

Kara Bruce
Professor of Law
UNC School of Law
160 Ridge Rd, Chapel Hill, NC 27514
kbruce1@unc.edu

RESEARCH AREAS

Bankruptcy law and procedure, consumer law, commercial law

TEACHING AREAS

Bankruptcy, Business Bankruptcy, Bankruptcy Litigation Skills, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Creditor-Debtor Law, Payment Systems, Secured Transactions

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Professor of Law with tenure, July 2024 – Present

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SCHOOL OF LAW, Norman, Oklahoma
Professor of Law with tenure, June 2022 – July 2024
Affiliate Faculty at OU Price College of Business, June 2022 – July 2024

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois
Visiting Professor of Law, January 2021 – June 2022

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO COLLEGE OF LAW, Toledo, Ohio
Professor of Law with tenure, August 2016 – June 2022
Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development, August 2017 – August 2018
Associate Professor, August 2013 – August 2015
Assistant Professor, August 2010 – August 2013

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, Salem, Oregon
Visiting Professor of Law, January 2019 – May 2019

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY INSTITUTE, Arlington, Virginia
Scholar in Residence, August 2013 – December 2013
Accepted invitation to assist the ABI's Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11, develop educational material and practitioner resources, respond to media inquiries, and continue ongoing podcast series.

LOCKE LORD BISSELL & LIDDELL, LLP, Chicago, Illinois
Associate in Bankruptcy, Insolvency & Reorganization Practice Group, September 2007 – June 2010
Summer Associate, May 2006 – August 2006
Represented debtors and creditors in chapter 11 cases and commercial litigation matters. Maintained an active pro bono practice.

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

CHARLES JORDAN TABB, KARA J. BRUCE, AND LAURA NAPOLI COORDES, *THE LAW OF BANKRUPTCY* (WEST 6th Ed. 2024).

STEPHEN L. SEPINUCK & KARA J. BRUCE, *PROBLEMS AND MATERIALS ON SECURED TRANSACTIONS* (WEST ACADEMIC)

- Fifth Edition, 2021, added new materials for adapting course to distance-learning formats.
- Sixth Edition, 2023, incorporates 2022 amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code.

Kara Bruce, Andrea Tosato, and Christopher K. Odinet, *DAOs in Financial Distress*, in *OXFORD HANDBOOK ON FOUNDATIONS OF DECENTRALIZED ORGANIZATIONS: BLOCKCHAIN AND THE FUTURE OF CORPORATE LAW* (Kevin Werbach, Eva Micheler, and Bianca Kremer eds., forthcoming 2025)

BEST OF ABI 2013: THE YEAR IN BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY (Kara J. Bruce ed., ABI Press, 2013).

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

Bankrupt Crypto Organizations, ____ N.C. L. REV. ____ (forthcoming 2025) (with Christopher Odinet and Andrea Tosato).

- SSRN Top Ten Legal Downloads; profiled on the ContractsProf Blog

Crypto Failure in the Shadows, 69 VILLANOVA L. REV. 127 (2024).

The Private Law of Stablecoins, 54 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 333 (2023) (with Christopher Odinet and Andrea Tosato).

- Winner of the Grant Gilmore Prize for superior writing in the field of commercial finance law, awarded by the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers.

Bankruptcy's Arbitration Countercurrent and the Future of the Debtor Class, 96 AM. BANKR. L. J. 819 (2022) (invited submission).

Bankruptcy's Adjunct Regulator, 72 FLORIDA L. REV. 159 (2020) (with Alexandra Sickler).

- Profiled by *Ipse Dixit*, the Duke Financial Regulation Blog, and the AALS creditor/debtor rights panel.

Midland Funding and the Pernicious Problem of Stale-Debt Claims, 49 LOYOLA L.A. L. REV. 435 (2018) (invited submission).

Private Remedies and Access to Justice in a Post-Midland World, 34 EMORY BANKR. DEV. J. 365 (2018) (invited submission with Alexandra Sickler).

Closing Consumer Bankruptcy's Enforcement Gap, 69 BAYLOR L. REV. 479 (2017).

- Cited by the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Vindicating Bankruptcy Rights, 75 MARYLAND L. REV. 443 (2016).

The Debtor Class, 88 TULANE L. REV. 21 (2013).

- Cited in several cases in the Bankruptcy Courts for the Southern District of New York and Eastern District of Louisiana.

Rehabilitating Bankruptcy Reform, 13 NEVADA L. J. 174 (2012).

- Excerpted in a leading bankruptcy textbook.

ESSAYS AND SHORTER WRITINGS

- Revenue-Based Finance and its Bankruptcy Implications*, 45 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2025) (invited submission)
- Decentralizing Bankruptcy: Insolvency in Web3*, 44 BANKR. L. LTR. 11 (2024) (invited submission).
- The Promise and Peril of Third-Party Litigation Finance in Bankruptcy*, 44 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2024) (invited submission).
- Managing Mortgage Claims: Rule 3002.1 and Related Issues*, 43 BANKR. L. LTR. 11 (forthcoming 2023) (invited submission).
- [Redacted]: *Creditor Privacy in Bankruptcy's Fishbowl*, 43 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2023) (invited submission).
- Stablecoins in Bankruptcy*, 42 BANKR. L. LTR. 10 (2022) (invited submission).
- The Murky Process of Characterizing Merchant Cash Advance Agreements*, 42 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2022) (invited submission).
- The CFPB Enters Consumer Bankruptcy*, 41 BANKR. L. LTR. 10 (2021) (invited submission with Alexandra Sickler).
- Bankruptcy's Uneven Response to Nuisance Claims*, 41 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2021) (invited submission).
- Adjusting Lease Obligations in Pandemic Bankruptcies*, 40 BANKR. L. LTR. 10 (2020) (invited submission).
- Detangling Discovery and Tolling Doctrines: The Educational Value of *Rotkiske v. Klemm**, 40 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2020) (invited submission).
- Prudential Standing in Bankruptcy Appeals: Recent Developments and Unanswered Questions*, 39 BANKR. L. LTR. 6 (2019) (invited submission).
- Recent Developments in Student Loan Non-Dischargeability: Aggregating Discharge Violation Claims*, 39 BANKR. L. LTR. 1 (2019) (invited submission).
- Recent Developments in Educational-Benefit Discharge Litigation*, 38 BANKR. L. LTR. 1 (2018) (invited submission).
- Channeling Punitive Damage Awards Under 362(k)*, 38 BANKR. L. LTR. 4 (2018) (invited submission).
- The Supreme Court's 2017 FDCA Roundup*, 37 BANKR. L. LTR. 1 (2017) (invited submission).
- Non-Debtor Substantive Consolidation: A Remedy Built on Rock or Sand?*, 37 BANKR. L. LTR. 1 (2017) (invited submission).
- Debt Buyers Beware: Filing Proofs of Claim for Time-Barred Debts in the Eleventh Circuit and Beyond*, 36 BANKR. L. LTR. 6 (2016) (invited submission).
- Kara J. Bruce, *Following Susan's Lead*, 47 U. TOL. L. REV. 11 (2015).
- Margaret M. Anderson, Courtney E. Barr and Kara J. Bruce, *The Creditor That is Always There – The Insurance Company*, 17 NORTON J. OF BANKR. L. AND PRAC. (2008).
- Jerrold J. Jacobsen, Gordon Bain, Kara Bruce, and John W. Moore, *Chemistry Comes Alive! Vol. 4*, J. CHEM. EDUC. SOFTWARE, 2000.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Learning Games as a Tool to Foster an Inclusive Classroom*
- Rabble Rousers as Bankruptcy Enforcers*

EDUCATION

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2007, Common Law Curriculum

Honors: Academic Scholarship. CALI award in Advanced Bankruptcy

Tulane Law Review's Charles Janvier II Award for Most Significant Contribution to Production

Activities: Managing Editor and Assistant Symposium Editor, *Tulane Law Review*

Teaching Assistant, First Year Legal Analysis Program

Auction Solicitation Chair and Development Chair, Tulane Public Interest Law Foundation

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, Illinois

Visiting Student, Fall 2005

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Bachelors of Arts, *cum laude*, May 2004, Major in Sociology, Minor in Social and Economic Justice, Certificate in Labor Studies

Honors: Dean's List, National Merit Scholar

UNIVERSITY SERVICE, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Current and Past College
and University Service
(bold indicates chair or
leadership positions)

Academic Policy Committee (university-wide)

