gathered to honor his life. Together, they assembled a list of what they affectionately refer to as "Barney-isms," and have graciously agreed to allow us to share some of them:

You're pushing on a swinging door.

People can change but they seldom do.

Just like peach ice cream, it always sounds better than it tastes.

Just because something is number one on your priority list doesn't make it number one or even 101 on mine.

Always leave a nickel on the table.

You don't even know enough to ask the question.

Kill two B's with one S.

Once you step in it, you can never get it completely off your shoe.

If you want to get something done, give it to someone busy.

It's like being up to your hips in whipped cream.

Like trying to grab a pinch of mist.

When there is no authority, try filing a writ of rachmones.

Something slipped off the spoon.

I didn't fall off the turnip wagon yesterday.

The days of wooden ships and iron men . . .

You just can't do that.

I know this hurts but some day you will thank me for it.

If the earth could open up and swallow me.

I'm just a country bankruptcy lawyer.

Twenty-Second Class Impresses Board of Regents with Public Service Accomplishments

Michael L. Cook, Chair Board of Regents



▲ 22nd Class of the American College of Bankruptcy at the Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.

The College inducted its Twenty-Second Class of Fellows on March 18, 2011. Most Fellows have a general sense of what the Board of Regents considers when evaluating a nominee: ethical behavior; character; professional expertise; leadership qualities; scholarship; and, most important, commitment to public service. As we noted at the induction ceremony, the Board considers, among other things, how a nominee has given back to his/her community, the judiciary and his/her colleagues. A nominee's commitment to public service can be shown in many forms, but is not limited to legal or financial work.

Here are a few examples of what the 40 Fellows of the Twenty-Second Class have done to serve the public interest:

- Dispensed free legal advice to fishermen in poor communities along the Pacific coast.
- Received the American Bar Association's highest award given to a woman for life-time public service.
- Built housing for needy people around the country.
- Volunteered free pilot services for an organization that flies needy children to medical centers for treatment.
- Left the private practice of law to become the chief legal advisor to a Presidential Task Force on the auto industry, responsible for the restructuring and recapitalization of General Motors and Chrysler Corporation.
- Explained US commercial law to Russian judges and officials.
- Provided pro bono financial advice for victims of domestic abuse.

- Provided clinical legal support at homeless person shelters
- Taught Sunday school at a local church;
- Administered a local youth orchestra;
- Administered a local food bank for needy citizens.
- Represented U.S. postal worker in race discrimination litigation on a pro bono basis;
- Provided guidance, mentoring and financial support to young adults with learning/physical disabilities living in group homes.

The new Fellows have many reasons to be proud of their accomplishments. The College is delighted to have them join us in continuing what they have already done so well. 🏛️

American College of Bankruptcy Inducts New Fellows

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Leonard thanked the Distinguished Service Award Committee for its decision and the great honor he received by being included with the prior recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. He introduced his family and friends who were in attendance, and thanked his firm for its long-time support of his activities.

Leonard discussed the nature of the commitment we make as lawyers and professionals. He also noted that he was lucky to have been able to grow up as a lawyer in Florida and acknowledged Judge Paskay's strong positive influence on insolvency practice in Florida. He thanked Bruce Schimberg of Chicago and Fred Fisher of Boston for their professional involvement with him and their contributions to his career, that led to his being inducted in the College's first Class.

Leonard also discussed his work for the ABA as an evaluator of judicial candidates. Leonard said that civility and professionalism have to be included in the standards that govern our behavior and the way each of us, as members of the College, lead by example. 🏛️



▲ Leonard Gilbert with his family, Jonathan, Jean and Suzanne Gilbert.



Fall All-Fellows Luncheon



Tampa Florida
October 12, 2011

2011 Fall All-Fellows Luncheon

Please join us on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 12-2 p.m. for the Fall All-Fellows Luncheon with keynote speaker
Hon. Michael G. Williamson.
Presenting "Afghanistan: A Country in Transition"

Accommodations are available at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina. For reservations, you may contact the hotel at 1-800-266-9432 and ask for the NCBJ block of rooms.

Please note that all ACB meetings will be held at the adjoining Tampa Convention Center.



