



IWIRC NEWSLETTER

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Tinamarie Feil, Editor

FROM THE CHAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Leslie A. Berkoff, IWIRC Chair

As we move into spring I am looking forward to our Second Annual Founder's Awards Luncheon to be held in conjunction with the ABI Spring Conference in April. I hope that each and every one of you will make the effort to join us at this event. If you cannot make it for the whole ABI program, at minimum, please at least try to join us at the Awards Luncheon. This year we will be presenting the Melnik Award to Janet Bostwick a former Chair and long-standing IWIRC member, and the Ryan Award for Outstanding IWIRC Network to the Carolinas Network in recognition of its innovative programming and growth since its formation not too long ago. We are also looking forward to having an invigorating speaker, Andrea Nierenberg, President of the Nierenberg Group, who will be lecturing on "Networking Strategies".

As IWIRC celebrates its 10th year anniversary, I am thrilled to announce that come the fall, IWIRC will be hosting its first ever reception in conjunction with the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges for the women judges. This event will be combined with the evening of our conference's opening reception and information will be sent to all of the Judges in their NCBJ brochure. I have been working very closely with a liaison committee chaired by the Honorable Joan Feeney, United States Bankruptcy Judge, District of Massachusetts, which has secured the opportunity for us to host this reception. This committee has also allowed us an opportunity to work with the NCBJ to put on an educational program at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in the year 2006.

In keeping with the good news, I am pleased to announce that IWIRC is now considered an official sponsor of the ABI's London's Conference which will be held on September 23, 2005. I am currently working on the International Advisory Board to assist in the programming for this conference. What does all of this mean for IWIRC, ladies? Well we certainly have arrived. All of the years of hard work by our prior Chairs, our Founders and our Networks is being recognized by respected Bankruptcy institutions who now wish to partner with us on a regular basis. I am hopeful that over the next 10 years, the growth will continue and broaden to include more programming on an international level.

INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

PUTTING THE "I" INTO IWIRC

*Shahana Kar (Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP - Toronto)
International Editor*

One of the best reasons for belonging to IWIRC is to meet and network with insolvency professionals from jurisdictions other than your own and to learn about how insolvency cases are handled there. The opportunity to become familiar with insolvency-related practices, procedures, rulings and law in different parts of the world is a tremendous benefit for IWIRC members. Your broadened knowledge base can help you pitch a new client, add value for an existing client and hopefully, make you more marketable. To that end, I encourage you to submit an article for the international column of the Newsletter which is dedicated to getting the word out about what is happening in the insolvency scene where you practice. So, if an interesting case has been decided, a new law or regulation has come into force or something of interest to insolvency practitioners has occurred in your jurisdiction, send a short article to me at skar@casselsbrock.com. There is a maximum word length of only 500 words so I encourage you to contribute often! To get things started this year, here is a synopsis of one of the most interesting restructurings in Canada: Stelco Inc. (see pg 2)

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STELCO STOPS HORSING AROUND

Shahana Kar (Cassels, Brock & Blackwell LLP - Toronto)

In January 2004, Stelco Inc., one of Canada's largest steelmakers, obtained an Order for creditor protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (the "CCAA"), the Canadian equivalent to Chapter 11 of the *United States Bankruptcy Code*. One of the reasons Stelco filed for protection under the CCAA was its pension shortfall which was estimated to be \$1.0 billion in 2003 and \$1.28 billion at the end of 2004. Notwithstanding creditor protection, Stelco posted profits of \$100 million in the second and third quarters of 2004 largely due to record world steel prices and huge demand in China.

A bidding war emerged for Stelco's core operations. A \$900 million bid by Deutsche Bank was approved by the Court last year as the benchmark stalking horse bid for other potential suitors to match. Numerous bidders expressed interest in acquiring the company's operations and had until February 14, 2005 to complete their due diligence and submit formal bids. The bidders included United States Steel Corp. of Pittsburgh, Algoma Steel Inc. of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, OAO Severstal of Russia, Mittal Steel Inc. of London, and a joint bid by mining giant Sherritt International Corp. and the Ontario Teachers Pension Plan. The bidding war for Stelco then saw a few departures when Algoma Steel Inc. and US Steel withdrew from the race. The OAO Severstal bid was supported by the United Steelworkers of America union and five Stelco union locals.

