

## Report of the Education Committee

Hon. William Lafferty

The NCBJ 2024 Education Committee continues to work very hard to prepare for a terrific Conference in Seattle. Most importantly, our conscientious and energetic Shepherds for the various programs have been meeting zoom-ily with their panelists and presenters, fine-tuning the content and flow of their programs, and putting the finishing touches on the written materials for review by attendees, as well as the materials that will support the wonderful programming, hypos, PowerPoint, etc. Judge Norton and I have been attending these meetings and we have been extremely impressed not only by the commitment and dedication of all involved, Ed Comm members as well as panelists, but also by the incredible depth, comprehensiveness and sophistication of the presentations being prepared. We think that you're going to be blown away by the fabulous programs that we will be offering.

The various Affiliate Groups (ABA, ABI, CLLA, AIRA, American College, FBA, and the International Insolvency group) have also been hard at work finalizing their programming, and, critically, checking in with J Norton and me as well as representatives from the other Affiliates, to insure that they are acting as "harmoniously" as possible in handling some of the more popular topics that will be addressed by more than one panel. We think that you will also be extremely impressed with the terrific programming that our Affiliates will be offering.

And of course, select members of the 2024 Ed Comm (Judges Barash, Norton and Lafferty, and Jessica Liou of Weil Gotshal), with a "talent assist" from Judge Bluebond, did their part in promoting NCBJ 2024 in Seattle through the parody video ("A Bankruptcy Tonight!") that went out during the week of July 15. We had a lot of fun doing it, we think it was well received by all, and, speaking only for myself, I will be DELIGHTED to make sure that Judge Norton keeps her promise never to allow me to sing in public again!

Lastly, Judge Norton and I, and Kathy Van de Loo and other folks from her wonderful team at ADG Communications had the chance to gather in Seattle on July 19 and 20 for a final site visit at Hyatt Regency Seattle, our host hotel for NCBJ 2024. We had a terrific meeting with the hotel representatives, who have been wonderfully "Can Do!" about just about everything, and we made several critical and positive updates and modifications regarding meeting room selection and other important logistical issues and confirmed our shared understanding of the "flow" of the Conference, programming and events. Judge Norton and I also found time to work with Judge Rob Faris, who is heading up the Appellate Skills program that will go forward all day on Wednesday, September 18, (and that will include **four,--count 'em, four** -- Article III Judges, as well as eight BK Judges experienced in bankruptcy appellate matters, offering critique and

feedback to our participants) in finalizing the logistics and instruction materials for the Judges participating in the program. So, the Appellate Skills program is fully ready to go! And we also had the chance to catch up with representatives for Dahlia Lithwick, the keynote speaker for our Closing Plenary Lunch on Friday, September 20, and to discuss the format for her remarks. Ms. Lithwick is excited to speak to and with us (she has generously agreed also to participate in a “Q&A” with the audience after her presentation) and we think her presentation will be a stimulating and exciting conclusion to our programming!

That’s all for now—We’ll See You in Seattle, It’s Going to Be Great!!!”