▲ Grant T. Stein,
Co-Editor

members. Rick's submission is much more than that also.

Remembering Louis W. Levit: Skilled, Scholarly, Professional

By: Richard J. Mason,
rjmason@mcguirewoods.com

Last January, at age 87, long-time College member Louis W. Levit passed away at his home near Chicago after a career in business bankruptcy law that spanned more than 60 years.



▲ Richard J. Mason



▲ Louis W. Levit

Lou was in the inaugural class of the College, serving as the first regent for the Seventh Circuit and later as an early Board member. He was widely respected for his powerful intellect, integrity, and superb skills as an advocate. He was survived by his spouse of 60 years, Ellen, and two sons, Alan, an actuary, and Bob, a psychotherapist. When I graduated from law school in 1977, Lou offered me a position as the youngest associate in his Chicago-based business bankruptcy practice. Although I was skeptical about devoting my career to the mysterious craft of bankruptcy, I accepted and soon discovered I made one of the best decisions of my life. Lou instilled in me a fascination and respect for bankruptcy law. We practiced law together for the next 25 years. At various times, he was my boss, my mentor, my partner, and my close friend. We soon hired another associate, Bob Fishman, now a terrific bankruptcy lawyer and prominent member of the College. Eventually, Lou, Bob, and I managed our growing firm until we gave in to the wave of mergers in the early 1990s.

Lou was at his best working on the cutting edge of the law. In the 1970s, he authored an influential law review article

The following article by Rick Mason remembering Lou Levit is a strong example of the diverse characteristics that reflect both the standards for Admission to the College and how to continue to meet our duties and responsibilities as professionals and College members. Rick's submission is much more than that also.

and gave a series of presentations advocating substantial revision of the bulk sales provisions of Article 6 of the Uniform Commercial Code. At first, I questioned his position. After all, he was challenging the wisdom of the scholarly drafters of the U.C.C. Nevertheless, by 2000, the great majority of states had repealed Article 6, and several others had significantly altered it. In 1982, we prepared one of two amicus briefs to the Supreme Court when Marathon Oil challenged the constitutionality of the bankruptcy court, and after the Court concluded that the bankruptcy judge's powers exceeded permissible limits, we wrote an article suggesting a legislative fix. A few years later, we decided to challenge Collier's interpretation of the preference reachback provisions for insiders in a case commonly known as *Deprizio*. At oral argument, Lou did a masterful job of persuading a panel of the Seventh Circuit that the only logical reading of the statute was to subject creditors with insider guarantees to a one-year reachback. Although the decision was followed in every Circuit considering the issue, it met with resistance from the financial services industry whose lobbyists ultimately persuaded Congress to overrule it with amendatory legislation.

By my count, Lou had a principal role in approximately 20 appeals to the Federal Courts of Appeal during his career. Reported decisions in Lou's cases shaped insolvency law on such important issues as corporate governance in reorganization, the liability of professionals to bankruptcy estates, the allowance of claims purchased by insiders during a bankruptcy, the impact of *res judicata* in bankruptcy cases, and the outer limits of the cram down powers of the court.

Lou was a skilled practitioner. His writing was clear, concise, and persuasive. His

oral arguments were often spellbinding. Lou had an uncanny ability to make you believe he actually knew what Congress intended by the language of the Bankruptcy Code. Lou was tough, but fair. In 2002, *Chicago Magazine* identified him as the only bankruptcy lawyer among "Chicago's Toughest Lawyers." Lou also found time to serve on charitable boards and perform pro bono work.

Lou was fiercely loyal to both his clients and his colleagues. If Lou thought a client had a just cause, he would frequently continue to provide legal services even when the client was unable to pay. Not surprisingly, clients often paid outstanding bills years later, not because Lou pressed for payment but because they remembered his earlier sacrifices. I never heard Lou utter a disparaging word to me or any other associate about the quality of our work. When he offered criticism, it was always constructive and designed to improve our skills.