In a surprise move, at the beginning of March, Stelco rejected all bids to buy the company as well as the stalking horse agreement. According to Stelco President, Courtney Pratt, the "process did not turn up any acceptable proposals from strategic or financial bidders." Stelco shares went up significantly after the company rejected all bids. Stelco will now attempt to find new financing itself, present a plan to raise such funding by the end of March and emerge from the CCAA proceedings in June or July without being sold.

In other Stelco news, the Court supervising the restructuring proceedings ousted two members of the board one week after they were appointed because their presence created an "apprehension of bias". The appointments were opposed by the steel workers' union, salaried retirees and salaried employees who viewed the directors as representing shareholder interests to the detriment of other stakeholders. The directors have launched an appeal on the basis that there was no jurisdiction to order them off the board. The Ontario Court of Appeal heard an expedited appeal on March 18, 2005, and its decision will likely have an important impact on the powers of the court in the boardroom.

TORT CLAIM RESOLUTION IN BANKRUPTCY

*Glenn F. Brown, Senior Consultant
Albert Risk Management, Needham, MA
gbrown@albertrisk.com*

Approved Dispute Resolution Procedures – with the proper plan, claims can be resolved quickly and efficiently

When a company files for chapter 11 protection, the result is a Stay of Proceedings relative to pre-petition claims. The Stay doesn't eliminate tort claims, but with the proper plan claims can be resolved quickly and efficiently and there might even be a return of funds to the Estate.

Dispute Resolution Plans

Companies in chapter 11 with self-insured or loss sensitive insurance programs have a financial stake in the resolution of their tort claims. Either the claims need to be run off to define/minimize the Estate's liability or the insurance plan may be collateralized to the point where a run off of the claims results in a return of funds to the Estate. Recognizing that pending claims can affect an Estate's assets, many bankruptcy courts have approved Dispute Resolution Procedures that provide Debtors with control and oversight as well as tight timeframes for claim resolution. A well drafted plan also creates leverage that encourages swift settlement at sharply compromised values.

Proof of Claim

A comprehensive proof of claim process is an important first step in a Dispute Resolution Plan. This will define the tort claim universe and forever bar non-respondents. The process entails establishing a tort claim bar date and then executing a mailing to all known pending claimants and their attorneys. It is also good practice to publish the bar date in the newspapers of record in the relevant jurisdictions. A thorough mailing/advertising effort will provide a strong basis for excluding non-respondents from the tort claim resolution process. In circumstances where an insurer is holding collateral, it is especially important to define the tort claim universe. Insurers will want to hold onto substantial "excess" cash if they believe that additional claims could come out of the woodwork at any time.

Claim Resolution

An effective Dispute Resolution Plan contains many burdensome steps that a plaintiff must take to lift the Stay of Proceedings. The steps would include requiring full settlement packages within perhaps 60 days followed by a negotiation period of 90 – 120 days, then a mandatory mediation if no settlement agreement in the negotiation period, and finally the filing of an objection to the claim in bankruptcy.



court if mediation is unsuccessful. The plan should also provide for Sanctions (including disallowance of the claim) for failure to adhere to the Procedures.

Negotiating Leverage

The possible sanctions and possible necessity of appearing in bankruptcy court create negotiating leverage. Additional leverage is created if the claims will be paid in reduced dollars through a tort claim distribution rate. If claims won't be paid in full dollars, there is little incentive for the plaintiff or the attorney to expend the time and expense necessary to satisfy each step. Even if all steps are satisfied and the Stay is lifted, additional time and money would be required of the plaintiffs to proceed in Civil Court only to face an uncertain litigation result and the same reduced distribution rate. The cost versus benefit of pursuing a claim is greatly affected by the reduced pay out. Both the Estate and the plaintiff are better off by working out an amicable, early resolution. It is the Claims Administrator's job to convince the plaintiff and the attorney of this fact.

Barriers to Settlement

The confusing nature of the bankruptcy process or a plaintiff attorney's unfamiliarity with bankruptcy issues are possible barriers to tort claim resolution. Settlement paralysis can occur because claimants and attorneys are afraid to misstep for fear of malpractice or of having their claim disallowed. They also may not want to accept that the bankruptcy filing might cause them to receive a lower payout than they were expecting. A claims expert that is able to clearly and credibly communicate the dispute resolution process can overcome this paralysis to allow quick tort claim resolution to occur.

Conclusion

Dispute Resolution Procedures are an effective tool for bankrupt companies with self-insured or loss sensitive insurance programs. They can minimize the tort claim liabilities while providing an efficient mechanism for claim resolution and they may even allow for asset recovery if an insurer is holding collateral which exceeds the liability.

MEMBER NEWS

Shari Bedker, IWIRC Administrative Director

IWIRC congratulates Six IWIRC Members Inducted as Fellows of the American College of Bankruptcy on March 18, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

The following six IWIRC members were included in the 32 nominees from the United States and abroad being inducted in

the Sixteenth Class of College Fellows. All are being honored and recognized for their professional excellence and exceptional contributions to the fields of bankruptcy and insolvency.

Bonnie Glantz Fatell, Blank Rome LLP, Wilmington, DE

Hon. Joan N. Feeney, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Boston, MA

Hon. Judith K. Fitzgerald, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Pittsburgh, PA

Kay Standridge Kress, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Detroit, MI

Margaret M. Mann, Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe LLP, San Diego, CA

Kayalyn A. Marafioti, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, NY

The ceremony took place in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court of the United States and was presided over by Ralph R. Mabey, Chair of the College. The keynote speaker was Harvey R. Miller, Esq.

The American College of Bankruptcy is an honorary professional and educational association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals. The College plays an important role in sustaining professional excellence in this rapidly expanding field of expertise. College Fellows include commercial and consumer bankruptcy attorneys, insolvency accountants, turnaround and workout specialists, law professors, judges, government officials and others involved in the bankruptcy and insolvency community.

Nominees for Fellows are extended an invitation to join based on a record of achievement reflecting the highest standards of professionalism. The College now has 633 Fellows, each selected by a Board of Regents from among recommendations of the Circuit Admissions Council in each federal judicial circuit and specially appointed Committees for Judicial and Foreign Fellows.

Criteria for selection include: the highest standard of professionalism, ethics, character, integrity, professional expertise and leadership contributing to the enhancement of bankruptcy and insolvency law and practice; sustained evidence of scholarship, teaching, lecturing or writing on bankruptcy or insolvency; and commitment to elevate knowledge and understanding of the profession and public respect for the practice.

Evelyn Biery Elected Chair...

Evelyn H. Biery, head of the Bankruptcy, Reorganization and Creditors' Rights Department of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., was elected chair of the board of directors of the American College of Bankruptcy.



Susan Barnes de Resendiz is relocating her practice...

Susan Barnes de Resendiz, counsel in the Corporate Restructuring and Financial Institutions Practice of the Firm of Gardner Carton & Douglas, is relocating her practice to Houston, Texas, to better serve GCD clients in that region.

Susan has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in both Cleveland and Houston. She practices in the areas of bankruptcy, banking, and commercial law. Over the course of her years in practice, Ms. de Resendiz has been involved in a number of large insolvencies, including: *UAL Corp., Kmart, Vanguard Airlines, Outboard marine, Nanovation Technologies, Wisconsin Color Press, Reveco, LTV, Baldwin-United, EPIC, Hunt Steel, D.H. Overmyer, L.S. Good Department Stores, Cook United, UPI, National Gypsum, Sage Enterprises, Wickes, Inc., and Builders Plumbing and heating Supply Co., Inc.*

Ms. De Resendiz is admitted to practice in Ohio, Florida, the District of Columbia, and Texas and is an active member of the bar associations in those states. She is also a member of the International Bar Association, American Bar Association (Co-Chair, Subcommittee on membership of the Business Bankruptcy Committee, and member of the Consumer Financial Services Subcommittee, Section of Business Law), Turnaround Management Association, Texas Association of Bank Counsel, and the Association for Corporate Growth. She was the first woman chair of the Banking, Bankruptcy, and Commercial Law Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association, Columbus, Ohio. Susan Barnes de Resendiz may be contacted at: (713) 984-9234 sderesendiz@gcd.com

Tinamarie Feil, networking Down Under ...

