

Austin Alexander is Counsel at Thompson Hine LLP, and a member of the firm's Business Restructuring practice. He received a B.A. from University of Mississippi in 2011, and his J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 2014. Following law school, Austin clerked for Judge David C. Bramlette of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi and Judge Katharine M. Samson of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. He is the former president of the Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia and is a member of WorkOUT professionals.

Austin's practice focuses on insolvency proceedings, contract disputes, receivership actions, as well as litigation in and outside of court, and he is Thompson Hine's point person on distressed M&A and ABC transactions. Austin represents investment banks, private equity funds, community banks and real estate developers, as well as utility companies and franchisors in bankruptcy and other collection-related matters.

Austin currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

HILARY B. BONIAL is the Managing Director of Bonial & Associates, P. C. a default services law firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas. Born in Natchitoches and raised in Central Louisiana, Hilary joined Brice Legal Group in 1999. The law firm which now bears her name has been a leader in representing creditors for almost 30 years. Hilary often speaks about her love of Bankruptcy Law throughout the nation and is a regular at industry events. In her spare time, she is a boating and BBQ enthusiast. Member of the Louisiana State Bar 1996, Texas State Bar 2006, Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification and the Louisiana Board of Specialization. Bonial & Associates, P.C. is a diverse law firm as certified by the WBENC as a woman owned business and by the NGLCC as an LGBT owned business.

DONALD E. CAMPBELL is the Owen Cooper Professor of Law at Mississippi College School of Law, where he teaches courses including Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Property, Wills and Estates, Land Use & Planning, and Construction Law. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and his J.D. *summa cum laude* from Mississippi College School of Law. He also received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the MC Law faculty, Professor Campbell practiced law in Jackson, Mississippi and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Leslie Southwick on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is a frequent speaker on legal ethics.

Jeffery W. Cavender was sworn in as a bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Georgia on March 2, 2018. Judge Cavender graduated from Berry College, summa cum laude, in 1990 with a degree in history, and from the University of Georgia School of Law, cum laude, in 1993 where he was a member of the Georgia Law Review and inducted into the Order of the Coif. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Cavender was a partner in the financial restructuring practice of Troutman Sanders LLP (n/k/a Troutman Pepper Locke, LLP) where he primarily represented corporate debtors and secured lenders in Chapter 11 cases and mortgage servicers in consumer-related litigation and bankruptcy matters. Judge Cavender previously was a partner in the bankruptcy group of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (n/k/a Dentons LLP) and previously served as the general counsel for a national mortgage company. Judge Cavender served as chair of the Bankruptcy Section for the Atlanta Bar Association (2017-2018) and was a member of its board of directors (2012-2018). Judge Cavender is an active member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, currently serving as the Eleventh Circuit representative of the NCBJ's board of governors. In 2021 Judge Cavender was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Federal Judicial Center's Bankruptcy Judges Education Advisory Committee and was recently appointed by the Chief Justice to serve as chair of the Committee for a two-year term.

Shallanda “Che” Clay

Shallanda “Che” Clay earned a B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi where her primary focus of study was Human Resource Management. In 2010, she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Che worked as a legal assistant for several years in Aberdeen, Mississippi. Over a period of twelve years, she served in several positions at BancorpSouth Bank in Tupelo, Mississippi, including Bankruptcy Department Manager, Vice President and Assistant Corporate Secretary, Employee Relations Manager, and Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer.

She has held two federal judicial clerkships at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi: the first with former Chief Bankruptcy Judge David W. Houston, III and the second with Chief Bankruptcy Judge Jason D. Woodard.

She is a member of the Mississippi Bar and has over thirty years of administrative experience spanning across the areas of bankruptcy, human resources, corporate governance, and compliance. She has served as Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi since 2016.

W. Jeffrey Collier is the senior staff attorney for Locke D. Barkley, standing Chapter 13 trustee in the Northern District of Mississippi, and has been in that position since 2008. He speaks frequently on subjects related to Chapter 13 bankruptcy and mortgage related issues in the context of a Chapter 13 proceeding.

Prior to his representation of the Chapter 13 trustee, Mr. Collier practiced in the areas of creditor's rights, commercial litigation, and commercial transactions. He received his Juris Doctorate from The University of Mississippi School of Law in 1997. He is a past President of the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, and previously served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Uniform Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi.

