



Andrew J. Ortiz, MSSP

Andrew J. “AJ” Ortiz is the Social Science Director at CHILD USA. AJ began his career in social work working with kids in schools, providing therapeutic support and life skills education. He later went on to work in child welfare as a foster parent recruiter for teens transitioning from residential treatment facilities. These experiences motivated him to study Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, specializing in national child welfare policy. AJ is committed to preventing institutional child sexual abuse and utilizes his position at CHILD USA to advance research on topics such as delayed disclosure of child sexual abuse, prevention policies for youth-serving organizations, and more.

James Stang, Esq.



James I. Stang
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Mr. Stang, a founding partner of the firm, has dedicated the better part of his forty years' of restructuring practice to helping plaintiffs pursue their rights against institutions that file bankruptcy in an attempt to evade liability. He has represented close to twenty creditors' committees in recent mass tort chapter 11 cases, and is frequently called upon when the stakes are high, including Boy Scouts of America, Weinstein Company, Takata, USA Gymnastics, and seventeen chapter 11 cases involving the Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Stang has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal* for his work on behalf of victims.

Mr. Stang is a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, named in the Best Lawyers in America, and has been named "Super Lawyer" in the field of Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights every year since 2005. He was listed by *Lawdragon* as one of the 2020 "Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers." He holds an AV Peer Preeminent Rating, Martindale-Hubbell's highest recognition for ethical standards and legal ability. He has lectured and written extensively on both bankruptcy and receivership issues. Mr. Stang is a graduate of UC Berkeley and received his J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law, where he was editor in chief of *Hastings International and Comparative Law Review*. Mr. Stang is admitted to practice in California, and is resident in our Los Angeles office.

Representations

- Tort litigants' committees in the chapter 11 cases of the [Catholic Diocese of Spokane](#) (Washington) and the [Diocese of Davenport](#) (Iowa); creditors' committees in the chapter 11 cases of the [Roman Catholic Bishop of San Diego](#), the [Catholic Diocese of Fairbanks](#) (Alaska), the [Catholic Diocese of Wilmington](#) (Delaware), the [Society of Jesus, Oregon Province](#), the related cases of [The Christian Brothers of Ireland, Inc.](#) and [The Christian Brothers Institute](#), the [Archdiocese of Milwaukee](#), the [Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Gallup](#) (New Mexico), the [Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena](#) (Montana), the [Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton](#) (California), the [Roman Catholic Bishop of Great Falls](#) (Montana), the [Roman Catholic Church of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe](#) (New Mexico), the [Diocese of Rochester](#) (New York), the [Diocese of Buffalo](#) (New York), the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Creditors' committee in [Weinstein Company Holdings](#)
- Abuse survivors' committees in [USA Gymnastics](#), [Boy Scouts of America](#), [Madison Square Boys & Girls Club](#)
- Subcommittee of employee organizations in [Orange County](#) chapter 9 case
- Chapter 11 debtors in [American Suzuki Motor Corporation](#); [Gateway Educational Products](#) (manufacturer of "Hooked on Phonics"); [American Tissue](#); [Chippendales](#); [Inacom Corporation](#); [Rhodes Homes](#); [Sizzler Restaurants International](#); [Superior TeleCom](#)
- Bankruptcy counsel for the Tobacco Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General
- Receiver appointed for various car dealerships (Nissan, Porsche, Audi, Toyota)

Professional Affiliations

- "Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year," Century City Bar Association (2010)
- Fellow, American College of Bankruptcy
- Member, Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum Board of Directors (ex officio)

Brittany Michael, Esq.



Ms. Michael has successfully represented creditors' committees, debtors, and large commercial creditors in complex chapter 11 cases, including extensive experience in representing committees in mass-tort bankruptcy cases such as the Archdiocese of San Francisco, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Diocese of Rochester, the Diocese of Buffalo, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the Diocese of Duluth, the Archdiocese of Agaña, the Diocese of New Ulm, and the Diocese of Winona.

