

100th Anniversary Committee
National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges
Report for the Annual Meeting 2024

This report is submitted on behalf of the 100th Anniversary Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. As previously reported, the Committee is divided into four subcommittees – Past (History), Present, Future, and Rollout. In addition to these subcommittees, there are also Liaison Subcommittees for the 2024 Annual Meeting, the 2025 Annual Meeting and the 2026 Annual Meeting. Each of those Liaison Subcommittees include the President/President-Elect and President-Designate for those respective years, or their designees.

The Rollout Committee is charged with taking the work of the other three subcommittees and directing the work to various forms of reporting and preservation including monthly articles for the Judges' Java, articles for the Conference News, creating or resurrecting content for the ABLJ, ultimately directing everything we gather (after sifting etc.) to the Biddle Library for preservation and permanent accessibility and, most importantly, helping to identify resources to assist in the creation of what we are calling, for now, the "Legacy Tapestry" (think 21st century version of what used to be preserved in a coffee table book). In that regard the Rollout Committee, with leadership in this area by Elaine Hammond, has tried to identify historians or historical preservationists who can give us ideas and leads on the best way to go about this project.

Our Past/History Subcommittee, co-chaired by Bill Thurman and Joan Feeney, have been hard at work on a number of projects, designed to gather together what history we already have, and identify and preserve the history of stories that we don't have. In that regard, the Past/History Subcommittee, with input from Committee members, and the greater bankruptcy community, have been identifying individuals whose oral histories must be preserved, or, if already taken, need to be supplemented. As to the latter, (again, with the leadership of Elaine) we are coordinating with the Biddle Library who will be providing us with content the library

already has so we can better access that content in connection with our ongoing efforts, including use in the “Legacy Tapestry”.

The Future Subcommittee, chaired by Jay Brown, is also hard at work gathering together the work that has been done by others, such as the Future of the Conference Committee and the Future of the Meeting Committee, both headed by Bob Grossman and Cathy McEwen, as starting points for where we take those comprehensive reports as we enter into a totally different world than that with which we were presented those many five years ago . . .

The Present Subcommittee’s work is much easier as this subcommittee won’t really have much to do until after the 2024 annual meeting.

We have done our best, and our doing our best, to organize our work in such a way that we can control costs. But we also recognize how momentous this 100th Anniversary is, and how important, especially in light of all the challenges to the judiciary, and especially the bankruptcy courts, that we preserve our legacy in a way that will be accessible to those that come after us, and report our legacy in a way that does justice to, and memorializes the tremendous work of, those who came before us in making our bankruptcy system and this tremendous organization what they are today. So, in that regard, we have asked for a financial commitment to the programs we envision for 2025 and we expect we will ask for more for the following year. That request includes anticipated extra time for ADG, who has been working side by side with us to guide us and inspire us, with wonderful ideas. Rest assured, however, that we have put a tremendous amount of thought into structuring our work to avoid any expenses that we can. In that regard, for example, we have decided to eliminate the recording booth for the 2024 annual meeting. Since we haven’t set up the media home for those stories yet, we will wait. Instead, we will have a suggestion box that either I will put together from materials that I buy at a craft store in Seattle, or, if available, an old “key drop” box the hotel allows us to use.

I am very proud and honored that Judge Norton asked me to chair this committee, and honored to serve on this committee with Bill Thurman, Joan Feeney, Tom Small, Cathy McEwen, Kathy Surratt-States, Erithe Smith, Elaine Hammond, Debbie Thorne, Chris Alston, Jay Brown, Marty Barash, Jan Baer, Tracey Wise, Paul Black, and of course, Cynthia Norton and Kathy Van De Loo. ADG has provided invaluable support and assistance, and has generously donated time beyond ADG's contractual commitment, including all the time associated with creating our 100th Anniversary logo. I am also grateful to Jan Baer who has given me the opportunity to continue to lead the Committee for the upcoming year.

I will be present at the annual meeting where I will give a brief summary of this report, and will be available for questions from the Board.

Thank you.

Laurel Myerson Isicoff
Southern District of Florida