

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Bankruptcy Law Intersects with Many Practice Areas

What is the Bankruptcy Law Section's main purpose or mission?

The section's formal mission is: "It shall be the purpose of the section, to further the knowledge of the

members of the section, the bar and the judiciary in all aspects of bankruptcy, reorganization, and Creditor's Rights Law; establish and administer seminars (subject to prior approval of the State Bar CLE director); establish and promote cooperation with other organizations with similar purposes; provide for and distribute information of interest to section members; encourage bench/bar activities; and assist the State Bar of Nevada's Board of Governors in the implementation of programs, policies, standardization and guidelines in the field."

Who are the members of the Bankruptcy Law Section?

The section is comprised of a wide array of bankruptcy professionals from across Nevada. All bankruptcy practitioners are welcome. Members practice in all areas of bankruptcy including, but not limited to, Chapter(s) 7, 11, 12 and 13.

What are the benefits of joining the Bankruptcy Law Section?

Benefits include access to continuing legal education programs and being part of a community in which bankruptcy professionals may confer regarding hot topics and practice tips and procedures. Members in good

Danielle N. Gueck-Townsend, vice chair of the State Bar of Nevada's Bankruptcy Law Section, recently took the time to answer some questions about the section.

standing of the section have the opportunity to attend meetings, vote, hold office and participate in activities.

How can you join the Bankruptcy Law Section?

According to our policies, "Any member in good standing with the state bar, upon request to the secretary of the section, shall be enrolled as a member of the section by the payment of annual section dues. The term of membership shall be for the period of one year, corresponding to the membership year established by payment of State Bar dues."

Who holds leadership positions within the Bankruptcy Law Section?

Chair: James Patrick Shea

Vice-chair: Danielle N. Gueck-Townsend

Secretary: Connor Shea

Treasurer: Ace C. Van Patten

Finance Chair: Richard Holley

Communications Chair: Seth J. Adams

Events Chair: Joe Went

Education Chair: Lars Evensen

Does the section have any events coming up open to bar members?

COVID-19 has made events a bit of a challenge. Nevertheless, the Bankruptcy Law Section conducted a virtual townhall event in April titled "The Coronavirus and Its Likely Impact on the Bankruptcy World: Eight Predictions from Two Restructuring Professionals," materials and a video recording of the session can be found on the Bankruptcy Section's webpage: nvbar.org > Member Services > Sections > Bankruptcy Law

There are no pending events at this time, but be on the lookout for section emails in the future.

What advice do you have for attorneys who do not primarily practice bankruptcy law?

Bankruptcy is an area of law that, especially this day and age, intersects with many other practice areas. It is important to routinely ask all clients, new and current, whether they have or are planning to file bankruptcy. There are a number of rules and procedures that must be followed for a client who is in bankruptcy. It is always a good idea due to the specialized nature of bankruptcy practice to seek the advice of an active bankruptcy professional, including reaching out to the assigned bankruptcy trustee, if you find that your client is in an active bankruptcy or is planning to file bankruptcy.

What projects has the section taken on recently?

The Bankruptcy Law Section, as mentioned above, has been proactive in educating about and discussing the impact of COVID-19 on the Nevada community. The section will continue the dialogue among its membership. James and Connor wrote the CLE article – "Eight Predictions Regarding the Impact of the Coronavirus in the Bankruptcy World – A Retrospective" – in this month's issue. It can be found on page 22.

What are the Bankruptcy Law Section's goals for 2020? Next year? Five years?

The section's goal is to increase the reach of the section through increasing membership, community outreach and continuing legal education. Bankruptcy is an area of practice that will likely be in the forefront in the upcoming months and years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effect of the Nevada community.