Lou had a natural sense of humor that added to his charm. Our weekly meetings of lawyers were always upbeat and filled with playful ribbing. I remember once attending a meeting wearing a new winter tweed suit. Bob Fishman commented that the coat reminded him of a horse blanket. When I observed that the suit was made from pure virgin wool, Lou quipped that the sheep who contributed the wool was probably not a virgin by choice.

Lou Levit personified the ideals of the College. He was highly skilled, scholarly, and practical. He made time to instruct the next generation of lawyers and to take the lead in improving the law. He was widely recognized for his integrity. In these times when there is a tendency to treat our practices less like a profession and more like a business, the career of Lou Levit is especially worth remembering. 🏛️




▲ Lou's 75th Birthday Party on Lake Michigan.

Fifth Circuit Examines “Cram Down”

Deborah B. Langehennig

On January 15, 2011, the Fifth Circuit Fellows hosted a seminar in Austin, Texas, entitled “Cram Down: What Can I Prove is Fair and Equitable These Days?” The conference drew more than 100 attendees from Texas, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Arizona, Washington DC, Illinois, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Louisiana. A reception in honor of Judge H. Christopher Mott opened the seminar on Friday evening. On Saturday, panelists and audience members tackled topics such as valuation, interest rate, credit bidding, 363 sales and sales under a plan. In addition to bankruptcy professionals and bankruptcy judges from Texas, presenters included

Judge Arthur Gonzalez, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, SDNY and Judge Kevin Carey, Chief Bankruptcy Judge, Delaware.

Attendees who stayed in Austin on Saturday evening enjoyed a Texas BBQ dinner, followed by live music and dancing at the Broken Spoke. Thanks to administrative support and funding from the College, the Bankruptcy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, and the Western District of Texas Bankruptcy Bar Association, conference attendees and local attorneys enjoyed a wonderful reception at the Driskill Hotel and very affordable, interactive continuing legal education at an advanced level. 



▲ ACB Fellows at Cramdown Seminar, Austin, Texas.



▲ ACB Fellows enjoying dinner at the Broken Spoke.

Chair's Column

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but we are fortunate that he did.

Similarly, this fall in Tampa, we will hear from another Fellow who has made a contribution to our world. Judge Mike Williamson, who has spent a significant amount of time over the last four years trying to establish a commercial law system in Afghanistan, will relate his experiences during our luncheon. I know you will find his perspective engaging.

As the foregoing demonstrates, the College is made up of individuals with many dimensions; the opportunity to interact with each other, whether at one of our full College meetings or at one of the regional meetings or by working together on one of our unique Committees, provides a reward to all of us. Those who have experienced the camaraderie that is generated during the process (along with an excellent and lasting work product) will so attest.

At our recent meeting I announced that two of our committees, the Best Practices Committee - Equity Committees, and our Circuit Review project on business topics, recently completed their work. We are in the process of arranging for publication of those materials, which will be sent to all Fellows.

We are also underway with a Best Practice involving the Creditors Committee and a Circuit Review of consumer topics. We anticipate publishing these materials later this year or early next year when the work is completed. Under our arrangement with LexisNexis, all of our publications will continue to be available online through their service, as well as on our organization's own website.

In closing, I want to mention again, as I noted in our last edition of College Columns, that we are trying to take the mystery out of the College's workings. Several years ago we introduced an orientation session that is held on Saturday morning after the Induction Ceremony, and this year we have rolled out the mentor program for new inductees. As always, if you have ideas on how to make the College more successful or less mysterious, please share them with one of us in leadership. 

President's Column

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And, of course, kudos and thanks go also to Shari Bedker, our executive director, and her staff for making the event run so flawlessly.

The College's commitment to scholarship, research and writing continues to be strong. A Best Practices review has completed a comprehensive survey of equity committee issues, while a number of other Fellows worked to complete another Circuit Review. Both of these works will be printed and mailed to all

Fellows in June. In addition, the College has agreed to sponsor an updated version of Ken Klee's book, Bankruptcy and the Supreme Court.

