# MELANIE L. CYGANOWSKI Member of the Firm Otterbourg P.C.

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- **Otterbourg P.C.,** 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169-0075. Member of the Firm. June 16, 2008 to present. Chair of Insolvency Litigation Services, ADR and Fiduciary Appointments practice area. Bankruptcy law and Bankruptcy litigation; fiduciary appointments; mediation; arbitration; general commercial, federal court and complex litigation; expert witness; legal ethics.
- **Greenberg Traurig, LLP,** The MetLife Building, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166. Shareholder and Chair of the New York Office Bankruptcy Litigation Practice. March 1, 2007 to June 2, 2008. Bankruptcy law and Bankruptcy litigation; mediation; legal ethics.
- **United States Bankruptcy Judge, Eastern District of New York,** United States Bankruptcy Court, The Long Island Federal Courthouse, 290 Federal Plaza, Central Islip, NY 11722. Appointed on March 1, 1993 through February 28, 2007. Appointed as Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court on November 29, 2005. Presided over thousands of commercial and individual bankruptcy cases and published numerous opinions; mediations.
- St. John's University, School of Law, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Jamaica, NY 11439. Adjunct Professor (part-time), LL.M. Program in Bankruptcy. January 2001 to present. Bankruptcy Ethics, Fraud & Malpractice; Chapter 11 Corporate Reorganization; Interrelationship of Domestic Relations & Bankruptcy.
- Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza, New York, NY 10005. Senior Attorney, Litigation. May, 1989 to February, 1993. General commercial law; contract, partnership and business law disputes; federal court and complex litigation; Bankruptcy law and lender liability litigation.
- Sullivan & Cromwell, 125 Broad, New York, NY 10004. Litigation Associate. 1982 to May, 1989. Federal court and complex litigation; general commercial, insurance and contract law disputes; mergers & acquisition litigation; securities regulatory compliance and securities litigation.
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York, Foley Square, New York, NY 10007. Law Clerk, Honorable Charles L. Brieant; 1981 to 1982.
- Hodgson, Russ, Andrews, Wood & Goodyear, Buffalo, NY. Summer Associate, 1980.
- **Broadway-Fillmore Area Council, Inc.,** Buffalo, NY. Director, Individual Referral Program funded by CETA Title I; 1978 to 1979. Procured and administered grants exceeding \$800,000 annually.
- **City of Buffalo, Departments of Community Development and Human Resources,** Buffalo, NY. Program Planning Coordinator, Planner & Consultant, 1974 to 1978. Supervised planning unit and divisional personnel which administered the Block Grant programs; coordinated East Buffalo's comprehensive development plan, including its designation as the first nationally recognized SBA loan program area and the implementation of \$1 million EDA commercial beautification program.

#### **EDUCATION**

Faculty of Law & Jurisprudence, State University of New York at Buffalo. J.D., magna cum laude, May, 1981. Sea Grant Fellow, 1979. Award of Distinction in Law and Public Education, 1981. Buffalo Law Review: Senior Editor, 1980-81; Associate, 1979-80. Co-author, Survey: The Buffalo Polish-American Legal Experience, Buffalo Law Review, Vol. 30, No. 1 (1981). Buffalo Law Journal, Abstract Writer, 1979-80.

**Cornell University, Department of Anthropology,** Ithaca, NY Graduate studies in Ph.D. program in urban development, 1975.

**Grinnell College,** Grinnell, Iowa. A.B., with Honors in Anthropology, May 1974. Grinnell Honor Scholar.

#### AWARDS

Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy (Inductee 2014)

Super Lawyers: Top 50 Women Attorneys in New York Metro Area (2012--)

Super Lawyers, Bankruptcy (2007--).

The Best Lawyers in America (2012--)

**United States Marshal Special Recognition Award**, Crest Hollow Country Club, Westbury, NY (2007) **New York Institute of Credit, Trustee's Award**, Hilton Hotel, New York, NY (2007).

New York State Bar Association, Commercial & Federal Litigation Section, "Hail to the Chiefs" Award, Lincoln Center, New York, NY (2006).

Turnaround Management Association Award, Melville, NY (2006).

Alumni Wall of Fame, East Leyden High School, Franklin Park, IL (1998).

Citizen of the Year Award in Law, Am-Pol Eagle, Buffalo, NY (1994).

### **ADMISSIONS & ASSOCIATIONS**

Admitted to Practice: Supreme Court of the United States; United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; United States District Courts for the Eastern, Southern and Western Districts of New York; United States District Court for the District of Columbia; United States District Court for the District of Connecticut; United States District Court for the District of New Jersey; United States Court of Federal Claims; Courts of the State of New York.

Appointed to the Mediation Registers of the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern District of New York, District of Delaware and District of New Jersey.

American Bar Association; American Bankruptcy Institute; Bar of the City of New York: Alternative Dispute Committee (2011--) and Secretary (2012--); Judiciary Committee (2008-2010); Bankruptcy Committee (2009-2010); Commercial & Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association: Chair, Nomination Committee (1993--); Treasurer (1992-1993); Chair, Committee on Federal Judiciary (1990-1992); Member of the Executive Committee (1989--) Member of the ADR Committee (2013--); Federal Bar Council; National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges: member (1993--); New York Institute of Credit: Board of Directors (2007--), Vice President, NYIC Women's Division (2007--); Turnaround Management Association.

Fellow of the American Bar Foundations (2004--).

Fellow of the New York State Bar Foundation (2004-).

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### **ARTICLES & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

"Who is an 'Employer' Under Federal WARN Act Regulations?," article presented at ABI Spring Meeting, Washington, D.C. (2014)

"Interests Under Section 363: Tangible or Intangible," Norton Journal Bankruptcy Law Publication, Vol. 22, Issue 4; 22 J. Bankr. L. & Prac. 6 Art. 1 (December 2013)

"A Judges' Chat Across the Rivers," New York Institute of Credit, moderated panel of Chief Judge Gloria M. Burns (USBJ, NJ), Chief Judge Carla E. Craig (USBJ, EDNY), Chief Judge Cecelia G. Morris (USBJ, SDNY), Judges Kathryn Ferguson, Rosemary Gambardella, Christine Gravelle, Novalyn Winfield, Judith Wizmur, Julie Manning (USBJ, NJ), Dorothy T. Eisenberg, Nancy Hershey Lord, Elizabeth S. Stong (USBJ, EDNY) and Shelley Chapman (USBJ, SDNY), Union League Club (November 2013)

"The Examiner's Report," Examiners in Bankruptcy Cases: A Guide For Examiners, Courts and *Practitioners*, Association of the Bar of the City of New York (September 2013)

"Law Firm Bankruptcies and Issues of Unfinished Business," Moderated judicial panel and article presented at Bankruptcy: Views from the Bench, ABI/Georgetown University Law Center, September 2013)

"The Evolving Application of the Public Policy Exception in Cross-Border Insolvencies", Insol World – First Quarter 2013

"The Limits of Comity in Cross-Border Insolvency", Corporate LiveWire (April 2013)

"Chapter 11 Track: International Program – Chapter 15 and the Public Policy Exception," presented at the ABI Spring Meeting, National Harbor, MD (April 2013)

"A Chat Among the Chiefs of the Federal Courts," New York Institute of Credit, moderated panel of Chief Judge Loretta Preska (USDJ, SDNY), Chief Judge Carol Amon (USDJ, EDNY), Chief Judge Cecelia G. Morris (USBJ, SDNY), and Chief Judge Carla E. Craig (USBJ, EDNY), Union League Club (November 2012)

"A Compilation of Decisions in the Aftermath of Stern v. Marshall", ABI Views from the Bench, Washington, DC (October 2012)

"Another Set of Eyes, The Expert as Evaluator", Expert Guide, Bankruptcy & Restructuring (March 2012)

"The Public Policy Exception in Cross-Border Recognition by American Bankruptcy Courts", Financier Worldwide (January 2012)

