



## **CALIFORNIA BANKRUPTCY FORUM – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**



### **WELCOME TO THE CALIFORNIA BANKRUPTCY FORUM**

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the 2011-2012 President of the California Bankruptcy Forum. The following brief summary of the forum and its leadership, scope, and mission is provided to those interested in learning more about and becoming involved in the California Bankruptcy Forum.

The California Bankruptcy Forum is the premier organization of California insolvency law professionals, and its members represent the best of this profession. The California Bankruptcy Forum is comprised of seven regional forums located throughout the state. The regional forums provide their members with high-level educational programs, as well as expanded networking opportunities. All CBF members, upon payment of nominal annual dues to their local forums, receive access to the educational and networking programs offered at the regional and state level. These programs form the basis of continuing dialog between the Court, the bar and the United States Trustee’s office, which enhance the quality of the bankruptcy practice, enhance the professionalism and collegiality among the CBF members, and provide valuable outreach opportunities to the public. The statewide board and the local forums oversee the CBF activities. These dedicated, talented and enthusiastic members coordinate various events and educational programs throughout the year that are approved to provide MCLE and CPE credits.

The CBF is a service organization, rather than a policy making body, that provides educational support for the numerous bankruptcy and insolvency-related practitioners throughout the State of California. Its goal is to provide the highest standards in the practice of bankruptcy and insolvency law. The mission of the CBF is to provide educational support for the public and insolvency professionals to better serve the community and the profession. Its members comprise numerous professional practices including those that are primarily involved in the practice of law: accounting, appraising, auctioning, consulting, restructuring, financing, brokering, developing, managing, consulting and administering the different aspects of each bankruptcy and related insolvency case.

The CBF also publishes a scholarly review, the California Bankruptcy Journal, that has been cited in numerous published opinions including those of the United States Supreme Court. Jeffrey Golden and Eric Israel are Co-editors in Chief, and have dedicated countless hours delivering cutting edge, scholarly material relevant to the current bankruptcy practice in the State of California and throughout the United States. It is my pleasure to work with such a dedicated and creative team to carry out the CBF mission, and despite serving as the weak link of the Group, I am looking forward to the year ahead. The CBF executive board members are actively coordinating a full calendar of exciting activities and events including the 24th Annual Insolvency Conference to be held May 2012 at the Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage, California.

Additionally, let me thank the leadership group that has worked tirelessly during the past year to promote and accomplish the goals of the California Bankruptcy Forum. As President, Steven Speier directed the 2011 annual conference held in Squaw Valley. Steve and the conference co-chairs, Raquel Edwards, Ori Katz, and Paul Pascuzzi, teamed with the educational chairs, Christine Baur, Gary Kaplan, and Peter Mastan, to present an outstanding program that featured timely topics. In addition, the Young Insolvency Professionals program was co-chaired by Jamie Dreher and Maryam Ghazi. Others provided additional segment producer, program book and golf leadership to make the annual conference a success. Of course, JBS & Associates, led by Jeanne Sleeper and Toni Spangler provided their usual outstanding organizational and administrative support.

Each year, the culmination of the hard work and dedication of the CBF team is on display at the annual meeting held in May. In 2011, one would be hard-pressed to have assembled a more talented leadership team or attended a better-run conference. The educational program was top-notch, and the social networking opportunities extraordinary. Held at the Resort at Squaw Creek in breathtaking Lake Tahoe, the event was both well-received and truly memorable.

In 2012, our annual meeting will be held at the Westin Mission Hills Resort in Rancho Mirage, California, and to suggest we have our work cut out for us in maintaining the high standards set by our predecessors at Squaw Creek is an understatement. Never shy to tackle the mountain, I'm honored to have my CBF colleagues Robert A. Franklin and Joel B. Weinberg serve as 2012 conference co-chairs. The education program will be co-chaired by my colleague and soon-to-be bankruptcy judge Neil W. Bason and Southern California representatives Richard H. Golubow and Christopher V. Hawkins. Our program book co-chairs are Michael M. Lauter, Matthew W. Grimshaw, and Dawn Messick. Joseph R. Dunn and Megan A. Lewis are serving as our YIP co-chairs. Michael T. O'Halloran and Peter Fear are serving as our consumer program and poetry program co-chairs. And, of course, the conference will be managed by the incredibly talented Jeanne B. Sleeper and Toni Spangler of JBS & Associates.

I look forward to meeting you at the scheduled events organized by the local and state leadership groups. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other board member to become more involved with the CBF activities or to share your thoughts on how we can continue to improve the organization.

Thank you for your participation,

Christopher Celentino  
2011-2012 President