Rachel Coxwell received her bachelor's from Mississippi State University in sociology and her J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law. She practices law at Coxwell Attorneys PLLC with her father, Frank Coxwell, and the newest addition to the firm, Cecily Ethridge. Rachel has been practicing in the area of consumer bankruptcy ever since she graduated MC and passed the bar in 2017. She is a long-time member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys. Rachel was previously the co-chair and chairman of the MS Bankruptcy Conference and is now a member of the board. Other than her work with the bankruptcy conference, she has traveled and spoken at other CLE events over Mississippi typically in the topics of mortgages-in and out of bankruptcy, how bankruptcy interconnects with other practice areas, and being a solo/small law practitioner.



JESSICA CUNNINGHAM

Over 20 Years of Legal Experience

Jessica Cunningham is a dedicated attorney at the Cunningham Law Firm, bringing over 20 years of experience in the legal profession. She began her legal career in high school as a legal secretary and advanced to the position of office manager before deciding to further her career by attending law school and becoming an attorney.

Educational Background

At the age of 33, Jessica returned to college and earned her Bachelor of Science in Legal Studies from the Mississippi University for Women. She was then accepted into the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society and graduated Magna Cum Laude in December 2022.

Professional Credentials

Jessica successfully completed the Mississippi Bar Exam in February 2023. She is now sworn in to practice in all Mississippi State and Federal District Courts, as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Louisiana, which covers Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF SAMUEL J. DUNCAN

Samuel J. Duncan practiced with the Hattiesburg law firm of Moore and Jones for twelve years prior to his beginning his own firm in January, 1996. Sam's practice involved the representation of debtors, creditors and Trustees in Bankruptcy proceedings. In 2004, he was appointed to the Chapter 7 Panel of Trustees, covering the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Meridian, and Hattiesburg areas, a heart attack in January, 2006, following Hurricane Katrina and the new Bankruptcy laws, adversely affected his health to the extent that he was not able to continue as a Chapter 7 Trustee, resigning from the Panel in 2007. With attention to his health in the following years, he has returned to the practice as the Staff Attorney for the Chapter 13 Trustee.

In the Young Lawyers Division of the Mississippi Bar, he served as president of the Division in 1992-93. He was a member of the Delivery of Legal Services to the Elderly and Disabled Committee from 1984 through 1988, serving as Chairman in 1986. He served as Chairman of the Local Affiliates Committee for several years, the Long Range Planning Committee, the Seminar Committee, By-Laws Committee, and the Cancun CLE Committee. He was elected a Fellow of the Young Lawyers Division.

From 1987 through 1994, he represented the South Central Young Lawyers as a delegate to the ABA/YLD (American Bar Association/Young Lawyers Division) Assemblies.

Sam has served as Second Vice President of the Mississippi Bar, on the Bar's Executive Committee, and on the Board of Bar Commissioners. Sam has served as Chair of the Litigation/General Practice Section of the Mississippi Bar. Sam was the Editor of the Young Lawyers Solo and Small Firm Practice Manual, which won a national award from the American Bar Association, and has served as the Editor of The Mississippi Lawyer. He has authored articles on stress and workaholism, which have been published in the Mississippi Bar's magazine.

Sam is also a member of the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, where he served as President in 1995. Sam has been President of the local Ole Miss Alumni Association. Sam is a member of the Lamar Order at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Cecily Ethridge received her bachelor's from The University of Southern Mississippi and her J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law. After law school Cecily worked as a senior staff attorney for Young Willaims, then made her move to in-house counsel for a regional utility construction company. With her experience in construction law, she became majority owner and general counsel for Power Group Services, and in addition to holding this position, began working at Coxwell Attorneys with Rachel and Frank in September 2024.



Bess Fisher is an associate with Mitchell McNutt, practicing in the Oxford office. She attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude and served as the Chair of the Negotiation Board and as Assistant Articles Editor and Social Chair for the Mississippi Law Journal. During law school, Bess was named the winner of The Closer National Transactional Law Competition, a unique, invitation-only transactional law competition focusing on contract drafting and negotiation. Before practicing law, Bess worked as a recruiter in the Office of Admissions at the University of Mississippi, serving as the Admissions Counselor for Lafayette County, Mississippi and 15 states in the Western part of the United States. Bess practices in a wide range of areas, including bankruptcy and creditor's rights, civil litigation, real estate, and corporate matters. Outside of practicing law, Bess is an indoor cycle instructor, is heavily involved with philanthropy organizations including the Junior Auxiliary of Oxford and Palmer Home for Children, and enjoys baking and reading.

