

2022 WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE: SPEAKER BIOS

Herbert L. Beskin practiced consumer bankruptcy law for 25 years in Charlottesville before being appointed a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Trustee for the Western District of Virginia in 2003. He has been a Virginia CLE lecturer since 1993, has written articles for The Virginia Lawyer and the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees website, and has taught law related courses at both the University of Virginia and Piedmont Virginia Community College. From 1991 to 1997 he served on the Board of Governors of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Virginia State Bar. He co-authored two chapters of the Virginia CLE publication Bankruptcy Practice in Virginia: Chapter 7 practice in the 1st edition with Douglas Little, and Chapter 13 practice in the 2nd and 3rd editions with Judge Rebecca Connelly. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees.

The Honorable Paul Black, Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia, was appointed in 2014. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Judge Black received his undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University in 1982, studied at Cambridge University in England, and received his law degree from the University of Richmond in 1985. He then served as law clerk to the Honorable Blackwell N. Shelley, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia. After practicing law in Richmond for several years, he returned to Roanoke where he was a member of the regional firm of Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC. At Spilman, he was co-chair of the Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights practice group, and his practice focused on commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and banking and finance law. In private practice, he was named to *Best Lawyers* in multiple areas related to finance and insolvency, to Virginia's "Legal Elite" by *Virginia Business* magazine in both Civil Litigation and Bankruptcy Law, and as a *Virginia Super Lawyer* in the field of Bankruptcy Law. For many years, he was an active participant in the Boyd-Graves Conference of the Virginia Bar Association, which studies and makes recommendations to the Virginia legislature on improvements to civil practice in Virginia. Judge Black was past chair of the Litigation Section of the Virginia State Bar, and also chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia Bar Association. He served as a member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board from 2007-2013. Judge Black is a frequent speaker to insolvency professionals on matters pertaining to bankruptcy, litigation, and ethics.

The Honorable Rebecca B. Connelly, Judge Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia, was appointed in July 2012. She is a former Standing Chapter 13 Trustee and Chapter 12 Trustee for the Western District of Virginia. She has been a frequent speaker and author for Virginia Continuing Legal Education programs and publications. Judge Connelly serves on the Board for CARE.

Rob Dean is a criminal defense attorney in Roanoke, Virginia. He represents individuals who have been charged with serious criminal and traffic offenses in state and federal court. He is a

graduate of the University of Michigan and Washington & Lee University School of Law, and is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Virginia, the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, and in each of Virginia's state courts.

Margaret K. Garber has been with the Roanoke Office of the United States Trustee Program since 1998 and has served as the Assistant United States Trustee since August of 2014. During those years, she has brought myriad civil enforcement actions including motions to dismiss, objections to discharge, motions to sanction and motion to review attorney's fees and/or bar attorneys from practice. Ms. Garber has also actively participated and testified in criminal actions referred by the Roanoke office to the United States Attorney's Office for prosecution. Ms. Garber received her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary. She graduated *with distinction* from the Emory University School of Law. While in law school, Ms. Garber's law review article was published in the Bankruptcy Developments Journal on which she served as Associate Editor. After law school, prior to joining the United States Trustee Program, Ms. Garber practiced bankruptcy law and commercial litigation with a firm in Roanoke, Virginia.

Malissa Lambert Giles is a member of the firm of Giles & Lambert, PC, in Roanoke, Virginia, with additional offices in Blacksburg and Martinsville. She and the firm, which was formed in 1993, limit their current practice to the areas of bankruptcy, focusing on debtors' rights and consumer law. She has taught at numerous bankruptcy and consumer seminars including the Mid-Atlantic Institute on Bankruptcy and Reorganization, the ABI's Spring Nuts and Bolts Seminar, Annual State wide Legal Aid Conference, the Virginia State Bar's First Day in Practice Seminar, the VBA's Bankruptcy Law Seminar, the VSB's Basic Bankruptcy Seminar and other bankruptcy seminars for VCLE/VSB. She has served as editor of the *Bankruptcy Law News*, and has served as chair of the Board of the Virginia State Bar's Bankruptcy Section.

John Goetz practices with the firm of John Goetz Law, PLC, in Warrenton, Virginia, and he is the owner of the same. He practices bankruptcy in the Eastern District of Virginia and the Western District of Virginia, and his firm, which is comprised of himself and one other attorney, primarily focuses on representation of consumer debtors in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. On occasion, he represents small businesses in Chapter 7 and Chapter 11. Mr. Goetz graduated with a B.S. from Liberty University and a J.D. from Liberty University School of Law, and is a member of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the Virginia State Bar.

