

Ronald Barliant

Ronald Barliant served as a United States bankruptcy judge for the Northern District of Illinois from 1988 to 2002. During his tenure on the bench, one of the largest cases over which he presided was Comdisco Inc. (in the technology services industry), involving more than \$4 billion in debt. Other prominent cases he heard include Florsheim Group Inc. (men's shoes); Birmingham Steel Corp. (specialty steel); Archibald Candy Corp. (confectionaries under Fanny May and Fanny Farmer brands); e-spire Communications Inc. (telecommunications); Ben Franklin Retail Stores (retail); Keck, Mahin & Cate (law firm); Forty-Eight Insulations Inc. (asbestos products); Outboard Marine Corp. (boat engines); and the developers in several significant single-asset real estate cases. Before ascending to the bench, he represented the trustee in the chapter 7 case of the owner and operator of an oil refinery, Energy Cooperative Inc., which at the time was the largest chapter 7 case in the history of the Northern District of Illinois.

Mr. Barliant is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy. He has taught debtor-creditor relations at John Marshall Law School and has frequently lectured and participated in panel discussions on bankruptcy-related topics at the invitation of many organizations, including the Federal Judicial Center, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ), the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), the American Bar Association (ABA), the Commercial Finance Association, the Turnaround Management Association, the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) and LexisNexis Mealey's. His published writings include articles on chapter 11 plans, executory contracts, preferences, and the anti-trust litigation in the United Airlines case (in which he represented an indenture trustee/defendant). He also co-authored an article featured in the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*, "From Free-Fall to Free-For-All: The Rise of Pre-Packaged Asbestos Bankruptcies (Winter 2004). He was a member of the board of governors of the NCBJ from 1998 to 2000 and of the NCBJ's Endowment for Education from 1997 to 1998.

In addition, he served on national judicial committees and on working groups considering technology issues and the treatment of mass torts in bankruptcy cases. Mr. Barliant is listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Illinois Super Lawyers*, as well as *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*. He is currently a member of the ABI (Business Reorganization Committee), ABA (Business Law Section), and NCBJ (Former Judges Section). He is research chair for the Bankruptcy and Reorganizations Committee of the CBA.

Mr. Barliant is admitted to practice in Illinois and currently practices in Chicago. He also frequently serves as a mediator, consultant and expert witness. He received his law degree in 1969 from Stanford University School of Law, where he was a member of the editorial board of the *Stanford Law Review*. He received his B.A. in 1966 from Roosevelt University.