



2025 CLLA EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES

THE ANNUAL  
CLLA LUNCHEON &  
HON. FRANK KOGER  
MEMORIAL  
EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

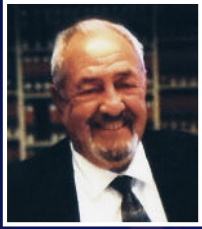
CHICAGO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER SPONSOR



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# The Lawrence P. King Award



PROFESSOR  
LAWRENCE P. KING

## ABOUT THE AWARD

Each year, the Executive Council of the Commercial Law League's Bankruptcy Section presents the Lawrence P. King Award to recognize a lawyer, judge, teacher, or legislator who exemplifies the best in scholarship, advocacy, judicial administration, or legislative activities in the field of bankruptcy.

The award is designed to recognize the lifetime achievements of Professor King, which includes contributing to the practice of bankruptcy law through teaching, by working to elevate the profession and through bankruptcy-related legislative activities.

## Lawrence P. King Award Winner Richardo I. Kilpatrick



Richardo I. Kilpatrick is an attorney at Shermeta, Kilpatrick & Associates, PLLC in Auburn Hills, Michigan, which specializes in creditors' rights and insolvency law while focusing on corporate, consumer and commercial litigation and bankruptcy, real property remedies for creditors, real property transactions and general corporate counseling. He is a past president of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) and

has served on the Board of Directors for the American College of Bankruptcy (ACB). Mr. Kilpatrick is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He was inducted as a Fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy in March 1999 and appointed to its Board of Directors in July 2001. In October 2008, Mr. Kilpatrick was invited to be a conferee at the National Bankruptcy Conference (NBC). As a member of the NBC, Mr. Kilpatrick worked with Judge Thomas Small on the NBC's Small Business Proposal, a portion of which was incorporated into the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019. Mr. Kilpatrick also served as a member of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules from August 2011 to 2017 where he worked to directly craft, tweak, update, and change bankruptcy rules in an ongoing effort to improve the bankruptcy system. He is Board Certified in Consumer Bankruptcy Law by the American Board of Certification (ABC), and he received his B.A. in economics in 1973 from Harvard University and his J.D. in 1982 from the University of Michigan Law School.

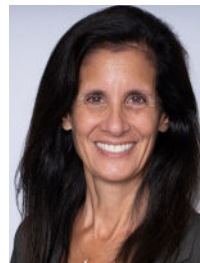
Mr. Kilpatrick currently serves as a Chapter 11 and Subchapter V trustee where he assists businesses in reorganizing.

Mr. Kilpatrick has spoken at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) and is a presenter at numerous seminars focusing on bankruptcy and collections presented by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, faculty for the Norton Litigation Institute, PESI, ABI, NACTT, and NABT. He is an editor for Norton's Treatise on Bankruptcy and is adjunct professor at St. John's University Law School where he teaches a course in the LLM program on small business bankruptcies.

## KEYNOTE

### Detecting Corporate Psychopaths

*Psychopaths make up 1% to 4% of the population. While serial killers tend to get the most press, psychopaths in the workplace are a common and pervasive problem, especially when in leadership positions. This presentation will discuss the unique characteristics of corporate psychopaths and how frequently psychopaths infiltrate the corporate world. The discussion will highlight the personality traits of psychopaths, how to identify those most likely to deceive and manipulate victims and what professions have the highest percentages of psychopaths. Learn specific interview techniques designed to detect psychopaths, whether evaluating a potential new hire, investigating workplace complaints, or even meeting with a new client. Tips will be provided on how best to interview individuals to try to detect lying and withstand the manipulation.*



## Distinguished Speaker

### Kathy Bazoian Phelps

Partner,  
Raines Feldman Littrell, LLP  
Los Angeles, CA

**Kathy Bazoian Phelps** has been a lawyer since 1991 and is currently a partner at Raines Feldman Littrell LLP in the Los Angeles office. In addition to serving as a fiduciary, Kathy focuses her law practice in the areas of insolvency law, fiduciary representation, and fraud litigation, frequently representing federal equity receivers, state court receivers, and bankruptcy trustees. Kathy also serves as special litigation counsel for fiduciaries and interested parties in fraud-related litigation cases arising out of receivership and bankruptcy cases. She is particularly knowledgeable about the administration of Ponzi scheme cases and has extensive litigation experience in claims arising in these types of cases.