The Circuit Admissions Councils will soon begin work reviewing nominations for the Class of 2012, and I am confident that their efforts will produce another great field of nominees. The work of these Circuit Admission Councils is truly critical to the long-term future of the College. Because the College is now nearly 25 years old, a number of our members are retiring from practice every year, and the work of the Councils

ensures that we continue to renew the membership of the College with outstanding lawyers, financial advisors, academicians and judges. I know from my own service as a member of a Circuit Admissions Council just how much one learns about the College by doing so, as well as the importance to the College of the work done by the Councils.

Congratulations to all Fellows on what should be another great year for the College. Achievement of that success will reflect contributions of all of the Fellows in the College, whose collective efforts have made it so vibrant and rewarding. 

How to Make a Foundation Donation

It is a continuing mission of the College to give back to the communities that sustain us. The College and the American College of Bankruptcy Foundation raise funds and distribute those funds to support worthy projects. The Foundation is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable orga-

nization; donations are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation in memory or in honor of an individual, or to recognize an event, we will advise the designated party. You can make donations at any time by check or through the website www.amercolbankruptcy.org.

2011 Foundation Donations

As of June 8, 2011, 128 Fellows have donated a total of \$35,570 to the Foundation.

Please note, we have added an online donation form to the homepage of the website, www.amercolbankruptcy.org, if you would like to make a donation at any time during the year.

First Circuit

Mitchell H. Cohen
Hon. J. Michael Deasy
Daniel M. Glosband
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Hon. James B. Haines, Jr.
Philip J. Hendel
In memory of Louis W. Levit
Philip J. Hendel
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
John Rao
Paul J. Ricotta
J. Robert Seder
Hon. Mark W. Vaughn

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J. Gregory Milmoie
Raymond J. Obuchowski
Adam L. Rosen
Leonard M. Rosen
Robert H. Scheibe
In loving memory of Judith F. Scheibe
J. Ronald Trost
William P. Weintraub

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Raymond L. Shapiro
Hon. Diane Weiss Sigmund
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J. Michael Booe
Lawrence D. Coppel
Gregory B. Crampton
Francis P. Dicello
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Craig Goldblatt
Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens
Robert G. Sable
Hon. Douglas O. Tice, Jr.

Fifth Circuit

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Hon. Jeff Bohm
Grover Hartt, III
Jan M. Hayden

Rebecca A. Roof

Berry D. Spears
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
R. Patrick Vance
Prof. Jay L. Westbrook

Sixth Circuit

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I. William Cohen
Rozanne M. Giunta
Richardo I. Kilpatrick
Kay Standridge Kress
Stephen D. Lerner
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Patrick E. Mears
G. Christopher Meyer
Mary Ann Rabin

Seventh Circuit

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John Wm. Butler, Jr.
David J. Hamernik
Melissa Kibler Knoll
Lawrence K. Snider
Steven B. Towbin
Charles F. Vihon

Eighth Circuit

James L. Baillie
Prof. Marianne B. Culhane
Hon. Nancy C. Dreher
Pulaski County Bar Association
In memory of Isaac A. Scott, Jr.

Ninth Circuit

Daniel E. Armel
Prof. Charles D. Booth
Hon. Charles G. Case
Steven and Sandra Felderstein
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Debra Grassgreen
Craig D. Hansen
Richard F. Holley
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Robert Jay Moore
Hon. Geraldine Mund
Prof. Grant W. Newton
Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP
Richard T. Peters
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Richard T. Peters
Randy Rogers
Lowell E. Rothschild
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Gerald K. Smith
James A. Wagner
Robert J. White
Hon. Gregg W. Zive

Tenth Circuit

Mona L. Burton
David E. Leta
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Edward J. Nazar

Hon. John K. Pearson

In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA

Eleventh Circuit

Paul J. Battista
Sarah R. Borders
Richard P. Carmody
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Roberta A. Colton
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Hon. A. Jay Cristol
Hon. Mary Grace Diehl
Leonard H. Gilbert
Robert B. Glenn
Neil C. Gordon
In honor of Leonard Gilbert's DSA
Camille Hope
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International

Lucio Ghia
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Tomoo Tasaku
Judge Jean-Luc Vallens