CRAIG M. GENO

Craig M. Geno is a member of the Law Offices of Craig M. Geno, PLLC of Ridgeland, Mississippi. Mr. Geno is a member of the American Bar Association, Mississippi State Bar Association (President of the Law Office Economics Section, 1993-1994) and the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference (President, 2001). He is also a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute; a participant in the American Bankruptcy Institute Task Force on Subchapter V; the Business Bankruptcy Sub-committee of the Section of Business Law of the American Bar Association; the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees; and the Turnaround Management Association. He is a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, a fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation and a fellow in the American Bar Foundation. Mr. Geno is certified in Business Bankruptcy by the American Board of Certification, served on its Board of Directors for eight years, served as national president and as its chairman. He is also a Subchapter V trustee in the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi and the Western District of Tennessee.



In 2019, Judge Grabill was appointed as a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Prior to her appointment on the bench, Judge Grabill was a shareholder at Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard and practiced law primarily in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial, and oil-and-gas litigation in Louisiana and New York.

While in practice, Judge Grabill served on bankruptcy teams representing commercial real estate finance firms, insurance companies in demutualization and acquisition processes, and committees in E&P companies' bankruptcy proceedings. She also represented clients in antitrust proceedings in multiple countries, a professional players' association in labor and contract disputes, insurance and reinsurance companies in contract disputes, and both individuals and corporations in fraudulent transfer and other commercial and oil-and-gas disputes. She served as the clerk to the Special Master appointed by the United States Supreme Court to preside over an interstate water-rights dispute.

Prior to entering the private practice of law, she served as a judicial clerk to Judge Edith Brown Clement, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, from 2007-2008; and Judge Martin L.C. Feldman, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, from 2006-2007.

Judge Grabill earned her J.D. from Tulane University School of Law in 2006, where she served as Editor In Chief of the *Tulane Law Review* from 2005-2006. The faculty honored her with the John Minor Wisdom Award for Academic Excellence and Legal Scholarship that is awarded annually to an outstanding student of the graduating class. In 1997, she received her B.A. in Political Science and History from The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.



M. Ruthie Hagan
Western District of Tennessee

M. Ruthie Hagan was appointed to serve as the bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Tennessee on October 16, 2020. Prior to her appointment, Ruthie worked in the Bankruptcy and Commercial Restructuring group of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, P.C. in its Memphis, Tennessee office.

She primarily handled sophisticated business workouts, and complex commercial bankruptcy. She has represented debtors, creditors, trustees, unsecured creditors committee, and equity holders in a variety of proceedings in bankruptcy court, as well as complex transactional work in the context of commercial restructurings and workouts. Ruthie has represented more than a dozen healthcare debtors in complex bankruptcy cases, but the majority of her practice has been dedicated to representation of secured and unsecured commercial creditors in a variety of matters, including liquidating and reorganizing Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, section 363 sale issues, cash collateral issues, lien priority and avoidance actions, preference actions, rejection/assumption of executory contracts, stay relief actions, discharge and dischargeability actions, asset recovery and disposition, contested confirmation hearings, adversary proceedings, bankruptcy appeals to district court and BAP, as well as representation of secured creditor in single asset bankruptcy proceeding.

Ruthie graduated *cum laude* from the University of Arkansas School of Law where she served as Managing Editor of the *Arkansas Law Review* and was the recipient of the American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence. She has a master's degree in Higher Education (University of Arkansas) and a BS in Chemistry (University of Kansas).

She served as Co-Chair of the Bankruptcy Section of Memphis Bar Association, Director of Memphis Bar Association, Executive Council Member of the Tennessee Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, Director of the Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, and named to Mid-South Rising Stars in Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights for several years.



Bankruptcy Judge Shon Hastings - Biography

Shon Hastings was appointed Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of North Dakota in September 2011. Judge Hastings is also designated to preside over bankruptcy cases in the Districts of Minnesota and South Dakota. From 2014 to 2021, she was assigned bankruptcy cases in the District of Nebraska. Judge Hastings serves as a mediator for civil cases in the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota and bankruptcy cases in the District of Minnesota. She has also mediated bankruptcy cases in the Northern and Southern District of Iowa. In January 2022, she was appointed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel of the Eighth Circuit. She began serving as Chief Judge of the Eighth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel on January 25, 2024.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Hastings served as a federal judicial law clerk for two years, associate attorney for Bowman and Brook LLP in Minneapolis for several years and Assistant United States Attorney in Fargo for almost 14 years.