Ms. Michael received her B.A. at Wesleyan University and earned her J.D. at University of Minnesota Law School. Ms. Michael was recently named one of the American Bankruptcy Institute's "40 Under 40" among bankruptcy attorneys. Ms. Michael was a 2022 IWIRC Rising Star Finalist, a recipient of the Deinard Legal Clinic Award (2019) and the Advocates for Human Rights Volunteer Award (2019), and was named an "Attorney of the Year" by Minnesota Lawyer for her work in representing the creditors' committee in the chapter 11 case of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. She is a member of the Minnesota and New York state bars.

Chelsie Warner



Chelsie Warner joined Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz, PLLC in 2012, following her graduation from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Political Science in 2005. She later earned her J.D. from the University of Montana School of Law in 2009.

As a partner, Chelsie has been instrumental in shaping the firm's legal landscape. Her expertise spans a wide array of legal areas, including product liability, multi-district litigation, class actions, and

practice in state, federal, and bankruptcy courts. She has been involved in a diverse range of cases, including those related to Hormone Replacement Therapy, Proton Pump Inhibitors, Orthopedic Product Liability, Transvaginal & Hernia Mesh, BP Oil Spill, Abilify, 3M Earplugs, RoundUp, Child Sexual Assault, Opioids, and Bank of America Mortgage Modification.

Chelsie's practice primarily focuses on sexual assault, social media addiction, medical device, and pharmaceutical litigation. She plays a vital role in AWKO's nationwide cases involving Catholic clergy,

Southern Baptist, and Boy Scouts sexual abuse and assault litigations, as well as the firm's USDA discrimination litigation. Her current emphasis is on assisting survivors of child sexual assault and those impacted by social media addiction. She also represents claimants in multiple bankruptcy cases, including those related to the opioid crisis and the Boy Scouts of America.

Before her tenure at AWKO, Chelsie served as an Assistant District Attorney for the State of Nevada. In this role, she prosecuted a wide range of criminal cases, covering misdemeanors, juvenile criminal enforcement, and felonies. She gained valuable experience in both bench and jury trials and was responsible for child support enforcement within the child support division, as well as the prosecution of Department of Child and Family Services cases.

Chelsie is licensed to practice law in Washington, Montana, and Nevada. Additionally, she holds licenses in the 9th and 5th circuit courts of appeals, where she has effectively presented and argued her clients' positions. Chelsie's commitment to representing victims and survivors is a cornerstone of her legal career, providing them with a strong platform to share their stories.



Professor Doug Kennedy

Doug Kennedy is a Professor at Virginia Wesleyan University in the Department of Sport and Recreation Professions. He earned his Bachelors degree from the University of Delaware, Masters from Southern Illinois University, and Doctorate from Temple University. A 25-year Department Chair, he also served as Associate Dean and has led several delegations to Uzbekistan and China to assist with democracy education and cultural exchange. He has written extensively and made over 100 presentations nationally and internationally. Regularly, he consults with teams, corporate clients, and NGOs on methods to create high-performance teams. In 2020 he was selected to serve on the Tort Claimants Committee in the Boys Scouts Bankruptcy, served as the co-chair, and spent 3 1/2 years immersed in all things bankruptcy including mediation, writing youth protection demands, court testimony, and enduring a lengthy deposition. He lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Betsy, has two sons now off the payroll, and regularly trains for triathlons to maintain his sanity.

Iain Nasatir, Esq.



Iain Nasatir specializes in insurance coverage, insolvency, regulatory, reinsurance, and bankruptcy disputes. Currently, he is involved with insurance coverage issues in the firm's representations of creditors' committees of sexual-abuse survivors in the chapter 11 bankruptcies of the Diocese of Buffalo, the Diocese of Rochester, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and in other sex-abuse related bankruptcies (e.g., Boy Scouts of America and U.S.A Gymnastics). Prior committee representations involving sexual-abuse coverage issues include bankruptcies of the Gallup, Stockton and Davenport dioceses and The Weinstein Company. Other cases have involved debtors' obligations for SIRS and deductibles in bankruptcy (e.g., law firms Sedgwick and Heller Ehrman) and the interplay between state

insurance regulators and bankruptcy court jurisdiction (e.g., Superior National, Fremont General and Executive Life).

For further information on the diocesan and other sex-abuse cases, please see general firm discussion.

In the course of the firm's bankruptcy representation of Sizzler Restaurants, Mr. Nasatir advised on complex reinsurance and insurance defense issues arising in the bankruptcy regarding the debtor's captive, and successfully implemented a mandatory mediation program in the bankruptcy court to maximize the opportunity for a premium refund to be paid to the debtor. Mr.

Nasatir has also been involved in similar capacities for the trustee of a bankrupt American subsidiary of a Japanese scrap metal company and for Breed Technologies in its bankruptcy. In addition to handling coverage issues on primary insurance and reinsurance agreements, Mr. Nasatir has represented policyholders in coverage disputes, including D & O coverage litigation with National Union Fire Insurance Company and other similar carriers.

On the litigation front, Mr. Nasatir obtained a defense judgment at trial on behalf of Fremont General in a suit brought by the Bank of New York over workers compensation deposits. He also obtained dismissals for the same client in lawsuits brought by the California Insurance Commissioner. On behalf of his Superior National client, he settled a reinsurance fraud dispute with a "walk-away."

He attended Stowe School in Bucks, England, Williams College, Columbia College and Cardozo School of Law. Mr. Nasatir is admitted to practice in New York and California, and is resident in our Los Angeles office.

Ilan Scharf, Esq.



Ilan Scharf specializes in financial restructuring and bankruptcy litigation with a particular focus on representing creditors' committees of religious institutions and nonprofit entities.

Mr. Scharf's practice focuses on representing tort claimant and creditors' committees in chapter 11 cases. He has also represented debtors, equity holders, asset purchasers, trade creditors, chapter 11 trustees, and other parties in business reorganizations and related litigation. He has appeared before bankruptcy courts across the United States, including New York, Delaware, New Jersey, New Mexico, California, Missouri, Montana, Texas and Pennsylvania.

In 2012, Mr. Scharf was named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine and has been selected as a Super Lawyer every year since. He received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Yeshiva University.

Prior to joining PSZJ in 2003, Mr. Scharf was a law clerk to the Honorable Robert E. Gerber in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York and was an associate

at a multinational law firm. He is admitted to practice in New York and is resident in our New York office.



Jason P. Amala

Jason P. Amala has dedicated his law practice to representing people and businesses who have been victimized by others. The majority of his work is on behalf of survivors of childhood sexual abuse, but he continues to help people who have been severely injured and need an attorney and law firm who can navigate the most complex of cases and the most

difficult of defense attorneys and insurance companies.

Jason began helping survivors of childhood sexual abuse after the clergy sexual abuse scandal came to light in Boston. At the time, Washington state was one of the only states in the country that had meaningfully reformed its statute of limitations so that adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse could bring civil claims for the abuse they suffered as children. Jason has represented hundreds of sexual abuse survivors in Washington state, including clients with claims against the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Boy Scouts of America, the Mormon Church, the State of Washington (foster system), Backpage.com, various schools, and many other youth-serving organizations.

Given his experience in Washington, Jason is often asked to help law firms in other states when their state's statute of limitations is reformed so that abuse survivors can seek justice. He has co-

counseled with law firms around the country, including in California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, North Carolina, and Oregon.

In 2018, Jason's work led to the seizure and shut-down of Backpage.com, the largest online source of child sex trafficking in the country. He is featured in the documentary "I Am Jane Doe," which chronicles his clients' legal battle against Backpage.com that ultimately led to its demise. Jason is frequently interviewed regarding his legal work and his efforts to fight on behalf of abuse survivors. He has been interviewed by the AP, Reuters, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, The Seattle Times, and many others. Most recently, Jason has been an outspoken critic of the proposed bankruptcy settlement by the Boy Scouts of America.

Jason is first and foremost a trial lawyer, a point underscored by the number of cases that our firm has taken to trial on behalf of survivors of child sexual abuse. However, he generally does his own appellate work and he has been one of the lead appellate lawyers on a number of important issues that have expanded the rights of his clients and others.

For more than a decade, Jason has been annually recognized as a "Rising Star" or "Super Lawyer" by Washington Law and Politics. He has an "AV Preeminent" peer-review rating by Martindale, which is the highest rating a lawyer can receive from his peers.

Jason grew up in Salem, Oregon, but moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington Honors College. After graduating with distinction, he enrolled in the Seattle University School of Law, where he graduated second in his class, earned top honors in ten courses, and received the Faculty Scholar Award at graduation.

When not at work, Jason and his family can be found camping in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Matthew K. Babcock



Matthew K. Babcock is a Director with Berkeley Research Group, LLC (“BRG”). Mr. Babcock is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified in Financial Forensics (CPA / CFF), a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and a Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor (CIRA) with over 25 years of experience providing services in bankruptcy, forensic / investigative accounting, and

litigation support.

Prior to BRG, Mr. Babcock worked with LECG LLC, Neilson Elggren LLP, Arthur Andersen, Neilson Elggren Durkin & Company and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”). As an Honors Intern with the FBI, Mr. Babcock was assigned to work with the Office of Independent Counsel investigating former Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy.

Mr. Babcock has served in numerous bankruptcy and insolvency matters, including court appointments as Trustee, Receiver, Accountant to the Trustee, Accountant to the Liquidating Estate Manager, Accountant to the Debtor, Financial Advisor to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors and Financial Advisor to the Official Committee of Tort Claimants. His experience

includes the investigation of alleged insider dealings, investigation and pursuit of preferences, fraudulent transfers and other causes of action, tracing of funds, financial data reconstruction, liquidation and substantive consolidation analyses, plan feasibility analyses, plan preparation, solvency analyses, claims analysis / resolution and liquidation of assets. He has assisted Trustees in operating Chapter 11 companies, including analyzing prior and on-going operations, developing cash flow projections, budgeting, and managing other day-to-day accounting activity.

Mr. Babcock has significant training and experience investigating fraud and mismanagement, including financial statement fraud, "Ponzi" schemes, embezzlement schemes, check kiting, bank fraud, and bankruptcy fraud. He served as a volunteer professional faculty member at the University of Utah, assisting in the instruction of the University's "Fraud Examination & Forensic Accounting" course from 2011 – 2020. He has also conducted numerous presentations relating to the investigation and analysis of business fraud, financial statement fraud, bankruptcy fraud, and other fraud schemes.

Mr. Babcock has provided both civil and criminal litigation support services, including the investigation of fraud and mismanagement, tracing of funds, partner disputes, lost profit damages, patent infringement damages, breach of contract, economic analyses, and financial record reconstruction.



Professor Marci A. Hamilton

Professor Marci Hamilton, the Founder and CEO of CHILD USA, the think tank whose mission is to employ in-depth legal analysis and cutting-edge social science research to protect children, prevent future abuse and neglect, and bring justice to survivors. She is also a Professor of Practice in the Department of Political Science and a Fox Family Pavilion Senior Fellow in the

Program for Research on Religion at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Hamilton is the leading expert on clergy sex abuse and child sex abuse statutes of limitation ("SOL"). She is the author of *God vs. the Gavel: The Perils of Extreme Religious Liberty* (Cambridge University Press) and *Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect Its Children* (Cambridge University Press), which makes the case for the elimination of child sex abuse statutes of limitations.

Tasha Schwikert Moser, Esq.



Tasha Schwikert Moser is a senior associate attorney in Munck Wilson Mandala's corporate and sports law practices. For her corporate work, Tasha supports clients in various M&A and corporate matters, including her work on a complex company merger transactions valued at over \$100 million. In sports law, Tasha represents athletes in various matters related to contracts, disputes, and name, image, likeness.

Tasha's passion is in advocacy, and she is leading efforts in building a practice focused on athletes and the legal issues they face. Being an athlete for 25 years helps her understand the dynamic of what a high-level athlete goes through, and she has the experience of being both an Olympian and a collegiate athlete on the UCLA gymnastics team for four years on a full scholarship.

As a former Olympic gymnast, Tasha became an advocate for institutional change within USA Gymnastics and the United States Olympic Paralympic Committee. Her passion motivated her to attend law school in her late 20s and she served as co-chair of the special committee for over 500 Larry Nassar survivors. Tasha and her sister Jordan are among those survivors.

In addition to co-chairing this special committee, Tasha is involved in ongoing efforts to advocate for sexual assault victims in all 50 states. In May 2019, Tasha was instrumental in the effort to extend the Texas statute of limitations for child sexual abuse victims as a result of her testimony before the Texas Senate State Affairs Committee. In June 2022, Tasha joined the USA Gymnastics Board of Directors as its Survivor Representative.