College Pro Bono Grant Boosts Prairie Services

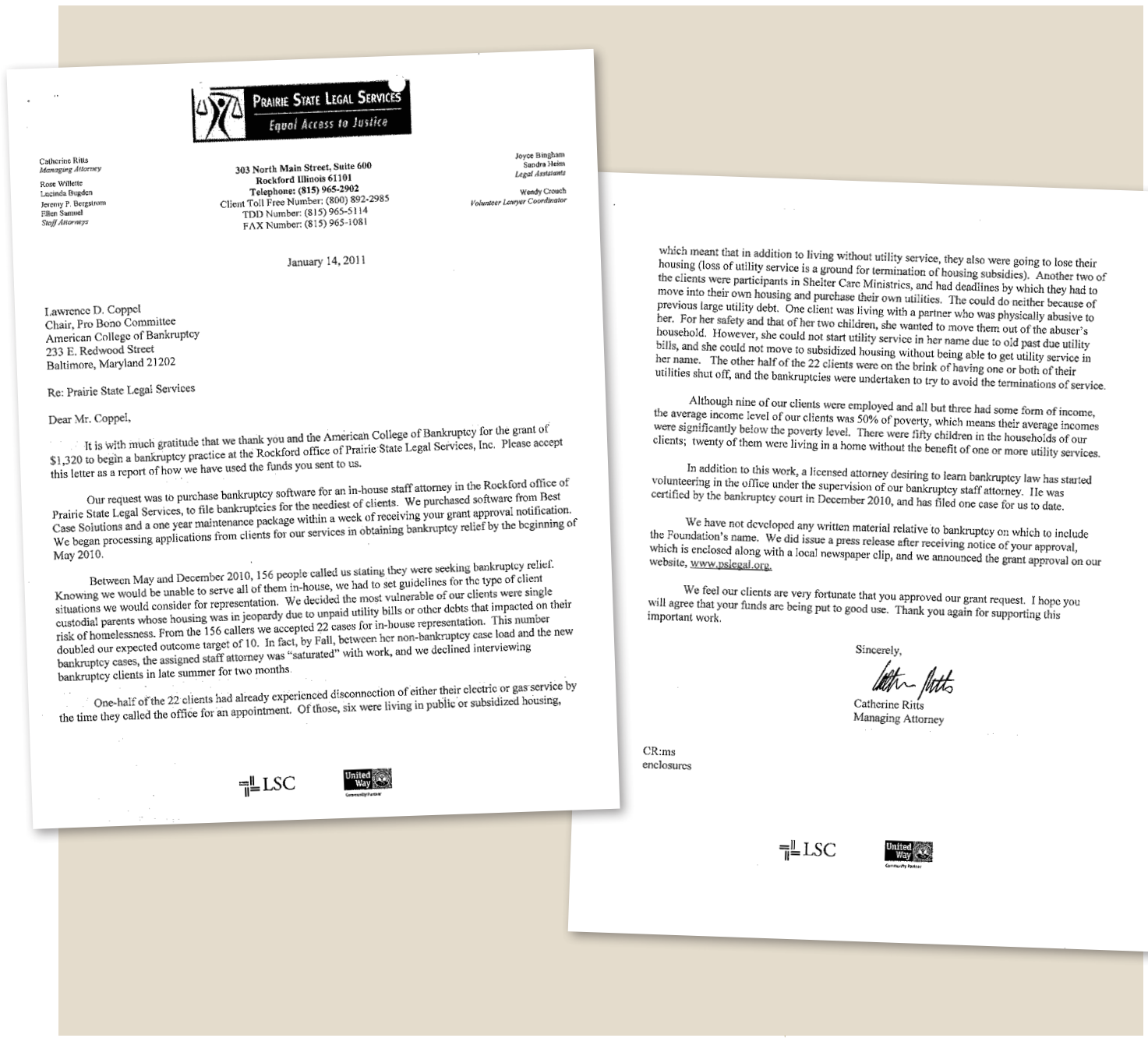
Lawrence D. Coppel, Chair, Pro Bono Committee

Do you ever consider how much difference the College can make with even a small outlay of funds? In 2010, the College's Pro Bono Committee approved a grant of \$1,320 to Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. in order to allow them to begin a bankruptcy practice to serve needy clients at their Rockford, Illinois, office. According to a report that Lawrence Coppel, Committee Chair, received recently from Catherine Ritts, the recipient's managing attorney, the funds have certainly been put to good use, perhaps even beyond the hopes that

prompted the grant request, among a population of truly needy clients.

