

Sudell New Chairman Of Bankruptcy Section

The bankruptcy section of the Delaware State Bar Association recently announced a new chairman: William H. Sudell Jr., senior partner with Wilmington law firm Morris Nichols Arsh & Tunnell, was unanimously elected and will assume his duties July 1.

A member of Morris Nichols' business reorganization and restructuring group as well as its corporate and business litigation group, Sudell represents debtors and creditors' committees and secured and unsecured creditors.

In addition to the DSBA, Sudell is a member of the American Bar Association, the American Bankruptcy Institute and the Delaware Bankruptcy Inn of Court. He earned a B.S./B.A. in aerospace engineering from Brown University and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Sudell succeeds Daniel J. DeFranceschi, a director of Richards Layton & Finger in Wilmington, as chairman of the section. DeFranceschi was the young section's first chair. He was elected at its initial meeting in June 2005. Only a few state bar associations have a bankruptcy section.

Delaware Team Wins Advocacy Contest

A team from the Delaware campus won the 17th annual Hugh B. Pearce Trial Advocacy Competition of the Widener University School of Law.

Students Geoffrey F. Sasso and Kent J. Mancini defeated students Christopher Schellhorn and Aaron Zeamer from the Harrisburg campus. The finals were held

in early April in the Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom on the Wilmington campus. Supreme Court Justice Henry duPont Ridgely presided over the final round and selected the winning team.

The 2006 competition used a scenario involving the armed robbery of a convenience store. In the fictitious crime, the proprietor's wife was shot and killed. Sasso and Mancini won the three rounds of Delaware competition to reach the final; Schellhorn and Zeamer won their three rounds on the Harrisburg campus.

Habbart Chairs Meeting Of ABA Section in Fla.

Ellisa Opstbaum Habbart, a partner with Wilmington law firm The Delaware Counsel Group, chaired the spring meeting of the American Bar Association's business law section in Tampa, Fla.

Habbart also served as moderator for the panel discussion "A New Regulatory Environment: Securitization After Regulation AB and the Securities Offering Reform," and presented on the topic of limited liability companies at the young business lawyers' institute at the meeting, which was held in early April. As part of the institute, Habbart addressed issues related to voting, indemnification, exculpation, fiduciary duties, capital contributions, additional capital calls and remedies for default.

The Delaware Counsel Group is a boutique law firm that advises Delaware business entities on transactions and operational issues under Delaware law. Habbart's practice focuses on Delaware corporate and alternative business entities, including advice on their formation, operation and governance.

Delaware Law Weekly

ALM

A weekly legal newsletter with Delaware Valley general circulation

PUBLISHED BY ALM MEDIA, INC.

P.O. Box 947 • Wilmington, Del. 19899

Phone: 302-377-1512

<http://www.delawarelawweekly.com>

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Postmaster send address changes to ALM attn: Customer Service, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1750, Philadelphia, PA 19103. For classified advertising information, please call 800-722-7670 #2340.

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