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Introduction: A Tribute to Jay Alix

Matthew Thomas

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INTRODUCTION: A TRIBUTE TO JAY ALIX

Since 1999, the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* has honored an individual who significantly affected the field of bankruptcy, insolvency, and restructuring law with the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. Past recipients of the Distinguished Service Award include: The Honorable William L. Norton, Jr. (1999); Professor Kenneth N. Klee (2000); Frank R. Kennedy (2001); Harvey R. Miller (2002); The Honorable David H. Coar (2003); Gerald K. Smith (2004); The Honorable Conrad B. Duberstein (2005); Senator Dennis W. DeConcini (2006); The Honorable W. Homer Drake, Jr. (2007); Professor Douglas G. Baird (2008); Senator Elizabeth Warren (2009); Barry W. Ridings (2010); Tony Alvarez II and Bryan Marsal (2011); The Honorable Justice Geoffrey B. Morawetz (2012); Richard Levin (2013); Professor David Epstein (2014); Professor Marjorie Girth (2015); Professor Grant W. Newton (2016); Keith J. Shapiro (2017); The Honorable Mary F. Walrath (2018); and James H.M. Sprayregen (2019). On March 3, 2020, Volume 36 of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* presented Mr. Jay Alix with the Twenty-Second Annual Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Mr. Alix is a philanthropist and is the founder of AlixPartners, a management consulting firm that specializes in complex restructurings, turnarounds, and performance improvement programs. Though Mr. Alix no longer practices with the firm, he still serves on the board of AlixPartners and now focuses on pro bono and creative activities, including advising the Mayo Clinic and producing plays and documentaries.

Mr. Alix received his undergraduate education at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and received an MBA in Accounting from Rutgers University. Mr. Alix began his career with Price Waterhouse (now PriceWaterhouseCoopers) as a CPA in their New York office. Mr. Alix founded AlixPartners in 1981 and quickly rose to prominence in the restructuring and turnaround worlds shortly thereafter. Indeed, Mr. Alix's work influenced the United States Trustee Program to adopt the term "J. Alix Protocol" for provisions in restructuring plans that retain a Chief Restructuring Officer or other turnaround staff.

Mr. Alix's work at AlixPartners has been extensively written about and he has consulted on some of the largest and most prominent mergers and restructurings in American business history. For his work, Mr. Alix has received many awards and recognitions. President Clinton appointed Mr. Alix to the National Bankruptcy Review Commission in 1994, where Mr. Alix was the only

non-attorney serving on the commission. Mr. Alix served as a strategic advisor to Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer and helped plan and lead Mayor Archer's transition team. Mr. Alix received Wayne State University's Michigan Executive of the Year award in 2005, received the Harvey R. Miller Outstanding Achievement Award for Service to the Restructuring Industry in 2004, and was inducted into the Turnaround Management Association's Hall of Fame in 2008. For his pathbreaking work in complex restructuring and turnaround management, the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* selected Mr. Alix to receive the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2020 and honored him at the journal's banquet.

To mark the occasion, Mr. Alix was introduced by the Honorable Steven Rhodes. After Judge Rhodes's introduction, Mr. Alix addressed those in attendance at journal's banquet. The *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* is delighted to present a revised version of Judge Steven Rhodes's introduction and Mr. Alix's speech accepting the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. Please join us in celebrating the accomplishments of Mr. Jay Alix.

MATTHEW THOMAS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF