

Careers in the Law:

Bankruptcy Lawyers – The Last Great Generalists

Panel Discussion with Judge Robert Faris, James Wagner, Esq., and Professor Charles D. Booth

Sponsored by the American College of Bankruptcy Law

DATE: November 16, 2015

TIME: 4:00 pm

LOCATION: Moot Court Room



This panel will discuss the career opportunities available to bankruptcy specialists and the need for all commercial lawyers to understand the rudiments of bankruptcy law and practice. The panel will include Judge Robert Faris, a US Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Hawai‘i, who will also chair the session. The other two panelists are James Wagner, a leading bankruptcy practitioner in Hawai‘i who practices at Wagner Choi & Verbrugge, and Professor Charles D. Booth of the Richardson School of Law whose research and teaching focuses on comparative and cross-border insolvency law and who has been involved in many insolvency and commercial law reform projects. The panelists will discuss what bankruptcy lawyers do and explain how they became interested in bankruptcy law and why they enjoy their work.

The panel is sponsored by the American College of Bankruptcy, an honorary public service association of bankruptcy and insolvency professionals who are invited to join as Fellows based on a proven record of the highest standards of professionalism plus service to the profession and their communities. All three speakers are Fellows in the College.

RSVP to Dana Lum by close of business Friday, 11/13/2015. A headcount is requested for ordering refreshments.

Robert J. Faris is a US Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Hawai‘i. He received a BA from Reed College in 1980 and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his J.D. from the Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, in 1983. He served as an associate editor of the California Law Review in 1982-83, and was elected to the Order of the Coif. From 1983 until 2002, he practiced with a Honolulu law firm, emphasizing bankruptcy, insolvency, and commercial litigation. He became a bankruptcy judge in February 2002. He is also a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

James A. Wagner is a partner at the law firm Wagner Choi & Verbrugge. His practice focuses on business reorganizations and workouts, corporate liquidations, receiverships, and foreclosures. Mr. Wagner has represented major parties in interest, ranging from debtors and trustees to lenders and creditors' committees, in most of the larger bankruptcy cases filed in the District of Hawai‘i in the last 30 years, including the following: as counsel for Joint Plan Proponent Sun Kona Finance I, LLC in *In re 1250 Oceanside Partners*; as counsel for the Chapter 7 Trustee in the liquidation of Aloha Airlines, Inc.; and as counsel for Debtor Azabu Buildings Co., Ltd., a Japanese corporation and then owner of the Hyatt Regency Waikiki Resort and Spa, which successfully confirmed reorganization plans in parallel recognition proceedings in the United States and Japan that resulted in a tax-driven stock sale of the reorganized debtor.

Charles D. Booth, Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, is a leading expert on comparative and cross-border insolvency and commercial law and is well known for his work on Asian law. He has co-authored *A Global View of Business Insolvency Systems* (2010), the *Hong Kong Personal Insolvency Manual* (3rd ed, forthcoming 2015), and the *Hong Kong Corporate Insolvency Manual* (2d ed, 2009). He has served as a consultant on insolvency and commercial law reform projects for many international organizations (including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank) on projects in China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Mongolia, and Vanuatu, and in Asia and Europe generally. He is also a Founding member of the International Insolvency Institute and a member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law.

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