Tinamarie Feil of BMC Group, was part of the "Managing Multi-Jurisdictional Litigation in Stress Situations" panel on March 16th at INSOL's Seventh World Congress in Sydney, Australia. Her topic? *Contingency Fees as a Source of Litigation Funding*. While there she met up with fellow IWIRC members **Bae Bastian** of National Australia Bank Group and **Mary Nemeth** of Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

Valerie Hamilton Named Shareholder...

Sterns & Weinroth, P.C., is pleased to announce that Valerie A. Hamilton, a member of the New Jersey Network of IWIRC, has been named a shareholder of the firm, effective January 1, 2005. Ms. Hamilton is a member of the firm's Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights Practice and represents debtors, Chapter 7 and 11 trustees, and secured and unsecured creditors in Chapter 7, 11, and 13 bankruptcy cases and workout matters. She is a former judicial law clerk to the Hon. Rosemary Gambardella, Chief Judge, United States

Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, and the Hon. Joseph H. Rodriguez, United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. She has significant bankruptcy litigation experience and was recently appointed to the Lawyers' Advisory Committee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. Ms. Hamilton earned her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law at Camden in 1995, and received a B.A. from Douglass College at Rutgers University in 1992. In addition to her membership in IWIRC, she is a Master of the Bankruptcy Inn of Court, and is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the American Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the Mercer County Bar Association. She is also a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Sterns & Weinroth, P.C., concentrates in administrative/Governmental Law, Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights, Litigation, and Real Estate/Transactional Law. The firm also has the largest Gaming practice in New Jersey and one of the largest in the country. For more information, please visit www.sternslaw.com.

Susan Koenig Speaks ...

Suzanne Koenig, of SAK Management Services LLC, was a guest speaker at the 9th Annual National Medicaid/Medicare Conference in Sarasota, Florida on March 10, 2005, sponsored by HealthTrust LLC, Health Care Reit, GMACCM, Merrill Lynch Capital, GE Healthcare Financial Services, Capital Source, LaSalle Bank ABN AMRO, Ziegler Healthcare Capital, LLC, and The Survey Companies LLC. Her presentation was titled the "The Turnaround Operator's Perspective". Suzanne is a Healthcare Turnaround consultant who specializes in optimizing financial and operating performance in the Seniors Housing and Care Industry.

Susan Montgomery Opens Office....

Congratulations to Susan Montgomery who has opened up her own office! Susan will continue to specialize in bankruptcy and receiverships. Be sure to call Susan for your local counsel needs! Law Office of Susan I. Montgomery 10390 Santa Monica Blvd, 4th Fl, Los Angeles, CA (310) 556-8900 susan@simontgomerylaw.com

Jill Murch Promoted....

Best wishes to Jill Murch, of Foley & Lardner LLP. Jill was promoted to senior counsel on February 1, 2005. Foley & Lardner LLP's Business Reorganizations Practice Group extensive experience in representing every constituency involved in major reorganizations, bankruptcies, and workouts. jmurch@foley.com (312) 832-4522



Gail Reese is President...

B. Gail Reese of Nashville, TN is now president of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, which is the premier provider of CLE for bankruptcy and commercial litigation in TN. The Institute's next program will be Dec. 1-2 at the Hilton Hotel in Nashville. For more information go to: www.midsouthseminar.org or you may contact Gail at greeser@wvattfirm.com. One of the featured speakers is Jonathan Landers, husband of New York IWIRC member Sandy Riemer.

