



AMERICAN  
BANKRUPTCY  
INSTITUTE

## 2017 Central States Bankruptcy Workshop

# Unshackled: Musings of Retired Bankruptcy Judges

**Brian L. Shaw, Moderator**

*Shaw Fishman Glantz & Towbin LLC; Chicago*

**Hon. James D. Gregg (ret.)**

*Rockford, Mich.*

**Hon. Robert D. Martin (ret.)**

*Middleton, Wis.*

**Hon. Steven W. Rhodes (ret.)**

*Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**Hon. Walter J. Shapero (ret.)**

*Detroit*

**Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff (ret.)**

*Oak Park, Ill.*

**UNSHACKLED: MUSINGS OF RETIRED BANKRUPTCY JUDGES**

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Central States Bankruptcy Workshop

June 10, 2017

Traverse City, Michigan

**Panelists**

Hon. James D. Gregg (ret.)

Grand Rapids, MI

Hon. Robert D. Martin (ret.)

Middleton, WI

Hon. Steven W. Rhodes (ret.)

Ann Arbor, MI

Hon. Walter J. Shapero (ret.)

Detroit, MI

Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff (ret.)

Oak Park, IL

**Moderator**

Brian L. Shaw

Shaw Fishman Glantz & Towbin LLC

Chicago, IL

- I. So, what are you doing?
- II. Letting Go of Judicial Control and Culture: How have you handled it  
(and would others agree with that assessment?)
- III. Judicial Legacy.
  - a. Do you believe you left a legacy? And if so, what?
  - b. If you were to start over and do it again, what would you do differently?
- IV. The Bankruptcy Code.
  - a. Chapter 11 Venue: Does it work or should it be fixed?
  - b. If you could make just one amendment to the Bankruptcy Code, what would it be?
- V. The Practice.
  - a. The Activist Judge: Appropriate or Not
    - i. Judges are not required to act like a pig hunting for truffles, but if you find one, what do you do?
    - ii. Consumer verses commercial cases.
    - iii. Policing the court and the practice before it.
  - b. What should the Court's authority and role be in policing the practice before it?

- c. During your tenure, how did the practice change and how did it remain the same?