Tasha is a frequent speaker to youth groups and women's leadership organizations. She served as a panelist for the 2019 S.H.E. Summit Dallas that assembled more than 500 attendees focused on diversity and inclusion and has presented at various diversity and inclusion forums throughout Dallas.

Tasha has earned many honors over her Olympic and collegiate gymnastics career. Among her honors, Tasha was the youngest member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic gymnastics team and helped her team win a bronze medal. She was the two-time U.S. National all-around champion in 2001 and 2002. In 2003, she was captain of the U.S. gymnastics team, winning a gold team medal in the World Gymnastics Championships. In 2012, she was inducted into the USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame. At UCLA, Tasha won the NCAA National all-around title in 2005 and was the only gymnast that year to earn first-team All-American honors in all four events. In 2008, she won the NCAA National all-around title again, becoming the seventh woman ever to win multiple NCAA all-around titles, that same year she also won the NCAA uneven bars title. Tasha was named Pac-12 Gymnast of the Century and in 2020 was inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tasha earned her J.D. from William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada where she was VP of community relations for the Sports and Entertainment Law Association and treasurer of the Black Law Students Association (awarded 2015 BLSA National Chapter of the Year). Prior to law school, Tasha earned her B.A. in sociology from the University of California Los Angeles.

Thomas Walker, Esq.



THOMAS D. WALKER is a shareholder in the Albuquerque law firm of Walker & Associates, P.C., where he concentrates his practice in the areas of bankruptcy law, commercial litigation and real estate law. He regularly represents businesses, individuals, committees and trustees in bankruptcy cases, and represents parties in business litigation and transactions, foreclosure actions, workout negotiations, real estate and lease negotiations and other commercial matters. Mr. Walker speaks frequently on bankruptcy and other business litigation topics.

Mr. Walker received an undergraduate degree in economics from Tulane University in 1981, attended the Institute of Political and Economic Studies in London, England, and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1985. He has been a member of the State Bar of New Mexico since 1985 and is a member of the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Walker is a past chair of the Bankruptcy Law Section of the State Bar of New Mexico, and has served on its Board of Directors since 1990. He is “AV” peer-review rated in the Martindale Hubbell Law Directory, is listed in Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights, was awarded Best Lawyers “Lawyer of the Year” in 2015 in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law for Albuquerque, and is recognized as a SuperLawyer in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights in the SuperLawyers national corporate counsel edition and the Southwest edition. Walker & Associates, P.C. is recognized as one of the “Best Law Firms” in New Mexico as published in U. S. News and World Report, and as among the “Best Law Firms” in Albuquerque in Best Lawyers in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law for Albuquerque.

Mr. Walker is honored to be a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, having been conferred into the 31st Class of Fellows in March 2020. The American College of Bankruptcy is an honorary public service association of United States and international insolvency professionals who are invited to join as Fellows based on a proven record of the highest standards of expertise, leadership, integrity, professionalism, scholarship, and service to the bankruptcy practice and to their communities. For more information about the American College of Bankruptcy go to www.americancollegeofbankruptcy.com.

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James J. Holman is a senior partner at the law firm of Duane Morris LLP, and practices in the areas of commercial finance law, business reorganization, and business and municipal insolvency. Jim is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and New York, and served as hiring partner for Duane Morris from 2001 through 2006, and co-chair of the firm's Business Reorganization and Financial Restructuring Practice Group from 2007 through 2022.

He served as co-chair of the Creditors' Committee in the bankruptcy case of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington (Delaware), and was integrally involved on behalf of the victims of childhood sexual abuse in the negotiation of the terms of the chapter 11 plan of the Diocese.

He is listed annually by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, by *Best Lawyers in America*, and by the London organization Citywealth as a leading lawyer in the United States.

Mr. Holman is a 1989 graduate of Villanova University School of Law, where he served as managing editor of the *Villanova Law Review*, and a *summa cum laude* graduate of DeSales University. He currently serves as president of Philadelphia Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, and as a member of the Advisory Board of the Chester Children's Chorus.