DAVID W. HOUSTON, III

David Houston joined Mitchell McNutt in 2013. For the previous 30 years, he served as the United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. In addition, he presided over cases in the Southern District of Mississippi, the Middle District of Louisiana, as well as, the Northern, Southern, and Western Districts of Texas. He conducted trials in numerous consumer and complex business cases, authoring hundreds of published opinions. Prior to assuming the bench, he was a partner for 11 years in the Aberdeen, Mississippi, law firm of Houston, Chamberlain and Houston. He served as a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., Tampa, Florida, and New York City. His practice is focused on commercial transactions, commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and creditors' rights. Due to his experience in the area of alternative dispute resolution, he is available to conduct mediation and arbitration proceedings.

- University of Mississippi, B.B.A., (accountancy), 1966; Juris Doctor, 1969 Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, Beta Gamma Sigma, Beta Alpha Psi, Associated Student Body Judicial Council Chairman, and Sigma Chi
- Federal Judicial Center, Mediation Training Program
- Served two three-year terms as a member of the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, ("NCBJ"), and was elected as President of that organization in 1993 – 1994; he chaired the Legislative Committee for over 13 years.
- For ten years, Houston served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Bankruptcy Institute ("ABI"), a multi-discipline organization that focuses on both domestic and international commercial law; served as Co-Chairman of the ABI's Legislative Committee from 1999 – 2010; served as the Judicial Chairman of the ABI's Southeastern Legal Education Program from 1995 – 2003; and served as a member of the ABI's National Commission to Review Consumer Laws in the United States.

Kristi H. Johnson is a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. Johnson earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Mississippi and her Juris Doctorate, *summa cum laude*, from Mississippi College School of Law, where she served as an Executive Editor of the Mississippi College Law Review.

Upon graduation, Johnson served as a law clerk to Judge Sharion Aycock of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi and to Judge Leslie H. Southwick of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She worked at Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart and later served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi. Johnson has also served as an adjunct professor at Mississippi College School of Law.

On February 24, 2020, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch appointed Johnson the first Solicitor General of Mississippi. She left her position as Solicitor General after appointed a federal judge. Johnson is the first woman to serve as an Article III federal judge in the Southern District of Mississippi.

Adam Kilgore is an attorney based in Mississippi, renowned for his extensive service with The Mississippi Bar. He began his tenure with The Bar in 2002 as Assistant General Counsel and was elevated to General Counsel in 2004. In this capacity for over twenty years, he oversaw attorney discipline, ethics, and professionalism, managing investigations, prosecuting disciplinary cases, and representing the Bar in appeals before the Mississippi Supreme Court. Additionally, he served as a liaison to key committees, including the Board of Bar Commissioners, the Committee on Professional Responsibility, and the Ethics Committee.

Kilgore's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Communications from Mississippi College (1992) and a Juris Doctor from Mississippi College School of Law (2000), where he was a member of the Moot Court Board. Post-graduation, he clerked for Chief Justice Edwin Lloyd Pittman at the Supreme Court of Mississippi.

Throughout his career, Kilgore has been deeply involved in legal education and ethics. He has delivered numerous Continuing Legal Education (CLE) lectures and seminars for various legal associations. His publications cover topics such as attorney discipline, professionalism, and ethics.

Kilgore retired from The Mississippi Bar in December of 2024. He now has a private practice focused primarily on ethics and professionalism and ethics expert work. Kilgore has also served as the expert host for Mississippi Public Broadcasting's In Legal Terms since April of 2024 and is an Adjunct Professor at Mississippi College School of Law where he teaches Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Selene Dunn Maddox was sworn in October 22, 2018, as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, having been appointed by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District of South Dakota, with intercircuit assignment, upon appointment by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, presiding in the Fifth Circuit as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, with her chambers located in Aberdeen, MS. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Maddox was a solo practitioner in Tupelo, Mississippi, where her practice focused on consumer debtor and small business debtor bankruptcy law. She also served as a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Panel Trustee in the Northern District of Mississippi from 2004-2018. Judge Maddox served as Vice-President of the Lee County Bar Association from 1998-1999 and as President of the Lee County Bar Association from 1999-2000. Judge Maddox was appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court to serve as a Commissioner to the Mississippi Commission On Continuing Legal Education on June 30, 1999 and completed her seventh consecutive term on July 31, 2018, having served as Vice-Chairman 2007-2008; 2010-2011; 2014-2015, and as Chairman 2008-2009; 2015-2016. She served on the Ethics Committee of the Mississippi Bar from 2005-2008 and served two one-year terms as President of the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference (MBC) for 2005 and 2006 and served on the Board of Directors of the MBC from 2003-2007. Judge Maddox assisted in drafting new Local Rules for the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Mississippi and served on the Advisory Committee on Local Rules from 2010-2015. Judge Maddox was inducted as a Mississippi Bar Foundation Fellow in 2007 and subsequently served as a Trustee on the Mississippi Bar Foundation Board of Trustees 2011-2013 and 2022- 2024. Judge Maddox is a frequent speaker for professional insolvency organizations and is an active member of many professional organizations, including the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges having served on the Membership Services Committee, Academic Recognition Committee (Chair 2025-2026), Committee on the Annual Meeting, and Public Outreach Committee (Co-Chair 2024-2025; Co-Chair 2025-2026. Judge Maddox received her B.B.A. from the University of Mississippi December 1983 and her J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law May 1987.