Prairie State Legal Services requested funds to purchase bankruptcy software for an in-house staff attorney in their Rockford office, to file bankruptcies for the neediest of clients. Within a week of receiving the grant funds approval, they purchased software and a one-year maintenance package from Best Case Solutions, and began processing applications from clients for services in obtaining bankruptcy relief by the beginning of May 2010.

Between May and December 2010, 156 people called their office seeking bankruptcy relief. Knowing they would be unable to serve all of them in-house, they set guidelines for the type of client situations they would consider for representation. They decided the most vulnerable clients were single custodial parents whose housing was in jeopardy due to unpaid utility bills or other debts that increased their risk of homelessness. From the 156 callers, Prairie State Legal Services accepted 22 cases for in-house



Catherine Ritts
Managing Attorney
Rose Willette
Lucinda Staden
Jeremy P. Bergstrom
Ellen Samuel
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January 14, 2011

Lawrence D. Coppel
Chair, Pro Bono Committee
American College of Bankruptcy
233 E. Redwood Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Prairie State Legal Services

Dear Mr. Coppel,

It is with much gratitude that we thank you and the American College of Bankruptcy for the grant of \$1,320 to begin a bankruptcy practice at the Rockford office of Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. Please accept this letter as a report of how we have used the funds you sent to us.

Our request was to purchase bankruptcy software for an in-house staff attorney in the Rockford office of Prairie State Legal Services, to file bankruptcies for the neediest of clients. We purchased software from Best Case Solutions and a one year maintenance package within a week of receiving your grant approval notification. We began processing applications from clients for our services in obtaining bankruptcy relief by the beginning of May 2010.

Between May and December 2010, 156 people called us stating they were seeking bankruptcy relief. Knowing we would be unable to serve all of them in-house, we had to set guidelines for the type of client situations we would consider for representation. We decided the most vulnerable of our clients were single custodial parents whose housing was in jeopardy due to unpaid utility bills or other debts that impacted on their risk of homelessness. From the 156 callers we accepted 22 cases for in-house representation. This number doubled our expected outcome target of 10. In fact, by Fall, between her non-bankruptcy case load and the new bankruptcy cases, the assigned staff attorney was "saturated" with work, and we declined interviewing bankruptcy clients in late summer for two months.

One-half of the 22 clients had already experienced disconnection of either their electric or gas service by the time they called the office for an appointment. Of those, six were living in public or subsidized housing,

which meant that in addition to living without utility service, they also were going to lose their housing (loss of utility service is a ground for termination of housing subsidies). Another two of the clients were participants in Shelter Care Ministries, and had deadlines by which they had to move into their own housing and purchase their own utilities. The could do neither because of previous large utility debt. One client was living with a partner who was physically abusive to her. For her safety and that of her two children, she wanted to move them out of the abuser's household. However, she could not start utility service in her name due to old past due utility bills, and she could not move to subsidized housing without being able to get utility service in her name. The other half of the 22 clients were on the brink of having one or both of their utilities shut off, and the bankruptcies were undertaken to try to avoid the terminations of service.

Although nine of our clients were employed and all but three had some form of income, the average income level of our clients was 50% of poverty, which means their average incomes were significantly below the poverty level. There were fifty children in the households of our clients; twenty of them were living in a home without the benefit of one or more utility services.

In addition to this work, a licensed attorney desiring to learn bankruptcy law has started volunteering in the office under the supervision of our bankruptcy staff attorney. He was certified by the bankruptcy court in December 2010, and has filed one case for us to date.

We have not developed any written material relative to bankruptcy on which to include the Foundation's name. We did issue a press release after receiving notice of your approval, which is enclosed along with a local newspaper clip, and we announced the grant approval on our website, www.psjlegal.org.

