

## Happy Trails To You, Until We Meet Again

### THE PEOPLE – THE CARING, KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE

Those were the words used by our United States Trustee, Ira Bodenstein to describe what he will miss the most upon resigning from his position of service to the bankruptcy community of Region 11. *CARING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE*, his own phrase, ironically, exemplifies the person who has so zealously performed his duties since his appointment by Attorney General Reno in May 1998. During those seven and a half years, United States Trustee Ira Bodenstein has demonstrated enormous strength and flexibility during a period which has presented exceptional challenges to the entire Bankruptcy community. Mr. Bodenstein has met those challenges enthusiastically, achieving excellent results throughout his distinguished tenure characterized by overwhelming *caring and knowledge*.

Without hesitation, he declared that he enjoyed every aspect of his term and was unable to identify any negative experience or situation that arose during his seven and a half years of service. His enthusiastic approach and passionate desire to provide unfettered excellent service to the bankruptcy community has been evidenced by notable achievements. The daily duties and responsibilities that he undertook with remarkable ease have been in and of themselves extremely demanding. He assumed his supervisory role with a spirit of trust, support and commitment; which in turn was returned to him by his staff of 45, who truly demonstrate an absolute example of a harmonious work environment. As United States Trustee, Ira Bodenstein has not only been charged with oversight of all bankruptcy cases filed in Region 11, he has performed the management aspect of his position with passion and zeal, having consistently availed himself to the entire bankruptcy community. Very early in his term, it was necessary for him to appoint three Chapter 13 Trustees, thus positively impacting the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Chapter 13 practice in this Region. He has remained determined to encourage and maintain open communi-

cation with all members of the bankruptcy bar. As facilitator and host of the Annual Trustee Seminar, he has provided a forum for the Chapter 7 Panel Trustees and Chapter 13 Trustees and staff attorneys to share information and discuss the state of the practice and current bankruptcy issues. Without reservation, he clearly has fashioned a solid foundation for the 37 Chapter 7 Panel Trustees in this region – the “next generation of Chapter 7 Panel Trustees.”

However, when U.S. Trustee Bodenstein was appointed, the job description hardly alluded to the myriad of projects as well as

complications that arose during his tenure. In 1999, his office piloted the Debtor Identification Project, which has been adopted nationwide, requiring that each debtor produce valid photo ID and authentic Social Security card prior to commencing the Section 341 meeting. Bankruptcy reform had been anticipated, but the events of September 11, 2001, delayed any progress. In May 2002, the Trustee’s office was recognized by the Office of the Executive U. S. Trustee, receiving the Director’s Special Commendation for efforts in demonstrating exemplary strides in Civil Enforcement initiatives. Consistently, Trustee Bodenstein has initiated, promoted and supported any and every undertaking necessary to maintain the integrity of the bankruptcy process. Electronic Case Filing required a complete restructuring of procedure within the Court, Trustee’s Office, and for the entire community.

Finally, the enactment of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act (BAPCPA), effective October 17, 2005, has presented countless issues and concerns requiring numerous adjustments and modifications to form, procedure and substance in the administration of all areas of bankruptcy. Naturally, U.S. Trustee Bodenstein eagerly met the challenges with ease, facilitating several training opportunities for the entire Bankruptcy community in order to promote the smooth implementation of the requirements under the new law.

*(Continued on page 2.)*



All Bankruptcy Professionals Are Invited To Our Open Discussion Series:

# Unraveling BAPCPA and Chapter 13

The next session of this roundtable discussion on the implementation of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 (BAPCPA) is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM at The Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee, Marilyn O. Marshall.

Please RSVP to Dave Latz at: [dlatz@chi13.com](mailto:dlatz@chi13.com) by 02/15/06.

## THE MARSHALL CHRONICLES

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Cheri Johnson, Cheryl Jones, Joanne Coshonis, Shanika Thomas, Mark Caffarini, Michelle Cox, HVB and Dave Latz.

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### Newsletter Information:

If you would like to contact us or submit ideas or articles for the newsletter, you can do so by:

- ✓ e-mailing us at [newsletter@chi13.com](mailto:newsletter@chi13.com)
- ✓ dropping your submission or idea in the anonymous newsletter folder located in the mail room, or
- ✓ leaving them with Dave Latz

Please remember when making a submission to the newsletter, it must be:

- ✓ type-written and
- ✓ submitted by the first Wednesday of the month via e-mail, a Word document or an ASCII file.

We also ask that anyone who attends a seminar please be prepared to furnish the committee with a detailed article on its subject.

You may also view this edition of **THE MARSHALL CHRONICLES**, as well as all the previously published issues, on the Chapter 13 Trustee website at <http://www.chicago13.com/>.

## Happy Trails To You, Until We Meet Again

(Continued from page 1.)



Mr. Bodenstein has avidly been devoted to imparting knowledge and information to the legal community, but he is also dedicated to promoting a keen awareness of scholarship, culture and healthy living to his family and community. Education and learning clearly have always been priorities in his life, as demonstrated by his participation in community affairs and activities. He is involved with the Chicago Public School's annual principal for a day program, spending an entire day performing all of the duties required of a principal in one of Chicago's Schools. He was instrumental in launching the Credit Abuse Resistance Education (C.A.R.E.) Program in our District. This began as a trial program in November 2004, and has grown into an extremely well organized guidance and instructional tool. High school students are given easy access to volunteer professionals who provide a financial literacy program that teach teens and young adults about the importance of using consumer credit wisely while avoiding credit card debt, and emphasizing the consequences and financial problems that result from reckless fiscal and credit practices. In December 2004, U. S. Trustee Bodenstein met with administrators of the Chicago Public School system to inspire interest in the C.A.R.E. Program. By January 2005, the Chicago C.A.R.E. Program had scheduled significant presentations throughout the system, which will ultimately impact over 1,000 high school seniors. Further, Mr. Bodenstein regularly speaks at national and local bar association and law school programs.

When he is not leading in the professional arena, U. S. Trustee Bodenstein can be found cheering on his beloved World Series Champion White Sox and Chicago Bulls, exhibiting evidence of his allegiance throughout his office. He remains a devoted fan of the University of Miami's teams and is not shy about displaying his loyalty. But most of all U. S. Trustee Bodenstein is a devoted loving father and husband. Notwithstanding his enormous professional responsibilities, he is inexhaustible when it comes to his family. He freely shares his delight in his family, and proudly flaunts his children's handiwork in his office. Truly it is his family life that affords him his most cherished joys.

It has been an extremely gratifying experience for our bankruptcy community to have the opportunity to practice under the leadership of U.S. Trustee Bodenstein. In his own words, he describes this Region as unprecedented in cooperation and achievement as apparent within the Office of the U. S. Trustee, the Chapter 7 Panel Trustees, the Offices of the Chapter 13 Trustees and the entire bankruptcy bar. The congeniality Mr. Bodenstein admires within this community is a product of the people he so appreciates, "the people – the caring, knowledgeable people."

*Joanne Coshonis*

Happy trails to you until we meet again.  
 Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then.  
 Who cares about the clouds when we're together?  
 Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.  
 Happy trails to you 'till we meet again.

## Trustee Matters – Lydia S. Meyer

Although I knew the day would come, I was still surprised when I heard that Ira would no longer be “our UST.” Ira has been such a stabilizing force in the UST program in our district that it is hard to imagine the program without him. I’m sure the other standing Trustees feel as I do and know that we have been very lucky to serve as standing Trustees under Ira’s leadership.

The progress that has been made in the UST program in the Northern District of Illinois in the last 7<sup>1/2</sup> years has been incredible! The program when I was first appointed in 1995 and the program as it is today is truly entirely different. Ira, without a doubt, furthered the goals of the program, and the program has certainly benefited tremendously from his commitment. I’m sure I speak for all of the standing Trustees and many of their staff when I say we have all learned a great deal from the changes Ira instituted and the guidance he provided to us. He will be truly missed by all of us! All of us here in the Rockford Chapter 13 Trustee’s office wish Ira good luck, best wishes and continued success on the next stage of his journey!

*Lydia Meyer, Chapter 13 Standing Trustee  
Northern District of Illinois - Western Division*

## Trustee Matters – Glenn B. Stearns

Ira appointed me to be a Standing Trustee in June of 1999 with an effective date of October 1, 1999. There was no office, no employees, no phones, nothing. Ira was gracious enough to allow me the use of some of his excess space to conduct interviews for my new staff. I spent the better part of a month in his office. I know that helped me attract and hire the great staff I have now. Imagine trying to conduct fifty or sixty interviews at Starbucks; that would make a great impression! That was typical of Ira, he didn’t give me an easy task but he gave me the tools to accomplish it.

One of the first things I did after being appointed was travel to New York for the annual Trustee conference. I’ll never forget all the stories I heard from other trustees about the contentious relationships they had with their UST. That’s certainly not the case in the NDIL.

Ira spoke at his farewell banquet, about the collegial atmosphere we have here among the UST, panel and standing trustees, the bench and the bar. What he didn’t say, that I will, is that a lot of that came from Ira. He has the knowledge, experience and personality to command both the respect and cooperation from everyone he came into contact with. Ira certainly expected excellence, as well he should. He also made sure that we had the knowledge, training and resources to perform at the expected level.

All of us who have worked for and worked with Ira have benefited from the experience. We should all strive to maintain the level of excellence he demonstrated and the level of collegiality and spirit of cooperation he appreciated in the bankruptcy community. He’ll still be around, to beat you in bankruptcy court, and from time to time to beat you on the basketball court too.

*Glenn Stearns, Chapter 13 Standing Trustee  
Northern District of Illinois - Eastern Division*



## Trustee Matters – Marilyn O. Marshall

When Ira introduced me to my staff four years ago, he said: “There is a new ‘Marshall’ in town.” From that day forward I was empowered. Somehow I knew his expectations and the standard which he had set and I wanted to manage the Chapter 13 office as I had heard he managed the U.S. Trustee office. I definitely wanted to follow his example and lead by example.

Under his leadership and supervision, the standing trustees can agree that all of the trusteeships have improved. Each year audit exceptions have continued to decline and this year one trusteeship in our Region 11 had a perfect audit. Through our evaluations, Ira has provided feedback and praise for our accomplishments. We all were familiar with the goals which he set for Region 11, and each of us played a role in making sure that the program goals were implemented and followed.

Through his leadership, we made it past 9/11, a new model plan in the Northern District of Illinois, proposed bankruptcy reform legislation, going paperless with CM/ECF, Region 11 Rockford Retreat, a new Standing Trustees Pledge of Excellence, new trustee training in Columbia, SC, growing problems with petition preparers, the Model Rights and Responsibility Agreement between Chapter 13 Debtors and their Attorneys, honored the life of Lou Jones, level V maximum compensation for Chapter 13 Trustees, mandatory case filing, the re-election of President Bush, the appointment of a new Attorney General, the signing of the new bankruptcy bill, Chapter 7 and 13 trustee training in Lake Delavan, WI, record filings in the Northern District of Illinois in October, and the challenges of implementing a new bankruptcy code.

In addition to his leadership skills and the ability to make us want to give him our best, most of us are proud to call him our friend. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: “*The glory of friendship is not in the outstretched hand, nor the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship; it is in the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him.*”

Ira Bodenstein will always be my friend.