Ken Mann is a Managing Director for the Special Situations and Capital Solutions practices at SC&H Capital, a FINRA licensed, 40-person boutique investment bank based in Maryland providing healthy and distressed M&A and debt raising, employee stock ownership plans (ESOP), and business valuation advisory for middle market companies throughout the United States. He has been providing going concern solutions (debt, equity, entirety sale) to distressed businesses for 30 years.

Ken and his team have completed more than 800 financing and sale transactions with troubled companies, including more than 325 approved \$363 sale transactions in more than 70 bankruptcy court districts. In his 32 years in the business, Ken has personally led investment banking services for hundreds of companies in a host of industries, including industrials, consumer, healthcare, construction, franchisees, real estate, and more. In Chapter 11 cases, he has served as investment banker and expert witness and, more than 150 times, testified in support of transactions produced by the firm, including in the United States Bankruptcy Courts for Mississippi. Ken has been a speaker at many events hosted by the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), Turnaround Management Association (TMA), Florida Bar, Association of Insolvency & Restructuring Advisors (AIRA), and Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, and has been an author for the ABI, TMA, and various secured lender trade and general business publications. He has been named the “Distressed M&A Dealmaker of the Year” by *M&A Advisors* and a “Top 100 Restructuring Professional” by *Turnarounds and Workouts*, and most recently, was selected to receive an ABJ Journal “Icon” Award in Specialty Finance. He currently serves on ABI’s Board of Directors.



Chris Meyer is a partner in Burr & Forman, LLP's litigation section where he focuses his practice on complex civil litigation matters in the areas of bankruptcy, construction, commercial, real estate, financial services, and transportation. He represents clients at the trial level and on appeal in jurisdictions throughout the Southeast.

As a bankruptcy practitioner, Chris represents Creditors, including automobile lenders and mortgage companies, regarding objections to confirmation, motions for relief, turnover motions and adversary proceeding, in the bankruptcy courts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Danny L. Miller
Biography

Danny has served as Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi since 2008. The clerk's office provides operational and administrative support for two federal bankruptcy judges covering the lower 45 counties of the state. The Bankruptcy Court has a current caseload of approximately 8,000 active cases.

Prior to becoming Clerk, Danny practiced public accounting for six years, worked as an analyst/investigator for the Mississippi Legislature for six years, and served thirteen years as an administrator for two large Mississippi state agencies.

Danny has also served as an adjunct professor of business, accounting, and law for Belhaven University for more than twenty-five years. Danny, a CPA and attorney, holds an accounting degree from the University of Mississippi, an MBA from Mississippi College, and a JD from the Mississippi College School of Law.

Katharine M. Samson

Katharine M. Samson serves as Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. She joined the bench in 2010 as the first woman to serve on the bankruptcy court in Mississippi.

Judge Samson is the bankruptcy judge member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on International Judicial Relations. As a member of the IJRC, Judge Samson has participated in judicial training programs for judges in Mauritius and Ethiopia and on insolvency law in Georgia and Kuwait as well as a regional conference for insolvency practitioners and judges from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. She is also a contributor to the Federal Judicial Center's *Judiciaries Worldwide* website and is a facilitator for the Center's Leadership Seminar for New Chief Judges.

She served as the Bankruptcy Judge Observer to the Fifth Circuit Judicial Council and the Secretary of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges where she has also served on the Endowment Committee and the U.S. Trustee Relations Committee. Judge Samson is currently a member of the NCBJ International Judicial Relations Committee. She is also a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Federal Bar Association, and is co-chair of the Center for American and International Law Fifth Circuit Bench and Bar Bankruptcy Conference.