NETWORK SPOTLIGHT

COLUMBUS OHIO NETWORK

Natashia M. Bush, Chair

The Columbus IWIRC Chapter celebrated receiving last year's Ryan Award (Best Local Chapter), by hosting a "Banca Rotta" celebration at the Franklin Park Conservatory amongst a Chihuly glass art exhibit. This reception, which also commemorated the Chapter's strong presence in the bankruptcy community in central Ohio, was attended by approximately 100 practitioners, including several Bankruptcy Judges. Additionally, in October, the Columbus Chapter hosted our annual law student reception at Ohio State University Law School to provide law students insight, thoughts and suggestions on practicing law from various practitioners in all different law related fields. And, continuing in its annual Christmas tradition of philanthropy, the Chapter adopted an underprivileged family and donated over three dozen presents and clothing items to the needy family so that they could enjoy the Holiday. The Chapter also raised \$1,700 to pay for a sick child's operation during the same time. Upcoming events for this very busy IWIRC Chapter include sponsoring a luncheon at the Columbus Bar Association's Bankruptcy Law Institute in May, which will feature Dr. Lewis-Lyons speaking on "Grief and Loss: How to handle the expected and unexpected changes that shake us to the core," as well as a joint breakfast meeting with a similar organization, Turnaround Management.

CONNECTICUT NETWORK

Aimee E. Heden, Co-Chair
Sharyn B. Zuch, Co-Chair

Carol Felicetta and Barbara Katz, Connecticut IWIRC members, have been working together with Chief Bankruptcy Judge Albert S. Dabrowski, attorneys from the Hartford County Bar Association and the New Haven Bar Association, and other members of the federal bench, to sponsor, develop

and present a credit education program for Connecticut high school students that is modeled after the CARE Program.

The CARE Program is a voluntary effort by legal and business professionals, in conjunction with United States Bankruptcy Judges, to educate high school students regarding the potential pitfalls of credit card use. Founded in Rochester, New York by United States Bankruptcy Court Judge John C. Ninfo and the Bankruptcy Committee of the Monroe County (New York) Bar Association, the CARE Program seeks to inform students about the real life consequences of using credit. The presentation lasts one class period and covers such topics as the true cost of credit, wants vs. needs, and the consequences of credit card abuse, including, for example, being turned down for a job, being denied admission to graduate school, and being denied loan(s). The concept is to reach the students before they use credit cards unwisely and encourage and educate them about how to make responsible spending choices. The presentation involves real stories of every day people who have had serious financial problems combined with easy to understand charts and graphs which portray financial realities. The ideal audience is a class of students about to enter the workforce or attend college. While the presentation is primarily a lecture format, we welcome and encourage class participation through questions and open frank discussion.

The Connecticut CARE Program recently launched its pilot program and has made several well-received presentations to Connecticut high schools and has been endorsed by the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS). On January 31, 2005, Judge Dabrowski conducted a training session in his courtroom for prospective CARE volunteers. We are happy to note that several Connecticut IWIRC members attended the training. The committee is now in the process of contacting several local high schools to arrange presentations for April and May.

GEORGIA NETWORK

Leanne Gould, Co-Chair
Shayna M. Steinfeld, Co-Chair

IWIRC – Georgia Network continued its busy program of events for 2004 – 2005 with a meeting in February hosted at the offices of Alston & Bird. Leanne Gould with Ernst & Young and Jill Snyder with Wachovia co-presented at the breakfast on "Understanding a Debtor's Financial Position: A Map to the Future." The presentation succinctly focused the network members on the key ratios and financial trends that lenders look for in providing DIP and post restructuring financing.



The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th at the offices of Paul Hastings. The Work-Life Balance Program will feature a panel discussion with Judge Bihary, Laura Woodson of Smith Gambrell & Russell, Shannon Baxter of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker and Katie Goodman of Grisanti, Galef & Goldress.

The Georgia Network is continuing to review various community service programs.