*Marilyn O. Marshall, Chapter 13 Standing Trustee  
Northern District of Illinois - Eastern Division*

*(Trustee Matters continues on page 6.)*













## Trustee Matters – Tom Vaughn

It is not often that you find a manager or supervisor that commands the respect of subordinates, superiors and peers alike. It is even less often that you find a manager who supports subordinates across the board with resources, attends their functions and activities and works beside them to achieve common goals. And it is once in a lifetime that you have the opportunity to work with one who excels in both categories. Those of us in the Northern District of Illinois Bankruptcy community had the good fortune to have such an experience. Working with Ira Bodenstein as United States Trustee for the last six and one half years has been a demonstration of how effective we can be when mutual respect is given an opportunity to grow. While Ira's presence will be missed, his philosophy on getting things done and practice of giving subordinates responsibility and the authority to complete the assignment will continue in the Office of Tom Vaughn, Chapter 13 Trustee for the duration of my tenure.



My first reflection when Ira announced that he was leaving was to thank him for his support throughout the years and wish him well at his new endeavor. My second reflection was a bit more selfish. "Why is he leaving us in round one of BAPCPA?" At the time, we had not confirmed a plan under the new act and I had grown addicted to the dialogue we shared when other changes like the "Model Plan" and CM-ECF were rolled out. Ira consistently assured us that the final result was all that mattered. To have unequivocal support is valuable beyond measure when working in an environment where one mistake can affect thousands of transactions.

To Ira's credit, he is leaving us with a policy of consistency and fairness that may not have been as clear seven years ago as it is today. Join me in thanking him for it and representing the bankruptcy community so well.

*Tom Vaughn, Chapter 13 Standing Trustee  
Northern District of Illinois - Eastern Division*

## Farewell Wishes To Ira

### Ira Cares

Your readers might be interested to know that Ira has played a key role in designing and implementing the Credit Abuse Resistance Education ("C.A.R.E.") program in the Chicago land area. C.A.R.E. (part of a national program) is basically a volunteer group of bankruptcy judges, private attorneys, Chapter 7 trustees and attorneys from the UST's office who travel to city and suburban high schools to educate students about the dangers of credit abuse (mainly of credit cards). The presentations include an informative Power Point slide show, an interactive question and answer game modeled on the game show Jeopardy, and information about the bankruptcy system. Students in attendance receive a handout containing useful information regarding credit reports, shopping for credit cards, etc. The group has reached several thousand high school seniors with its presentations.



*Steve Wolfe, Trial Attorney  
Office of the U.S. Trustee*

### It's Never Easy

As we come to the end of Ira's tenure as the U.S. Trustee for Region 11, although we all knew that this day would come, it certainly does not make it any easier to say farewell to Ira.

Ira's contributions to the mission of the U.S. Trustee program have been tremendous. Ira's leadership style has open opportunities for many staff members to achieve both professional and personal goals. Ira encouraged many of us to strive to be the best. The mere fact that Ira personally acknowledged each of us with a friendly hello daily, helped to stimulate each of us to stay motivated and strive to succeed. Ira has been a tremendous asset to this program.



*Julie L. Hearn, Paralegal Specialist  
Office of the U.S. Trustee*

Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity I've had working for such an outstanding employer as Ira. His thoughtfulness, integrity and fair judgment will always remain dear to me. I extend to Ira well wishes for all of his future endeavors and I thank him for the fond memories during his tenure with our office.

## He Had A Way Of His Own

I've had the pleasure of working with Ira ever since he came aboard as the U.S. Trustee over Region 11. Ira came in, sat back and observed the office overall. He began to hold staff meetings and sometime or another during those meetings, the one-on-one talks with various employees and/or his own observations, he made several changes.



Ira began to keep us abreast of what was going on within the bankruptcy field overall. He soon decided to take things a step farther and began dealing with the diversity side of the program. In tackling this project, he planned group outings and brought in guest speakers. This was found to be very informative. In his own way, Ira made sure that one knew he was present (he had a way of his own). Ira announced that he would have an open door policy, and he had just that.