Before her appointment, Judge Samson was a shareholder in private practice in Gulfport, Mississippi. Her practice was concentrated in consumer financial services litigation and included representation of local and national lenders and finance companies in federal and state court litigation as well as in bankruptcy proceedings. She was also an adjunct professor of Advanced Business Law at the University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast campus.

Judge Samson received her B.A. *summa cum laude* from Louisiana Tech University and her J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law, where she was a James O. Eastland Scholar and served on the editorial board of the Mississippi Law Journal.

Adam Sanford is a dedicated bankruptcy attorney practicing in Mississippi. His expertise encompasses Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 bankruptcy for debtors, as well as real estate loan closings. Adam began his career as a staff attorney for a Chapter 13 Trustee, gaining invaluable insight into the bankruptcy process. After transitioning to private practice, he has successfully represented numerous clients in their bankruptcy matters. Adam's understanding of the complexities of bankruptcy law, coupled with his compassion for clients facing financial challenges, allows him to provide effective and empathetic representation. He is committed to guiding clients through the bankruptcy process with clarity and understanding, ensuring they make informed decisions about their financial future. In 2024, Adam was appointed a Standing Chapter 7 Trustee for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Region. Adam is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the Mississippi Bankruptcy Conference, and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees (NABT). He holds a Juris Doctor from Mississippi College School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry with a minor in Biology from the University of Mississippi.

Professor Daniel M. Tavera joined the faculty at MC Law in 2024, bringing a wealth of practical and academic experience to his teaching and leadership roles. He serves as an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Public Service Law Center, where he promotes community engagement and public interest legal work. Professor Tavera teaches courses in Torts, Business Associations, and Bankruptcy. Before joining MC Law, he clerked for the Honorable John P. Gustafson of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio, who also served on the Sixth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, and for the Honorable Scott W. Everett of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas. These clerkships provided him with invaluable insight into both trial and appellate practice. Professor Tavera is passionate about exploring the complexities under federal bankruptcy law.

Miranda Linton Williford attended the University of Mississippi for both her undergraduate degree which was completed in 2003 and her Juris Doctor degree which was completed in 2006. After graduation, Miranda began working for the law firm of Holaday, Moorehead, & Eaton, PLLC, where she served as the head of the firm's Northern District bankruptcy practice. In August of 2009, Miranda opened her own bankruptcy practice, Miranda Linton Williford, Attorney at Law, PLLC with offices in both Corinth, MS and Southaven, MS. Miranda was appointed as a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee in the fall of 2023.

Miranda lives in Desoto County, Mississippi with her husband, Justin, and their four rescue dogs.

Honorable Jamie A. Wilson
Southern District of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Jamie A. Wilson was appointed to serve as a bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of Mississippi on July 1, 2021.

Before her appointment, Judge Wilson was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Alabama. Prior to becoming an AUSA, she was a partner at Benton & Centeno, LLP in Birmingham, Alabama where her practice focused on bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

Judge Wilson graduated from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama in 2003.

The Honorable Jason D. Woodard
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi

On January 16, 2013, Jason D. Woodard was sworn in as a bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, immediately becoming chief bankruptcy judge. Judge Woodard presides over the Oxford division, as well as all other cases where Judge Maddox has a conflict.

Judge Woodard received his B.A. in Political Science (1997) and J.D. (2000) from The University of Alabama and his LL.M. in Judicial Studies from Duke University School of Law (2020). Immediately following law school, Judge Woodard served as law clerk to the Honorable Tamara O. Mitchell, Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham. Prior to his appointment, Judge Woodard was a partner with Burr & Forman LLP in Birmingham, Alabama, representing clients in distressed debt situations, typically secured creditors in bankruptcy, receivership, and foreclosure proceedings and in out-of-court workouts.

Judge Woodard is a past chairman of the Birmingham Bar's Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section and formerly sat on the board of directors for the Birmingham Bar Foundation and the executive committee for the Birmingham Bar Association. He is a recipient of the American Bankruptcy Institute's Medal of Excellence. Judge Woodard served as chairman of the board of directors and later as president of the Advisory Board for Hands on Birmingham, a non-profit organization whose mission is to connect busy people with organized and meaningful volunteer opportunities to improve their community. Judge Woodard has served on committees of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and currently serves as Judicial Liaison to the Mississippi Local Bankruptcy Rules Committee.