



**BANKRUPTCY JUDGE MARY F. WALRATH  
RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS JUDGE WILLIAM NORTON, JR.  
JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware is delighted to announce that Judge Mary F. Walrath has received the prestigious Judge William Norton, Jr. Judicial Excellence Award. The American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) will present Judge Walrath with this award at the ABI luncheon during the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges in Las Vegas on October 10.

The award is named for former Bankruptcy Judge William L. Norton, Jr. and was created by Thomson Reuters and the ABI. The award honors a bankruptcy judge who has a record of service, achievement and leadership in the insolvency community, who has distinguished herself/himself as an educator, writer, or scholar, and who has the same dedication to the insolvency community as did Judge Norton. Judge Walrath is the 12<sup>th</sup> recipient of the award. Prior recipients include Hon. Eugene Wedoff (2016), Hon. A. Jay Cristol (2015), Hon. Barbara J. Houser (2014), Hon. Barry Russell (2013), Hon. William Houston Brown (2012), Hon. Robert D. Martin (2011), Hon. Joseph Tomas Small (2010), Hon. Joseph “Jerry” Patchan (2009), Hon. Conrad K. Cyr (2008), Hon. Alexander L. Paskay (2007), and Hon. Joe Lee (2006).

Judge Walrath was sworn in as a bankruptcy judge for the District of Delaware on September 9, 1998. She practiced as an associate and a partner at Clark Ladner Fortenbaugh & Young from 1982 to the firm’s dissolution in 1996. She thereafter became a partner at Walrath &

Coolidge in March 1996 and a shareholder of Jacoby Donner, P.C. from January 1997 through August 1998 before being named by the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to the bench in Delaware.

Judge Walrath is a founding member and co-president of the Delaware Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, a member of the Delaware Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), and a member and past judicial chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) Mid-Atlantic Conference. Judge Walrath is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and currently serves as President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Prior to becoming President of the organization, she served on the NCBJ's Board of Governors from 2007 to 2012, as Secretary from 2013 to 2014, as Chair of the Education Committee from 2014 to 2015, and as President-Elect from 2015 to 2016. She also served as an associate editor and business manager of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal from 2009 to 2015. In addition to speaking at numerous bankruptcy educational programs and panels throughout the country, Judge Walrath participated in an educational program for judges in Doha, Qatar, which was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Judge Walrath also recently testified before the House Judiciary Committee on H.R. 1667, the Financial Institution Bankruptcy Act of 2017.

Judge Walrath's professional career has been consistently marked by service to the Bar generally and to the insolvency community in particular. It is a pleasure to extend our warmest congratulations to our colleague for this richly deserved recognition and acknowledgment of her personal character and professional contributions.

Wilmington, Delaware  
August 16, 2017

Chief Judge Brendan Linehan Shannon  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
for the District of Delaware