NEW ENGLAND NETWORK

Christine E. Devine, Co-Chair
Pamela A. Harbeson, Co-Chair

In February, the New England Network kicked off the new year with a lively dinner discussion on the topic of how to work with in-house counsel. The evening was spent over a wonderful meal at Maggiano's Restaurant in Boston, with approximately thirty participants engaging in the insightful discussion lead by two outstanding speakers, Deena Ethridge of Columbia Management Services and Deborah Stalker of Liberty Mutual. Thanks to all for a very successful event!

In upcoming news, the New England Network will be hosting a brown bag luncheon at 12:00 noon on March 24, 2005, at the offices of the Boston Bar Association. Participants can look forward to an informal networking event.

The New England Network is also hosting a reception for newly appointed United States Bankruptcy Judge Robert Somma. The reception will take place at 5:30 p.m. on April 12, 2005, at the Omni Parker House. Let's all join together in welcoming Judge Somma to the bench!

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NETWORK

Amy Goldman, Co-Chair
Susan Montgomery, Co-Chair

The Southern California Network has been busy planning its Spring event which will actually take place June 1st. We will be hosting an evening with Dr. Darlene Mininni author of *The Emotional Toolkit: 7 Power-Skills to Nail Your Bad Feelings*. Dr. Mininni is an emotional health specialist with a Ph.D. in clinical psychology and a master's degree in public health. For 15 years, she was an educator at the UCLA Arthur Ashe Health & Wellness Center. This dinner, speaker, book signing and networking event will be held at the Regency Club in Westwood and promises to be great fun and educational!

Our Network is new but we are finding great success with a

membership count of 63. Our last event, a tea during the winter holidays drew over 100 people.

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Tucker Arensberg, P.C.
Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Weinstein, Eisen & Weiss LLP
Los Angeles, CA, USA

IWIRC NETWORK CHAIRS

IWIRC Australia Network Chair

Dina Glass
Middletons Lawyers
Level 3/10 Shelley Street
Sydney, NSW 2000 Australia
Tel: 61-02-8220-1904 / Fax: 61-02-8220-1999
E-Mail: dina_glass@middletons.com.au

IWIRC Southern California Network Co-Chairs

Amy L. Goldman
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
221 N. Figueroa Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012 USA
Tel: 213-580-7944 / Fax: 213-580-7921
E-Mail: goldman@lbbslaw.com

Susan Montgomery

Law Office of Susan I. Montgomery
10390 Santa Monica Boulevard, 4th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-6917
Tel: 310-556-8900 / Fax: 310-556-8905
E-Mail: susan@simontomerylaw.com

IWIRC Canadian Network Chair

Catherine Hristow
PricewaterhouseCoopers Inc.
145 King Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 1V8 Canada
Tel: 416-941-8274 / Fax: 416-863-0926
E-Mail: catherine.a.hristow@ca.pwcglobal.com

IWIRC Carolinas Network Chair

Tracy Gopal
Giuliani Capital Advisors LLC
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30308-2215
Tel: 404-815-3427 / Fax: 404-815-3430
E-Mail: tracy.gopal@giulianicap.com

IWIRC Central Ohio Network Co-Chairs

Natashia M. Bush
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Chambers of Charles M. Caldwell
170 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215 USA
Tel: 614-469-6638 X261 / Fax: 614-469-5506
E-Mail: natashia_bush@ohsb.uscourts.gov



IWIRC Chicago Network Chair

Carmen Lonstein

Bell Boyd & Lloyd
70 W. Madison, Suite 3200
Chicago, IL 60602 USA
Tel: 312-807-4397 / Fax: 312-827-7073
E-Mail: clonstein@bellboyd.com

IWIRC Connecticut Network Co-Chairs

Aimee E. Heden

Blum Shapiro Litigation Consulting Group, LLC
29 South Main Street, Suite 305
West Hartford, CT 06127-2000 USA
Tel: 860-561-6874 / Fax: 860-521-0035
E-Mail: aheden@blumshapiro.com

Sharyn B. Zuch

Wiggin & Dana LLP
185 Asylum Street
One City Place
Hartford, CT 06103-3402 USA
Tel: 860-297-3715 / Fax: 860-525-9380
E-Mail: szuch@wiggin.com