Admissions Committee

Admissions program's faculty liaison

Appointments/Hiring Committee

Assessment Committee (university-wide)

Bankruptcy Moot Court Team Advisor

Budget Committee

Career Development Advisory Committee

Compensation Committee

Curriculum Committee

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Faculty Senate (university-wide)

Library Committee

Outstanding Teacher Award Nomination Committee (university-wide)

Renewal, Promotion, and Tenure Committee*

Scholarship Committee

Various staff hiring committees

Women's Law Student Association Advisor

Selected Grants, Honors
and Awards:

Grant Gilmore Award from the American College of Commercial
Finance Lawyers
Eastman & Smith Educator Grant (to pursue gamification project)
Beth Eisler Award for First-Year Teaching 2020
Online Teaching Certificate 2020
University of Toledo Outstanding Teacher Award 2018
Toledo Law Outstanding Professor Award for Dedication to Legal
Education (selected by the graduating class) 2018
Eastman & Smith Ltd. Faculty Achievement Award 2015
University of Toledo “Shining Star” Award 2015
College of Law Student Impact Award 2011-2012
American Bankruptcy Law Journal Academic Fellowship, 2011
University of Toledo Research Fellowship, 2015
Top Hat “Modern Educator” Grant, 2015

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

THEMIS BAR REVIEW

Lecturer, 2012-Present

Recorded bar-review lectures on a variety of subjects. Lectures currently assist bar takers in over 40 states nationwide. Past/present courses include Secured Transactions for the Multistate Essay Exam, Ohio Bar Exam, and Virginia Bar Exam; Suretyship and Liens for the North Carolina Bar Exam; Suretyship and Personal Property for the Illinois Bar Exam; Creditors’ Rights for the Michigan Bar Exam and the Virginia Bar Exam; and Contract Distinctions for the Michigan Bar Exam and Virginia Bar Exam.

AMERICAN BANKRUPTCY LAW JOURNAL

Editorial Advisory Board Member, 2022-2023

BANKRUPTCY LAW LETTER

Contributing Editor, 2016-Present

Work with a team of six law professors to provide in-depth exploration of issues of current interest to academics and practitioners of bankruptcy law.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS SECTION ON CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Executive Committee, 2023-Present, *Chair Elect*, 2024, *Chair*, 2025

CENTRAL STATES LAW SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

President, 2018-2019, *Vice President*, 2017-2018, *Secretary*, 2016-2017, *Treasurer*, 2015-2016

CASA, Lucas County, Ohio

Court Appointed Special Advocate, 2012-2016

ADVOCATES FOR BASIC LEGAL EQUALITY, Toledo Ohio

Pro bono Asylum Attorney, 2016-2018

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Intern to the Honorable John E. Jones III, May 2005 – August 2005

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Invited Speaker, *Merchant Cash Advances and Other Forms of Desperation Finance*

Federal Judicial Center Annual Bankruptcy Seminar, forthcoming April 2025

Western District of NC Bankruptcy Workshop, forthcoming May 2025

Middle District of NC Bankruptcy Seminar, forthcoming May 2025

Judge Joe Lee Bankruptcy Workshop, forthcoming June 2025

Invited Speaker, *Bankrupt Crypto Organizations*

Corporate Insolvency and Restructuring Seminar (CRIS), March 2025

Invited Speaker, *DAOs in Financial Distress*

Harvard/Wharton Bankruptcy and Insolvency Conference, September 2024

Invited Speaker, *Third Party Litigation Finance in Bankruptcy*

Fifth Circuit Bench-Bar Conference, April 2024

Invited Speaker, *Crypto Failure in the Shadows*

AALS Section on Socio-Economics Panel, January 2024

Invited Speaker, *Plenary Caselaw Update*

American Bankruptcy Institute Annual Meeting, July 2023

Invited Speaker, *The Private Law of Stablecoins*

Federal Reserve Bank of New York, October 2022

University of North Carolina Workshop Series, April 2023

Invited Speaker, *Business Case Law Update for Bankruptcy Judges*

Federal Judicial Center continuing education zoom, January 2023

Invited Speaker, *The Promise and Peril of Merchant Cash Advance Agreements*

Oklahoma Bar Association Annual Bankruptcy Workshop, December 2022

Invited Speaker, *Bankruptcy and Arbitration: You Got Questions? We Got Answers*

Academic Symposium at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, October 2022