Panelist, Women as Judges and Partners, presented at Portrait of a Judge: The Honorable Judith S. Kaye - A Look at Her Continuing Legacy of Writings, Initiatives and Landmarks for Women in the Law, Court of Appeals Hall (October 2011)

"Appointment of Receivers Under State Law," "Alter Ego and Piercing the Corporate Veil," and "Bringing Third Parties In," presented at the National Attorneys General Training & Research Institute. National Association of Attorneys General, States' Association of Bankruptcy Attorneys, Austin, Texas (October 2011)

"Expert Testimony and Reports," presented at the Anti-Fraud/Anti-Money Laundering Conference, NYC 3267627.1 - 3 -

Marriott Marquis (June 2010)

*"Stub Rent: Is Payment of the First Month Rent Truly an Obligation of the Past?"*, presented at the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Association, Saratoga Springs, NY (November 2009)

*"Liquidating Chapter 11 Cases & Asset Disposition: The Bankruptcy Sale Process,"* presented at the Capital Region Bankruptcy Bar Association, Saratoga Springs, NY (November 2009)

Report, Co-Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Task Force on the State of our Courthouses (June 2009)

*"The Intersection of Advanced Bankruptcy and Matrimonial Practice,"* presented at the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, New York Chapter (May 2009)

"Chapter 11 Liquidation Cases: Selected Issues When Chapter 11 is the Beginning of the End," ABI Views from the Bench, Washington, DC (October 2008)

*"The Intersection of Domestic Relations & Bankruptcy Laws: The Top Ten Myths,"* presented at the Federal and State Judiciary Program, New York (May 2008)

*"Subprime Paradigm: Lessons on Maximizing Value from the Subprime, 1031 and Servicer Cases,"* presented at the ABI Annual Winter Leadership Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA (December 2007)

"Sales & Executory Contracts: Bidding Procedures; Use of Findings (aka "how the 'whereas' clauses define the deal"); carve-outs; sales free and clear of successor liability claims," presented at the ABI Views from the Bench, Washington, DC (October 2007)

*"Information a Committee is Required to Disclose to its Constituents and Deepening Insolvency as a Cause of Action,"* presented at the ABI Northeast Bankruptcy Conference, Newport, RI (July 2007)

"The Impact of a Bankruptcy Filing on State Court Proceedings and the Substantive Rights of Judgment Creditors in Bankruptcy," presented at the New York State Judicial Institute, White Plains, NY (March 2007)

*"Should Lawyers Be Jurors?"*, Chair of Report by the New York State Bar Association Commercial & Federal Litigation Section, Committee on Lawyers as Jurors (1990)

Frequent commentator on Fox Business News concerning bankruptcy and reorganization issues

- Speaker at numerous CLE programs sponsored by, *inter alia*, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the New York State Bar Association, The Turnaround Management Association, Women's Bar Associations, County Bar Associations, St. John's University Law School, Fordham Law School, Touro Law School, Georgetown University School of Law and NYIC, concerning bankruptcy law, cross-border and alternative dispute resolution issues (1993--).
- Speaker, National Neighborhood Revitalization Conference in The White House. One of twelve speakers invited by President Ford. Topic: Revitalization in Buffalo's East Side Neighborhoods (1976).

### WRITTEN OPINIONS & SIGNIFICANT CASES

During the period in which I served as United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of New York, I presided over thousands of bankruptcy cases, including the following:

- In re Telcar Group, Inc., 365 B.R. 345 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Feb. 13, 2007)
- In re R.F. Cunningham & Co., Inc., 47 Bankr. Ct. Dec. 158, 61 U.C.C. Rep. Serv. 2d (Callaghan) 642 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y., Dec. 21, 2006)
- In re R.F. Cunningham & Co., Inc., 355 B.R. 408 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2006)
- In re DiGeronimo, 354 B.R. 625 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2006)
- In re Total Time Solutions LLC, 806-71631 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2005)
- In re Brunswick Hospital Center, Inc., 805-88168 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2005)
- In re The Motorcycle Excellence Group, Inc., 805-70089 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2005)
- In re New Times Securities Services, Inc., 318 B.R. 753 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2004)
- In re Acclaim Entertainment, Inc., 804-85595 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2004)
- In re David Blatt a/k/a Jay Black, 805-94851 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2005)
- In re Developmental Disabilities Institute, Inc., 801-80920 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2001)
- In re Bay Harbour Associates LP, 899-85379 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1999)
- In re QC Piping Installations, Inc., 225 B.R. 553 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1998)
- In re Sanders-Langsam Tobacco Co., 224 B.R. 1 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1998)
- In re Corporate Food Management, Inc., 223 B.R. 635 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1998)
- In re PG Realty Co., 220 B.R. 773 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1998)
- In re Gurney's Inn Corp. Liquidating Trust, 215 B.R. 659 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1997)
- In re Koula Enterprises, Ltd., 197 B.R. 753 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1996)
- In re Braniff International Airlines, Inc., 164 B.R. 820 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1994)
- In re IBI Security Service, Inc., 158 B.R. 1 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 1993)

### FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS

- In re Vivendi, Case No. 5571 (SDNY) (Special Master) (Securities class action)
- Picard v. Merkin, Adv. Pro. No. 09-1182 (Bankr. SDNY) (Arbitrator of e-discovery disputes)
- Biolitec, Inc., Case No. 13-11157 (DHS) (Chapter 11 Trustee)
- Mill River Foundation, Inc., Case No. 12-50306 (Bankr. D. CT) (Chapters 11/7 Trustee)
- Batavia Nursing Home, LLC, Case No. 11-13223 (Bankr. WDNY) (Chapter 11 Trustee)
- Geriatric Realty Corp., Case No. 11-13225 (Bankr. WDNY) (Chapter 11 Trustee)
- U.S. Trustee v. Capital One, Adv. Pro. No. 08-012720 (Bankr. D. Mass) (Auditor)
- Ross v. Thomas, Case No. 09-cv-05631 (SDNY) (Receiver)
- JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. v. Global Capital Services LLC, 11-cv-01648 (SDNY) (Receiver)
- Bank of America, N.A., as Trustee, et al., v. PCV St Owner LP, et al., 10 Civ. 1178 (SDNY) (Referee) (aka Stuyvesant/Peter Cooper Village foreclosure)

## SIGNIFICANT MEDIATIONS

- In re General Motors Corp. (Member of Panel Mediators), Case No. 09-50026 (REG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re Intrep National Radio Sales Inc., et al. (Member of Panel Mediators), Case No. 08-11079 (RDD) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re Madoff/BMLIS (Member of Panel Mediators), Case No. 08-01789 (BRL) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re Metaldyne (Member of Panel Mediators), Case No. 11-02000 (MG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re Quebecor World Litigation Trust (Member of Panel Mediators) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re ADOC Holdings, Inc., et al. (f/k/a Coda Holdings, Inc.), Case No. 13-11153 (CSS) (Bankr. Del.), Tony Bulchak, et al., v. ADOC Holdings, Inc., et al., Adv. Pro. No. 13-51031 (CSS) (Bankr. Del.)