IWIRC Delaware Network Chair

Victoria Watson Counihan

Greenberg Taurig, LLP
1000 West Street, Suite 1540
Wilmington, DE 19801 USA
Tel: 302-661-7000 / Fax: 302-661-7360
E-Mail: counihanv@gtlaw.com

IWIRC Florida Network Chair

Allison R. Day

Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A.
Bank of America Tower
100 S.E. Second Street, 36th Floor
Miami, FL 33131 USA
Tel: 305-349-2300 / Fax: 305-349-2310
E-Mail: aday@gjb-law.com

IWIRC Georgia Network Co-Chairs

Leanne Gould

Ernst & Young LLP
600 Peachtree Street, Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30308 USA
Tel: 404-817-5812 / Fax: 866-233-2054
E-Mail: leanne.gould@ey.com

Jennifer Meyerowitz

Alston & Bird LLP
1201 W. Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30309 USA
Tel: 404-881-4791 / Fax: 404-253-8749
E-Mail: jmeyerowitz@alston.com

IWIRC Michigan Network Chair

Sheryl L. Toby

Dykema Gosset PLLC
400 Renaissance Center
36th Floor
Detroit, MI 48243 USA
Tel: 313-568-5407 / Fax: 313-568-6832
E-Mail: stoby@dykema.com

IWIRC New England Network Co-Chairs

Christine E. Devine

Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee LLP
100 Front Street
Worcester, MA 01608 USA
Tel: 508-791-8500 / Fax: 508-791-8502
E-Mail: cedevine@modl.com

Pamela A. Harbeson

Looney & Grossman LLP
101 Arch Street
Boston, MA 02110 USA
Tel: 617-951-2800 / Fax: 617-951-2819
E-Mail: pharbeson@lgllp.com

IWIRC New Jersey Network Chair

Ilana Volkov

Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, P.A.
25 Main Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601 USA
Tel: 201-525-6269 / 201-678-6269
E-Mail: ivolkov@coleschotz.com

IWIRC New York Network Co-Chairs

Elizabeth R. Ellison

Donlin, Recano & Co., Inc.
419 Park Avenue South, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10016 USA
Tel: 212-481-1411 / Fax: 212-481-1416
E-Mail: ceilison@donlinrecano.com

Sandra A. Riemer

Phillips Nizer LLP
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103 USA
Tel: 212-841-0589 / Fax: 212-262-5152
E-Mail: sriemer@phillipsnizer.com

IWIRC New Zealand Network

Rochelle Hume

Phillips Fox Lawyers
P.O. Box 160
Auckland New Zealand
Tel: 64-9-300-3869 / Fax: 64-9-303-2311
E-Mail: rochelle.hume@phillipsfox.com



IWIRC Central Ohio Network Chair

Stephanie Champ

Carlisle Patchen & Murphy LLP
366 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215 USA
Tel: 614-228-6135 / Fax: 614-221-0216
E-Mail: sdc@cpmlaw.com

IWIRC Northeast Ohio Network Chair

Jean R. Robertson

McDonald Hopkins Co., LPA
600 Superior Avenue, E
Suite 2100
Cleveland, OH 44114 USA
Tel: 216-348-5769 / Fax: 216-344-5769
E-Mail: jrobertson@medonaldhopkins.com

IWIRC Texas Network Chair

Erica Bramer

AlixPartners LLC
2100 McKinney Avenue, Suite 800
Dallas, TX 75201 USA
Tel: 214-647-7634 / Fax: 214-647-7503
E-Mail: ebramer@alixpartners.com

IWIRC Tri-State Network Chair

Elene Mountis Moran

Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
301 Grant Street
14th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1425 USA
Tel: 412-394-2378 / Fax: 412-394-2555
E-Mail: emoran@thorpreed.com

IWIRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Leslie A. Berkoff, Chair

Moritt Hock Hamroff & Horowitz LLP
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 202
Garden City, NY 11530 USA
1.516.873.2000 / fax 1.516.873.2010
lberkoff@mhhlaw.com

Debra E. Kuptz, Vice Chair

AlixPartners LLC
2000 Town Center
Suite 2400
Southfield, MI 48075 USA
1.248.358.4420
1.248.263.8104 fax