Invited Speaker, *New Frontiers in Consumer Finance*

Federal Judicial Center Annual Bankruptcy Workshop, July 2022

Paper Presentation, *Bankruptcy's Arbitration Exceptionalism and the Future of the Debtor Class*

National Business Law Scholars' Conference, June 2022

Invited Speaker, *Adjusting Lease Obligations in Pandemic Bankruptcies*

Judge Joe Lee Bankruptcy Institute at the University of Kentucky School of Law, forthcoming December 2021

Invited Speaker, *Learning Games as a Classroom Inclusion Tool*

AALS Law, Technology & Education Summer Webinar Series, August 2021

Paper Presentation, *Rabble Rousers as Bankruptcy Enforcers*

Loyola University of Chicago Workshop Series, June 2021
Law and Society Association 2021 Annual Meeting, May 2021

Panel Moderator, *Empirical Portraits in Consumer Bankruptcy*
Law and Society Association 2021 Annual Meeting, May 2021

Panel Moderator, *Teaching Commercial Law in the 21st Century*
AALS Annual Meeting, January 2021.

Podcast Interview, *Bankruptcy's Adjunct Regulator*
Ipse Dixit Podcast, October 2019.

Paper Presentation, *Prudential Standing in Bankruptcy*
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Toledo, OH, September 2019 – *Conference Organizer*.

Faculty Workshop, *Bankruptcy's Adjunct Regulator*
Willamette College of Law, Salem, OR, April 2019.

Invited Presentation, *Channeling Punitive Damages*
Oklahoma Bar Association Advanced Bankruptcy Seminar, Oklahoma City, OK, December 2018.

Paper Presentation, *Bankruptcy's Discharge and the Outer Edges of Contempt*
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, TX, October 2017.

Invited Presentation, *Private Remedies and Access to Justice in a Post-Midland World*
Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal Annual Symposium, Atlanta, GA, February 2018.

Invited Presentation, *Policing Bankruptcy Claims*
Young Bankruptcy Scholars' Workshop, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY, November 2017.

Paper Presentations, *Policing Bankruptcy Claims*
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Carbondale, IL, October 2017;
Ohio Legal Scholarship Workshop, June 2017 – *Conference Organizer*.

Paper Presentations, *Private Litigation in Bankruptcy*
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Grand Forks, ND, October 2015;
Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference, Morgantown, WV, January 2015;
Case Western Reserve Law School Faculty Workshop, Cleveland, Ohio, December 2014.

Paper Presentations, *Can The Debtor Class Survive Modern Class Action Theory?*
Southeastern Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Boca Raton, FL, August 2015;
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Toledo, OH, October 2014;
UMass Dartmouth Junior Faculty Scholarship Exchange, Boston, MA, October 2014.

Keynote Speaker, *Breaking Bad: BAPCPA and a Fresh Approach to Bankruptcy Reform*,
Michigan Federal Bar Association Walter Shapero Bankruptcy Symposium, Detroit, MI, May 2014.

Paper Presentation, *Certification Concerns for Debtor Class Actions in Bankruptcy*
Ohio Legal Scholarship Workshop, Dayton, OH, June 2013.

Paper Presentations, *The Debtor Class*
National Business Law Scholars Conference, Cleveland, OH, June 2013;
Valparaiso University Law School Regional Faculty Workshop, Chicago, IL, February 2013;
University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH, January 2013;
Central States Law Schools Association Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, October 2012;
University of Toledo College of Law Internal Faculty Workshop, Toledo, OH, September 2012.

Paper Presentation, *Bankruptcy Reform in the Post-BAPCPA Era*
Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY, January 2012.

Paper Presentations, *Retail Reorganizations after BAPCPA*
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, June 2011;
National Business Law Scholars Conference, Cleveland, OH, June 2011;
University of Toledo College of Law Internal Faculty Workshop, Toledo, OH, April 2011.

Invited Speaker, *Financial Crisis Fallout: Trends in Mortgage Lending and Consumer Protection*
Toledo Women's Bar Association's *From Classroom to Courtroom: Keeping Current on Legal Trends with Toledo Law Faculty*, Toledo, OH, May 2011.

STATE BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois, 2007

HOBBIES

Knitting, hiking, and bread baking.