

## Faculty: Change of Control via 363 Sale vs. Plan of Reorganization

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**Geoffrey Richards** is the Head of Capital Structure Advisory for Raymond James in New York. He has more than 20 years of transaction experience advising on more than 150 financing, restructuring and mergers and acquisitions engagements. Mr. Richards's clients include public and private companies, private equity sponsors and other institutional investors. Mr. Richards was previously head of North America debt finance and restructuring at Canaccord Genuity Group Inc., head of special situations at William Blair & Company and a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Since 2001, Mr. Richards has taught as an adjunct professor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law. Mr. Richards serves on The Board of Trustees of the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Richards has also been named to Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40.

**William J. Rochelle, III** is ABI's editor-at-large, based in New York. He joined ABI in 2015 and writes every day on developments in consumer and reorganization law. For the prior nine years, Mr. Rochelle was the bankruptcy columnist for Bloomberg News. Before turning to journalism, he practiced bankruptcy law for 35 years, including 17 years as a partner in the New York office of Fulbright & Jaworski LLP. In addition to writing, Mr. Rochelle travels the country for ABI, speaking to bar groups and professional organizations on hot topics in the turnaround community and trends in consumer bankruptcies. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Columbia University, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

When a company faces financial distress, **Melissa Root** turns a bankruptcy or restructuring into an opportunity. Melissa is the Managing Partner of Jenner and Block's Chicago office. A fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, she helps creditors, debtors, trustees, estate fiduciaries, and investors craft the right approach to achieve their goals whether through aggressive litigation or strategic

negotiations. Melissa also represents clients in out-of-court workouts and restructurings, and in acquisitions. She serves as a Co-Chair of the firm's Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice. Equal parts litigator and transactional lawyer, Melissa brings the full force of her skill to help clients re-evaluate their objectives and emerge from challenging situations with a fresh start. Clients in crisis trust her with sensitive bankruptcy cases involving mass torts, fraud, or financial mismanagement. In these high-stakes matters, her collaborative approach transforms the outcome not just for her client, but for other impacted parties. Melissa also represents clients in bankruptcy-related appellate matters.