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- Alliance Bancorp Mediations, including First Collateral Services Inc., Adv. Pro. No. 09-51408 (Bankr. D. Del.)
- Charter Communications/Law Debenture Trust Co., Adv. Pro. No. 11-01267 (JMP) (Bankr. SDNY)
- DTZ Rockwood Mediations, Adv. Pro. No. 09-1263 (SMB) (Bankr. SDNY)
- Genergy v. Port Authority of NY/NJ, Case No. 10-05271 (REG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- GII Industries, Inc. v. City of New York, Adv. Pro. No. 08-01045 (Bankr. EDNY)
- Grace/State of New York Mediations (Bankr. EDNY)
- Lindenwood Associates LLC, as Liquidating Trustee of Lighthouse Global Partners LLC & Lighthouse Financial Group LLC v. Halpern & Associates LLC, Adv. Pro. 11-02781(SMB) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re 2607 Jerome N, LLC, et al., Case No. 13-10034 (REG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re 261 E. 78 Realty Corp., Case No. 11-15624 (REG), 261 E. 78 Realty Corp. v. MB Financial Corp., Adv. Proc. 12-01118, 13-01000 (REG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re 192 N. Main, LLC, Case No. 806-70368-REG) (Bankr. EDNY)
- McCord v. Countrywide Financial Corp., Adv. Pro. No. 08-01215 (Bankr. EDNY)
- In re Malese 18 Corp., Case No. 02-80586 (DTE) (Bankr. EDNY)
- In re Metro Fuel Corp., et al., Case Nos. 12-46913, et al., (ESS) (Bankr. EDNY)
- Peter Mochnal v. EOS Airlines, Inc., Adv. Pro. No. 08-08279 (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re Quad-C Funding LLC., Case No. 13-11725 (ALG) (Bankr. SDNY)
- In re SageCrest II LLC, Case No. 08-50754 (Bankr. D. CT)
- Sheldrake Estates Condominiums & Sheldrake Lofts LLC v. Village of Mamaroneck, Adv. Pro. No. 10-08424 (Bankr. SDNY)
- Sonix Medical Resources, Inc., et al., Case No. 09-77781 (DTE), Joshua Rizack, as the Plan Administrator, et al., v. Soni, et al., Adv. Pro. No. 11-09440 (AST)
- Southside Mediations, 09-43575 (ESS) (Bankr. EDNY)
- Wells Fargo Century, Inc. v. Safdeye, Adv. Pro. No. 05-01417 (Bankr. EDNY)

# SIGNIFICANT CLIENT REPRESENTATIONS

- In re Downey Financial Corp., No. 08-13041 (Bankr. D. Del.) (FDIC)
- In re DPH Holdings Corp., No.10-4170-bk (2d Cir.) (State of Michigan Workers' Compensation Insurance Agency and State of Michigan Funds Administration)
- In re Escada (USA) Inc., Case No. 09-15008 (Bktcy SDNY) (Committee of Unsecured Creditors)
- In re General Motors Corp., Case No. 09-50026 (REG) (Bktcy SDNY) (Ally Financial Corp.)
- In re Greatwide Logistic Services, Case No. 08-12430 (Bktcy D. Del.) (Committee of Unsecured Creditors)
- Guaranty Financial Group Inc. v. FDIC, 10-cv-00980 (ND Tex.) (FDIC)
- Claybrook v. United States, 10-cv-00734 (Court of Federal Claims) (FDIC)

# EXPERT TESTIMONY

- Fairfield Sentry Limited (In Liquidation), Claim No: BVIHC (COM) 133/2011 (High Court of Justice, British Virgin Islands, Commercial Division)
- The Federal Mogul Asbestos Personal Injury Trust v. Federal-Mogul Limited; Curzon Insurance Limited; Centre Reinsurance International Company; Muenchener Rueckversicherungs-Gesellschaft; and European International Reinsurance Company Ltd. (High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Commercial Court)
- In re SphinX Group of Companies, Cause No. 258 of 2006 (Grand Court of the Cayman Islands, Financial Services Division)
- Standard Chartered Bank of New York re Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc. (Philippines)
- *In re Vitro, S.A.B. de C.V.*, (Federal District Court for Civil and Labor Matters for the State of Nuevo León, the United Mexican States)

- Vornado v. Stop 'n Shop, Index No. 105819/03 (Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York)
- Aris Mardirossian and ARL LLC, et al., v. Miller Miller & Canby (American Arbitration Association, MD)
- Endless Ocean LLC v. Twomey, Latham, Shea, Kelley, Dubin & Quartararo LLP and David M. Dubin, Index No. 55390/2011 (Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester)
- *Miller v. Kluger, Kaplan, Silverman, Katzen & Levine, et al.*, Case No. 32-194-Y-00500-11 (American Arbitration Association, Miami, FL)