

**Qualifications for Participation in the
Honorable Cornelius Blackshear NCBJ Presidential Fellowship Program
at the 2025 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges
Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL on September 17-20, 2025**

Between 1 and 5 up-and-coming bankruptcy attorneys will receive Presidential Blackshear Fellowships at the 2025 NCBJ Annual Meeting in **Chicago, IL (September 17-20, 2025)**. Individual attorneys, law firms, government agencies and bankruptcy judges are invited to nominate, as Blackshear Presidential Fellows, attorneys who deserve special recognition for their professional accomplishments to date, and who show the potential to distinguish themselves in future years as highly respected members of the bankruptcy or debt restructuring bar, just as Judge Blackshear himself did.

To be nominated, the prospective program participant must:

- a. have two to ten years of experience practicing law, including judicial clerkship;
- b. devote at least 50% of his/her practice to bankruptcy cases;
- c. demonstrate legal excellence in the practice of bankruptcy law;
- d. display a serious commitment to principles of civility, ethics and professionalism; and
- e. demonstrate commitment to the continued educational development of bankruptcy professionals and to professional activities that will benefit the public, members of the bar and the court system.

The Blackshear Presidential Fellowship provides a stipend for reimbursement of 50% of expenses (up to \$2,000.00 maximum) for travel, lodging and meals incurred to attend the NCBJ Annual Conference and waiver of NCBJ registration fees (not including optional activities, meals or tours) to the applicant(s) selected. Only one attorney from any single law firm or agency may participate.

Nominations will be accepted, commencing on **May 1, 2025**. The nomination period will close on **May 30, 2025**. Nominations submitted prior to or after the times will be disregarded. Each nomination must be in the form of correspondence from an authorized partner of the law firm, senior attorney of a governmental agency or bankruptcy judge attesting to the qualifications of the nominee to be a Blackshear Fellow, including the number of years the nominee has practiced law. Please include a completed application form with the nomination including the nominee=s full contact information and email address. The application form is available on the NCBJ website. Lawyers in firms with five or fewer attorneys may self-nominate but must fulfill the eligibility requirements. The correspondence and attachments in PDF format must be sent by e-mail to: kathy_surratt-states@moeb.uscourts.gov.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BANKRUPTCY JUDGES
HONORABLE CORNELIUS BLACKSHEAR PRESIDENTIAL FELLOWSHIP
2025 APPLICATION FORM**

Name (first, middle initial, last and title): _____

Home Address (Please no P.O. Boxes): _____

Phone: _____

Personal E-mail Address: _____

Business Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Business E-mail Address: _____

Educational background (name(s) of college(s)/university(ies), location(s), degrees and dates of graduation):

Professional background (include in this section the organizations for which the applicant has worked throughout his/her career and positions, beginning with the most recent). **Curriculum Vitae, Resume or similar documentation may be substituted.**

Bankruptcy, commercial law and related classes applicant has taken:

Applicant's past and present bankruptcy-related extracurricular activities:

Applicant's bankruptcy publications:

Any special awards or other recognition the applicant has received:

Hobbies and/or special interests:

Please list your current bar membership(s) and status (active or inactive):

Please list all U.S. District Courts (including Bankruptcy Courts) in which you are admitted or have been admitted:

Have you ever been the subject of disciplinary action by the Bar of any state or court of any jurisdiction in which you are licensed or admitted? If yes, please describe.

Have you ever been denied admission to the court of any state or to any federal court? If yes, please describe.

Have you ever been disciplined (or are you the subject of any pending action), sanctioned, disbarred, suspended, subject of a public or private reprimand or held in contempt by the Bar of any jurisdiction or by any court? If yes, please describe.

The following items must be submitted with your application:

- **A personal statement of 250-300 words describing why you should be selected as a Blackshear Presidential Fellow**
- **One letter of recommendation from an attorney, law professor or law school dean**

**Please submit this form and any attachments by e-mail no later than
May 30, 2025 to Judge Kathy Surratt-States at
kathy_surratt-states@moeb.uscourts.gov**

I, _____, certify that all the information given here is complete and accurate and given for the purpose of having the selection committee take action in reliance thereon. I understand that the information provided is subject to thorough investigation by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, its members, staff, and affiliates for the purpose of selecting fellowship recipients. This includes, but is not limited to, contacting the Bankruptcy Judge(s) in the District(s) in which you practice or have practiced in the past.

I understand that any false or misleading statements, or inaccurate or incomplete information, may be the bases for denial of the fellowship. I further understand that the obligation to provide truthful, accurate and complete information is a continuing one that requires me to notify the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges of any changes in my answers to any part of this application which occur after the date of my signature on this application.

Date: _____

Signature: _____