Judith Elkin, Secretary-Treasurer

Haynes and Boone, LLP
399 Park Avenue
23rd Floor
New York, NY 10022 USA
1.212.659.4968
1.212.884.8228 fax
elkinj@haynesboone.com

DIRECTORS

Tinamarie Feil, Communications Director

BMC Group, Inc.
1330 East Franklin Avenue
El Segundo, CA 90245
1.310.321.5552
1.310.640.8071 fax
tfeil@bmcgroup.com

N. Lynn Hiestand, International Director

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP
40 Bank Street
Canary Wharf
London, E14 5DS England
44.(0)20.7519.7000 / fax 44.(0)20.7072.7120
lhiestan@skadden.com

Brenda K. Bowers, Membership Services Director

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP
52 East Gay Street
P.O. Box 1008
Columbus, OH 43216-1008 USA
1.614.464.6400 / fax 1.614.464.6350
bbowers@vssp.com

Patricia A. Redmond, Network Director

Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.
150 West Flagler Street, Suite 2200
Miami, FL 33130 USA
1.305.789.3553 / fax 1.305.789.3395
predmond@swmwas.com

Penny Friedman, Program Director

GE Commercial Finance
500 West Monroe
Chicago, IL 60661 USA
1.312.463.2247 / fax 1.312.441.6817
penny.friedman@ge.com

Francine Gordon, Recruitment Director

The Trumbull Group
Griffin Center
4 Griffin Road North
Windsor, CT 06095 USA



1.860.687.7592 / fax 1.860.683.8697
fgordon@trumbullgroup.com

EX OFFICIO

Janet E. Bostwick, Immediate Past Chair
Janet E. Bostwick, PC
295 Devonshire Street
Boston, MA 02110 USA
1.617.956.2670 / fax 1.617.422.1428
jeb@bostwicklaw.com

FOUNDING CHAIR

Selinda A. Melnik, Founding Chair
Edwards & Angell LLP
919 North Market Street, Suite 1500
Wilmington, DE 19801 USA
1.302.425.7103 / fax 1.888.325.9191
Smelnik@edwardsangell.com

2005 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please forward any updates to Shari Bedker
at info@iwire.com.

APRIL 2005

April 20 **The Zone of Insolvency: How Do You Know You're there and What Do You Do If You Are?**
Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Arno's Ristorante, 141 West 38th Street, New York, NY
Information: www.nyic.org
Contact: Elizabeth Ellison
Phone: 212-481-1411

April 20 **High Tea**
Time: 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Mainly Tea
221 Main Street, Old Wethersfield, CT 06109
Cost: \$30 per person
Guest Speaker: Susan Neuberg, CFM
Building Wealth Throughout Your Lifetime
RSVP by April 13th
Information: www.iwire.com

April 28

Time: 12:45 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Location: J.W. Marriott – Washington, D.C.
Contact: Natasha Bush
Phone: 614-469-6638

IWIRC Spring Luncheon and Founders' Awards

April 30

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Location: The Hartford Plaza
690 Asylum Avenue, 22nd Floor
Hartford, CT

IWIRC Connecticut Network A Taste of The Cove

MAY 2005

May 9

Time: At the Conclusion of ABI's 7th Annual New York City Bankruptcy Conference
Location: Sky Club at the top of the MetLife Building
Contact: Sandra Riemer (212) 841-0589
sriemer@phillipsnizer.com
Elizabeth Ellison (212) 481-1411 ex 116
cellison@donlinrecano.com

IWIRC New York/New Jersey Network Reception held in conjunction with ABI's VIP Reception for Judges, Speakers and Sponsors

JUNE 2005

June 1

Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: The Regency Club
10900 Wilshire Blvd., LA, CA 90024
RSVP by May 25, 2005
Contact: Linda Simpson (310) 321-5580

IWIRC Southern California Network Dinner, Speaker & Book signing: Dr. Darlene Mininni, Author of The Emotional Toolkit: 7 Power-Skills to Nail Your Bad Feeling