Kathy has lectured widely and written on bankruptcy and receivership matters, with a focus on Ponzi schemes. Her book entitled *The Ponzi Book: A Legal Resource for Unraveling Ponzi Schemes*, co-authored with Hon. Steven Rhodes, has garnered national and international attention as the authoritative work on Ponzi scheme law. Kathy is also the author of *The Ponzi Scheme Blog* and *Ponzi-Proof Your Investments: An Investor's Guide to Avoiding Ponzi Schemes and Other Fraudulent Scams*.

In addition to her roles as lawyer, fiduciary, speaker and author, Kathy also serves as a mediator and is currently on the mediation and arbitration rosters for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, as well as the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the Central District of California and the Bankruptcy Mediation Panel for the District of Arizona.

## CLLA Hon. Frank Koger Memorial Educational Program

### CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: ETHICAL QUANDARIES IN INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS

This program will explore what issues exist and may arise for professionals in matters involving criminal, fraudulent or negligent conduct related to insolvency cases. The panel will examine red flags and appropriate and inappropriate responses to criminal or unethical conduct. The panel will also analyze a professional's ethical responsibility using fact scenarios drawn from infamous cases over the past few decades such as FTX, Neiman Marcus and Le-Natures.

#### MODERATOR



**Prof. Nancy B. Rapoport**  
William S. Boyd School of Law, UNLV, Las Vegas, NV

**Nancy B. Rapoport** is a UNLV Distinguished Professor, the Garman Turner Gordon Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an Affiliate Professor of Business Law and Ethics in the Lee Business School at UNLV. After receiving her B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Rice University in 1982 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 1985, she clerked for the Honorable Joseph T. Sneed III on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and then practiced law (primarily bankruptcy law) with Morrison & Foerster in San Francisco from 1986-1991. In 2022, UNLV's Alumni Association named her the Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year. Boyd law students have honored her three times: she tied (with Professor Jean Sternlight) for "Faculty Member of the Year" in 2024; she was named "Faculty Member of the Year" (and faculty commencement speaker) in 2021; and she was named "Dean of the Year" by Boyd law students in 2013. Her specialties are bankruptcy ethics, ethics in governance, law firm behavior, artificial intelligence and the law, and the depiction of lawyers in popular culture. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. In 2017, she received the Commercial Law League of America's Lawrence P. King Award for Excellence in Bankruptcy. She has served as the fee examiner or as chair of the fee review committee in such large bankruptcy cases as *Zetta Jet*, *Toys R Us*, *Caesars*, *Station Casinos*, *Pilgrim's Pride*, and *Mirant*.

#### DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS:



**Robert J. Cleary**  
Of Counsel, Patterson Belknap Webb & Taylor, LLP,  
New York, NY

**Bob Cleary** is Of Counsel at Patterson Belknap Webb & Taylor, LLP in New York City where he has a white-collar defense and trial practice. Earlier in his career, Bob served for almost two decades as a federal prosecutor, including service as the United States Attorney in New Jersey. Most recently in his private practice, Bob was the court-appointed Examiner in the FTX bankruptcy case.



**Prof. Veronica J. Finkelstein**  
Wilmington University School of Law, Wilmington, DE

**Veronica J. Finkelstein** is an Associate Professor of Law at the Wilmington University School of Law and a Litigative Consultant to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She serves as a Program Director for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and travels across the country teaching advocacy skills.

### BECOME A SPONSOR

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contact Dawn Federico at 312-240-1400 or email Dawn at [dawn.federico@ccla.org](mailto:dawn.federico@ccla.org).

To register for this event visit [www.NCBJ.org](http://www.NCBJ.org).

# SPONSORSHIP

## *Cultivate a Positive Reputation Through Sponsorship!*

Identify as a Proud Sponsor of the Commercial Law League of America

*More than 1,000 judges and credit industry practitioners attend the annual NCBJ conference.*

*This event allows industry members to interact with bankruptcy judges, attorneys and other industry professionals from across the U.S.*

We have several sponsorship levels to choose from to provide flexibility to ensure that the right sponsorship opportunity is conducive to your budget. ***Whichever level of sponsorship you choose, CLLA is appreciative of your support of the League and the CLLA Events at NCBJ!***

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### Silver Sponsor \$500

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