During my time of working with Ira, I found him to be a very intelligent, respectful, humorous yet serious individual that I will truly miss very much. Best of luck Ira!

*Sandra George-Booker, Legal Clerk  
Office of the U.S. Trustee*

## Good Luck Ira!

Good luck Ira. I will miss you greatly!

*Benita Jones, Paralegal Specialist  
Office of the U.S. Trustee*



**"Over my 40 years in the Army (active and reserve as of 02/02/06), Ira is right up there with all the senior leadership that I have dealt with and I have dealt with many who wear a star or more. His leadership skills are right even with the best general officer that I have had the pleasure to work with."**

*– Chip Wilkes*

## Ira: A Civilian Four-Star General

As part of this newsletter dedicated exclusively to Ira Bodenstein, Marilyn Marshall asked me to contact Howard “Chip” Wilkes to get some background on things that Ira did to assist our office and the entire region in the financial and budgetary areas. Chip gave me this quote that I decided to duplicate verbatim as a testament to Ira’s influence.



“Anytime the leader of any organization departs, there is great apprehension on the part of those left behind. When M. Scott Michel left after about 11 years, most were apprehensive of who would be appointed, the background and whether there was leadership and management experience. When Ira was appointed some knew him as a bankruptcy practitioner from a Chicago firm. No one knew how he would be as a U.S. Trustee or Supervisor.

“Very early in his tenure he held a staff meeting. One of the points that I remember well was his comment that he remembered being a new or junior level employee at an organization and not receiving information or support from those above him. He said that he remembered that so that if and when he became the #1 person, he would be sure to not treat those under his watch as he had been treated earlier in his career. He did that very well. Ira has treated all as one would choose to be treated. He makes it a point to stop by each office, each day to say hello or good morning to every employee.

“Ira is one of the better leaders and managers that I have experienced in nearly 40 years. He asks what you need to do your job and tries to provide you with information or material necessary. Ira empowered each and everyone to do the assigned tasks. If you needed assistance of input, he was there. He never made promises that he didn’t keep. He is a man of this word. Kind of unique in this modern business world, he is a man of high morals. He demonstrated management and leadership skills that must have been a gift from birth. Those skills rival those I have experience with folks who wore 2, 3 or 4 stars on their shoulders. He is my friend. I will miss him greatly!”

I wasn’t here 11 years ago to know how this region was run. I have only been involved in the Chapter 13 environment for just over two years and Ira was firmly entrenched in this region at that time, so I have no other person in his position to compare him to. But, I do have over 26 years of business experience with many different managers and management styles in various organizations. This is by far the best run organization I have been involved with and when I say that I not only mean our office but the entire Region 11 of the U.S. Trustee program. Chip says that Ira “asks what you need to do your job and tries to provide you with the information or material necessary,” I cannot emphasize enough how true that is. I can give two examples of that.

With the enactment of BAPCPA this year, I have attended several seminars on the topic. All of them had the same feel. We discussed the new law and then the discussion would breakdown into several factions, most complaining that different aspects of the law would not work or my office is not going to do this or that. The training that Region 11 had in Delavan, WI, this fall was different. When that type of complaining started again, Ira put a

stop to it. He pointed out the law was the law and the complaining wasn’t going to do any good, and then for once we proceeded to discuss concrete ways to comply with the new law.

The other example is how not only are the necessary equipment purchases approved in the budget process, but we are actually encouraged to update computer hardware and other office equipment in order to stay technology advanced. This policy showed itself this year as we were seamlessly to adapt to ECF because we already had the necessary computer equipment.

Ira will be greatly missed by our office and the entire region. Good luck Ira.

Dan Lyons, with  
Howard “Chip” Wilkes, Standing Trustee Coordinator  
Office of the U.S. Trustee

## Kidz Korner

Mrs. Bodenstein happily and eagerly provided some quotations from the children about their dad.

*What does Daddy do as Trustee?*

George: “The Trustee bosses the building. He gets working people working.”