We feel our clients are very fortunate that you approved our grant request. I hope you will agree that your funds are being put to good use. Thank you again for supporting this important work.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ritts
Managing Attorney

CR:ms
enclosures



representation, effectively doubling their expected outcome target of 10. In fact, between a non-bankruptcy case load and the new bankruptcy cases, the assigned staff attorney was "saturated" with work, and Prairie State Legal needed to take a hiatus from interviewing bankruptcy clients in late summer for two months.

Half of the 22 clients accepted for representation had already experienced disconnection of either their electric or gas service by the time they called the office for an appointment. Of those, six were living in public or subsidized housing which meant that in addition to living without utility service, they also were going to lose their housing (loss of utility service is a ground for termination of housing subsidies). Another two of the clients were participants in Shelter Care Ministries, and had deadlines by which they had to move into their own housing and purchase their own utilities. They could do neither because of previous large utility debt. One client was living with a partner who was physically abusive to her. For her safety and that of her two children, she wanted to move them out of the abuser's household. However, she could not start utility service in her name because of old past due utility bills, and she could not move to subsidized housing without being able to get utility service in her name.

The other half of the 22 clients were on the brink of having one or both of their utilities turned off, and the bankruptcies were undertaken to try to avoid the terminations of service.

Although nine of Prairie State Legal's accepted clients were employed and all but three had some form of income, the average income level of the clients as a whole was 50% of poverty, so their average incomes were significantly below the poverty level. There were 50 children in the households of the accepted clients; 20 of these children were living in a home without the benefit of one or more utility services.

In addition to this work, a licensed attorney desiring to learn bankruptcy law has started volunteering in the office under the supervision of Prairie State Legal's bankruptcy staff attorney. He was certified by the bankruptcy court in December 2010 and has filed one case to date.

To learn more about Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. and their work on behalf of needy clients, visit their web site at www.pslegal.org.

American College of Bankruptcy Recognizes Distinguished Law Students



▲ Emily Battersby, Laurel Harris, Stacia Stokes, William Becker, Jonathan Weiss, Kaaran Thomas and Jason Fisher.

The American College of Bankruptcy selected its Distinguished Law Students for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits for 2011. The Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Tenth Circuits will select students in 2012. The selected students were:

William D. Becker
Boston University School of Law
First Circuit

Laurel D. Harris
Hofstra University School of Law
Second Circuit

Emily Battersby
Seton Hall University School of Law
Third Circuit

Jason E. Fisher
University of Richmond School of Law
Fourth Circuit

Jonathan M. Weiss
UCLA School of Law
Ninth Circuit

Stacia M. Stokes
Emory University School of Law
Eleventh Circuit

The students undergo a rigorous nomination process. Students must be recommended by either a College Fellow or their professors. The nomination must also include the student's written materials and additional letters of recommendation. Each nominated student must have outstanding academic credentials and an interest in bankruptcy law. All of the nominated students are considered by the Circuit council of their circuit, which selects the winning student. Only one

student is selected from each Circuit. The selected students won an all expense paid trip to the College's annual Induction Ceremony and Events in Washington D.C. where they had the opportunity to meet and get to know the most distinguished bankruptcy practitioners and judges in the country.

College Honored for Generous Support in Florida

The American College of Bankruptcy was selected to receive a "Put Something Back" Pro Bono Award for Outstanding Participation on May 6, 2011 at the Legal Aid/Put Something Back (Dade County, Florida) Annual Awards Luncheon. ACB Fellow Patricia Redmond accepted the award on behalf of the College.

University of Miami Professors Jan Jacobowitz, Esq. and ACB Fellow Patricia Redmond, Esq., ACB Fellow Honorable Laurel M. Isicoff and Robert C. Meyer, Esquire participated in Dade Legal Aid's Annual Bankruptcy Seminar which recruits and trains attorneys to take pro bono bankruptcy cases in Miami-Dade. Special recognition to the American College of Bankruptcy and American College of Bankruptcy Foundation, the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, the Courts, the University of Miami School of Law and Dade County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section for generously supporting this event which recruited many new attorneys to accept chapter 7 and 13 pro bono cases for Miami-Dade Legal Aid's Pro Bono Project "Put Something Back."