Webb King has been a trial attorney with the Roanoke Office of the United States Trustee Program since 2015. He graduated from Roanoke College and the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law, both *magna cum laude*. At Richmond he was an associate editor on the law review, a member of the moot court board and a teaching assistant for a first-year law skills class. Before joining the

United States Trustee Program, he was a bankruptcy lawyer and litigator with a law firm in Roanoke, Virginia.

Chris Micale was appointed Chapter 13 Trustee as of June 2012. Prior to serving as a Chapter 13 Trustee he represented a bankruptcy trustee, worked as a project manager for a software company and as a paralegal for a bankruptcy trustee.

Steve Milo is a member of Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver PLC; he joined the firm in 1997 and has served multiple terms as both its managing partner and on its executive committee. He concentrates his practice in corporate reorganization, finance, and mergers and acquisition, with extensive experience as debtor's counsel in Chapter 11 proceedings. He began his legal career as law clerk to the Honorable Tina L. Brozman of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (1989-1991). Under Judge Brozman's tutelage, Steve worked on a number of the then-largest Chapter 11 proceedings in the country and had first hand, "from the bench" exposure to some of the brightest and most creative practitioners using the Bankruptcy Code for its intended purpose. After his clerkship, Steve joined the Manhattan office of Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hayes & Handler (now Arnold & Porter) in its corporate reorganization department, working, by choice, on predominantly debtor-side engagements. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Bridgewater College as an Academic All-American, he earned his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law, graduating from its evening division *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif and as Articles Editor of the Law Review.

Brandy Rapp is a partner in Whiteford, Taylor & Preston's Roanoke office; she concentrates her practice on bankruptcy and restructuring matters. She has a diverse practice representing debtors, trustees, liquidation trusts, creditors' committees, secured creditors, lessors and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy cases, business transactions and out-of-court restructurings. She has substantial experience within the following industries: mining, health care and construction. She is licensed to practice law in Virginia and West Virginia. Prior to entering private practice, Brandy served as law clerk to the Honorable William F. Stone, Jr. in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. She earned a B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Business Administration *summa cum laude* from West Virginia Wesleyan College, and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Richmond School of Law, where she was the Managing Editor of the Law Review and a member of the McNeill Law Society. She is an adjunct professor at Washington & Lee University School of Law, where she currently teaches a chapter 11 bankruptcy practicum. In 2019, she was selected by the American Bankruptcy Institute as a 40 Under 40 Emerging Leader in Insolvency. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Bankruptcy Law Section for the Virginia State Bar and is a member of the Ted Dalton American Inn of Court. She has routinely been listed in *Super*

Lawyers as a Rising Star, selected as a member of *Legal Elite* and listed in *The Best Lawyers of America* in the bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice areas.

James Reynolds is Clerk of Court for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. Prior to becoming Clerk, he was the division manager of the US Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria. From 1992-2014 he was a bankruptcy attorney in private practice representing primarily debtors and chapter 7 trustees. After graduating from William and Mary School of Law he clerked for the Honorable Hal J. Bonney, US Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Heidi Shafer is a 1999 graduate of Virginia Tech University with a B.A. in history and a minor in sociology. She received her J.D. in 2002 from Regent University, and was admitted to the Virginia State Bar the same year. She is currently a partner in the Cox Law Group, where her practice is dedicated to bankruptcy law. Prior to joining the firm, her practice included domestic and juvenile law, civil litigation, and criminal law. She is a member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys.

Angela Scolforo is the Staff Attorney to Herbert L. Beskin, Chapter 13 Trustee for the Western District of Virginia, where she has worked for 16 years. She has spoken on seminar panels in Virginia and nationally and enjoys learning from and interacting with her peers. Before becoming a Staff Attorney, she represented debtors in consumer bankruptcy cases and a myriad of other clients. She also serves as the Town Attorney for Gordonsville, Virginia. She graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1998, and received a B.A. in English from the College of the Holy Cross in 1987. She is the past Chairman of the Bankruptcy Section of the Virginia State Bar on which she served from 2009 through 2016.

Janet Van Cuyk is a lawyer and social worker and assistant director of the Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program. She has worked directly with adolescents and adults with mental health concerns and other stressors in a variety of settings and, in a legal capacity, in a law firm and in state government. Ms. Van Cuyk has an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Sociology from Boston College; a Master in Social Work degree from Virginia Commonwealth University; and her law degree from the University of Virginia.