Jennie: “I don’t know, but he puts his stinky gym clothes out on the table in his office.”

Sarah: “He makes phone calls and does stuff on the computer.”

*What does Daddy like to do at home?*

George: “He likes to put his elbows on the table. He tickles me before I go to bed.”

Jennie: “Eats broccoli.”

Sarah: “He fiddles around the house to make things better but sometimes makes them worse. He watches sports on TV. He wants a bigger TV.”

*Ira coaches all the kids in basketball. What kind of coach is Daddy?*

George: “He is a good coach, he makes funny faces.”

Jennie: “I like doing the crab walk.”

Sarah: “He is determined.” (Sarah’s team is 3 and 7)

*Twins George and Jennie, age 7, and Sarah, age 12*



## February Events

**Groundhog Day** on February 2nd.

**All Staff Meeting** on February 3rd.

Happy Birthday to **Santricia Mack** on February 5th!

**Valentine's Day** on February 14th.

**President's Day** on February 20th.

Happy 15th Anniversary to **Patti Brower** on February 25th!

Happy Birthday to **Jay Tribou** on February 27th!

**Mardi Gras** on February 28th.



# US Trustee Sports

## From December '02 U.S. Trustee Goes On Rampage

The UST Team went 4-0 in the First Annual U.S. Trustee vs. Chapter 13 Trustees Holiday Basketball Classic.

Led by the sterling performances of U.S. Trustee Ira Bodenstein and Brad Waller, hereafter referred to as "the ringer." UST Team 1 beat all comers on the Gray court at Hoops the Gym Stadium Club.

Their winning scores were 18-5 vs. Team 1 of the Chapter 13 Trustees, 19-16 vs. Team 2 of the Chapter 13 Trustees, 18-17 vs. Team 2 of the U.S. Trustee, and 19-16 vs. Team 2 of the Chapter 13 Trustees.

The final game was the most closely contested, with the Chapter 13 team taking an early lead, followed by constant lead changes up to a tie score at 16. The teams went back and forth, with defenses stepping up to make key stops, until "the ringer" finally dropped a three-pointer to end the game.

Representing the Chapter 13 Trustees were players Jammal Davis, Kyle Issleb, Carlos Lagunas, Brandon Vaughn, Trustee Glen Stearns, Art Holmes, Henry Weichman, Marcus Regendiz, Rudy Purchase and Pete Whalen. Cheering them on were Trustee Marilyn Marshall, Trustee Tom Vaughn, Graciela Cardona, Angela Davis, Cheryl Jones, Lavone Kizer-Merritt, Tonya Larkin, and scorekeeper Dave Latz.

## Flash! Chicago White Sox win '05 World Series Title on Ira Bodenstein's watch!



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## From December '03 Annual Basketball Classic U.S. Trustee vs. the Chapter 13 Trustees

The second annual US Trustee vs. Chapter 13 Trustees Holiday Basketball Classic was held on December 19th at Hoops Gym Stadium Club. The UST team went 4-0 for the second time due to outstanding and aggressive performances by US Trustee Ira Bodenstein, US Bankruptcy Clerk Kenneth Gardner and other team members.

After a slow and sluggish start, the Chapter 13 Trustees team regrouped in the final three games. The second and third games were competitive, but due to some "interesting" score-keeping techniques, the Chapter 13 Trustees fell short by a few baskets.

In the final game, the Chapter 13 Trustees took an early lead with strong defense and smart offense. In this game, the UST utilized

their three point offensive threat once again, which closed the gap. Despite the Chapter 13 Trustees' team energy and outstanding plays, they were a basket short of a victory for two straight games. The play was physical yet fun.

Congratulations to the UST on the victory. However, due to the physical nature in which they played, maybe next year we should consider a football game.

Special thanks go out to all the players and cheerleaders.  
*Brandon Vaughn*

**And we didn't have room to reprint the story from December '04, but they beat us anyway!**