▲ Professor Jan Jacobowitz, ACB Fellow Patricia Redmond, ACB Fellow Hon. Laurel M. Isicoff and Robert C. Meyer

American College of Bankruptcy Pro Bono Grants Calendar Year 2011

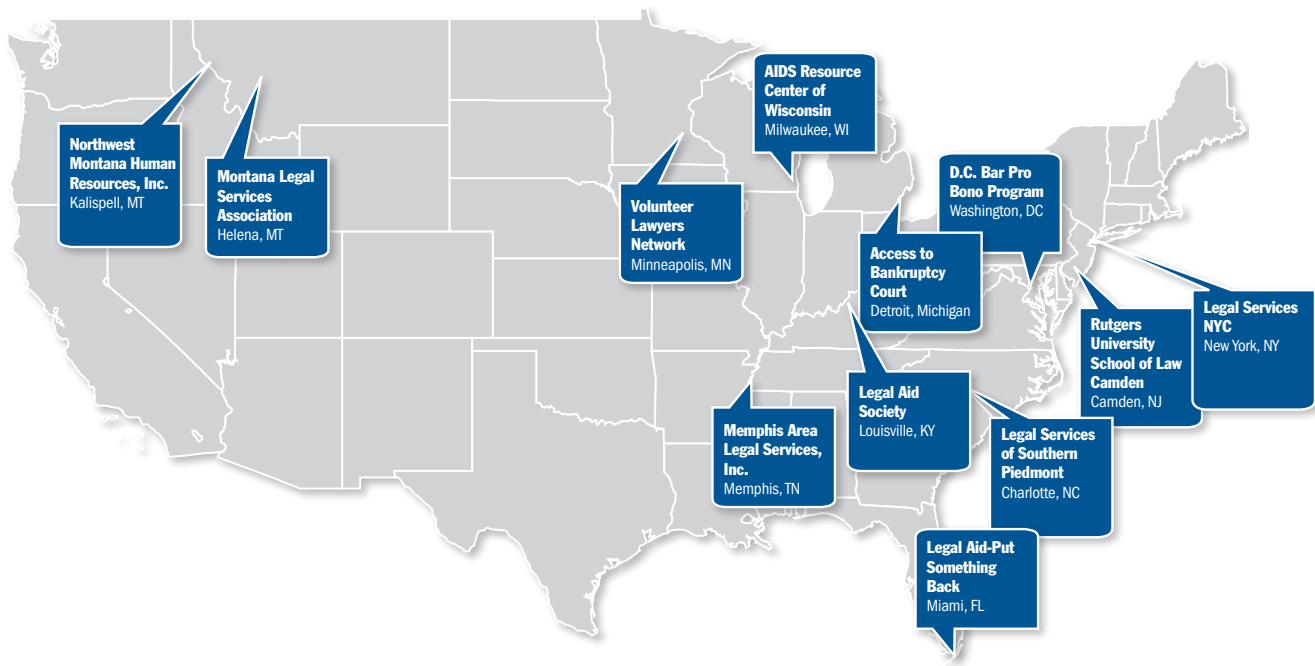
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3.	Legal Aid – Put Something Back 123 N.W. First Avenue Miami, FL 33128 Attn: Karen Josefsberg Ladis, Esquire Project Administrator (305)-579-1033 kladis@dadelegalaid.org
4.	Legal Aid Society 416 West Muhammad Ali Blvd. Suite 300 Louisville, KY 40202 Attn: Jeffrey A. Been Executive Director (502) 584-1254

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8.	Montana Legal Services Association 616 Helena Avenue, Suite 100 Helena, MT 59601 Attn: Elaine Dahl, Development Associate/Attorney (406) 442-9830 X38 edahl@mtlsa.org

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11.	Rutgers University School of Law – Camden 217 N. Fifth Street Camden, NJ 08102 Attn: Eve Biskind Klothen Assistant Dean Pro Bono Program (856) 225-6406 eklothen@camden.rutgers.edu
12.	Volunteer Lawyers Network 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390A Minneapolis, MN 55402 Attn: Suzanne Gautsch Pontinen Executive Director (612) 752-6671 Sue@volunteerlawyersnetwork.com

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