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MEMORANDUM

TO: Janice Myrick

FROM: Steven K. Kortanek

DATE: April 20, 2016

RE: Bankruptcy Section Report

The following reports on the Bankruptcy Section for the 2015-2016 season.

I. Section membership size

In the 2015/2016 season to date, membership dues payments reflect a membership size of approximately 189 members.

II. Section Meetings

The Section regularly invites members to meet at the Bankruptcy Court at the Bench/Bar Meetings, which take place monthly, immediately prior to the presentations of the Delaware Bankruptcy Inn of Court. The Bench/Bar meetings are presided over by the Section Chair, and provide a frequent and important forum for direct interaction between judges of the Bankruptcy Court, the Clerk of the Court and Clerk's Office senior staff, and Section members.

Such meetings have taken place, or are scheduled to take place, on:

November 10, 2015 December 15, 2015 January 12, 2016 February 9, 2016 April 12, 2016 May 10, 2016

In addition to these regular meetings, the Section will hold its annual meeting to elect officers for the 2016-17 season, which meeting will be scheduled shortly.

III. CLE Programs

The Section hosted the *Delaware Views from the Bench* seminar on November 23, 2015, in conjunction with the American Bankruptcy Institute. Views has historically been a bi-annual program that targets a national audience, and features speakers from the Delaware Bankruptcy Court, U.S. District Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the Delaware Court

of Chancery. Tradition also has it that the judges' co-panelists are typically nationally-recognized leaders at large bankruptcy firms from around the United States, with moderators typically being Delaware bankruptcy attorneys. Views provides 4.25 hours of CLE and covers sophisticated, cutting-edge issues that have been addressed in Delaware bankruptcy cases as well as nationwide.

The 2015 edition of Views had a truly superlative speaker roster, including the following judges:

Chancellor Andre G. Bouchard	Delaware Court of Chancery
Judge Kent Jordon	Third Circuit Court of Appeals
Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Judge Kevin Gross	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Judge Kevin J. Carey	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Judge Mary F. Walrath	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Chief Judge Brendan L. Shannon	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Judge Christopher S. Sontchi	United States Bankruptcy Court for
	the District of Delaware
Chief Judge Leonard P. Stark	United States District Court, District
	of Delaware

Delaware Views is also a robust fundraising vehicle, with sponsorships raised in partnership with ABI. The Section's net cash receipt from the seminar was \$19,504.97, some of which funding is intended to be used to help fund the Delaware Consumer Bankruptcy Pro Se Program. The Pro Se Program provides indispensable aid to the Bankruptcy Court through a designated pro se coordinator staff position at the Legal Services Corporation of Delaware, to provide a referral and consultation option for every pro se consumer bankruptcy debtor in Delaware. The benefit to the Court is in having materially higher compliance by pro se debtors with the requirements of a personal bankruptcy case, which in turn greatly eases the workload of the Court.

IV. Section Comments on Legislation

The Section has been closely monitoring proposed federal legislation of interest to Section members, focusing in venue considerations and judgeship provisions in Title 28 of the U.S. Code. To date, the Section has not had comments on proposed Delaware legislation.

V. Other Items of Interest

The Section has benefitted from aligning its regular Bench-Bar meetings with the Bankruptcy Inn of Court, but going forward can work to improve the content of these meetings, in cooperation with the Court and the Clerk's office.

The Standing Local Rules Committee successfully worked with the Bankruptcy Court to promulgate the 2016 revised Delaware Local Bankruptcy Rules in February of this year. Each year's local rules cycle spans several months between initial solicitation of comments in early Fall through final rules promulgation by the Court.