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INTRODUCTION: A TRIBUTE TO HON. DAVID R. JONES

For over two decades, the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* has honored giants in the field of insolvency and restructuring with the Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. Every year, at our Annual Banquet, we present this award to an individual who has significantly affected the field of insolvency and restructuring law, and who embodies the highest values of the discipline. A quick glance at our past recipients shows the caliber of the individuals who have done our *Journal* the honor of coming to Atlanta to accept this Award:

1999: Hon. William L. Norton, Jr.	2010: Barry W. Ridings
2000: Prof. Kenneth N. Klee	2011: Tony Alvarez II & Bryan Marsal
2001: Prof. Frank R. Kennedy	2012: Hon. Geoffrey B. Morawetz
2002: Harvey R. Miller	2013: Richard Levin
2003: Hon. David H. Coar	2014: Prof. David Epstein
2004: Gerald K. Smith	2015: Prof. Marjorie Girth
2005: Hon. Conrad B. Duberstein	2016: Prof. Grant W. Newton
2006: Sen. Dennis W. DeConcini	2017: Keith J. Shapiro
2007: Hon. W. Homer Drake, Jr.	2018: Hon. Mary F. Walrath
2008: Prof. Douglas G. Baird	2019: James H.M. Sprayregen
2009: Sen. Elizabeth Warren	2020: Jay Alix

The reader will notice that we have no entries for the years 2021 and 2022. It is useless to recite the countless ways in which the pandemic upended everyday life, but in our corner of the world, it threatened the continued existence of our Annual Banquet—it is all too easy for traditions like it to lapse. Our Executive Board received nonpareil support from all corners of the bankruptcy community in reviving this important event. The outpouring of help we received bears witness to the fact that *EBDJ* is a project that extends beyond the walls of Emory Law School and the pages of our Issues—it is a community endeavor, made possible through the concerted efforts of stakeholders from the bench, the bar, and the legal academy. Special thanks is especially due to our Advisory Board and to our Alumni Advisor, Keith J. Shapiro, who served as key repositories of the institutional memory necessary to make our Banquet and the presentation of the Award a success.

Our efforts, however, would have come to nothing without an honoree worthy of the title. We were therefore delighted and honored to have presented the twenty-third Distinguished Service Award for Lifetime Achievement to the Honorable David R. Jones, Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Judge Jones received his bachelor's degree from Duke University, his M.B.A. from Southern Methodist University, his J.D. from the University of Houston, and his L.L.M. from Duke University. After graduating from law school, Judge Jones worked as a partner in Porter Hedges' bankruptcy and restructuring group. While in private practice, Judge Jones was recognized as a "Leader in the Field" of Bankruptcy/Restructuring and was regularly listed in *The Best Lawyers in America in Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights Law*.

In September 2011, Judge Jones was appointed to serve as a United States Bankruptcy Judge by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge of the Court beginning in 2015. In 2020, *The Texas Lawbook* named Judge Jones as their 2020 Lawyer of the Year. Judge Jones currently sits on—and helped develop—the Complex Chapter 11 Panel in the Southern District of Texas, and has presided over many complex restructuring cases, including those of J.C. Penney, Neiman Marcus, CEC Entertainment, American Commercial Lines, and Chesapeake Energy. Upon appointment, he instituted a series of extraordinary reforms that revitalized Texas bankruptcy practice and made the Southern District of Texas one of the top restructuring hubs in the nation.

Judge Jones regularly teaches evidence classes to practitioners and bankruptcy procedure to law students at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He is well known for his commitment to public service and his meaningful contributions to the bankruptcy community in Texas and across the country.

On the day of our Banquet, Judge Jones was introduced by his longtime friend, mentor, and colleague, the Honorable Marvin Isgur of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas. Judge Isgur received both his bachelor's degree and J.D. from the University of Houston, and his M.B.A. from Stanford University. After a successful career at his boutique bankruptcy firm, Kirkendall & Isgur, Judge Isgur was appointed to the bench in February 2004. Judge Isgur has since written over five hundred memorandum opinions and was one of the first bankruptcy judges to issue an opinion on the 2005 Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act. Together with Judge Jones, his partner on the Southern District of Texas' Complex Chapter 11 Panel, Judge Isgur has shaped bankruptcy practice in Texas and beyond.

Judge Isgur volunteers with the Houston Urban Debate League, has served as adjunct faculty at the University of Houston Law Center, and frequently speaks at continuing education programs. Judge Isgur has handled many major complex cases, including Cineworld, Ultra Petroleum, California Pizza Kitchen, and Belk.

We are grateful beyond words to Judges Jones and Isgur for joining us in Atlanta on Thursday, March 30, 2023, and to the other members of the greater *EBDJ* community who spent their evening with us for this landmark event. We hope you will join us in celebrating the achievements of the Honorable David R. Jones.

ADRIANO OMAR IQBAL
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF