

# NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE

## RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL BANKRUPTCY CONFERENCE

Adopted Unanimously By Its Executive Committee, March 20, 2017

WHEREAS, Bruce Leonard was a valued Conferee of the National Bankruptcy Conference for many years and served as Chair of the International Aspects Committee, until he passed away on January 18, 2017;

WHEREAS, Bruce was born in Winnipeg, attended the University of Manitoba, studied law at Osgoode Hall Law School of York University in Toronto and practiced in Toronto as a prominent insolvency lawyer. Among his many professional accomplishments, he represented the Canadian Government in the General Motors and Chrysler chapter 11 cases, chaired the International Committee of the Ontario Bar Association and founded the Insolvency Institute of Canada (which, in his honor, created the Bruce Leonard Prize in Insolvency Studies at five leading Canadian Universities);

WHEREAS, Bruce taught International Insolvency in the University of Toronto's Global Professional LLM Program and was Co-Director of the LLM Program in Insolvency Law at Osgoode Hall Law School ;

WHEREAS, Bruce's interest in the field of international insolvency took root in the 1980's with his membership in then-Committee J (insolvency) of the International Bar Association under chair John Barrett. Bruce went on to serve as chair of Committee J from 1992 to 1996;

WHEREAS, Bruce was an active participant in international insolvency projects and organizations in the United States (in addition to the Conference), serving as vice-chair of the International Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Business Bankruptcy Committee, becoming a Fellow of the of the American College of Bankruptcy and chair of its International Committee and serving as Canadian reporter for the American Law Institute's Transnational Insolvency Project;

WHEREAS, Bruce had the seminal idea of creating an international organization of leading insolvency practitioners, judges and academics and in 2000 founded the International Insolvency Institute. Under his leadership, the III grew to some 300 members from over 60 countries. In 2007, the III honored Bruce with its Founders Award for his contributions to the field of international insolvency;

WHEREAS, Bruce's influence on the world of international insolvency cannot be overestimated. On behalf of the IBA and the III, he participated in the development of the UNICTRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency, from the colloquium which spawned the idea to the finished product. Under his tutelage, the III sponsored numerous programs for judges to address international judicial cooperation and joined with the ALI to produce Guidelines for Court-to-Court Communications that are regularly applied in cross-border insolvency cases;

WHEREAS, Bruce was a founder and leader whom others followed willingly because of his obvious dedication, his quiet sense of humor and his constant quest for new and improved approaches to the international practice that he loved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bankruptcy Conference extends its condolences to Bruce's beloved wife Gale and recognizes the inspiration and achievements of Bruce Leonard and his extraordinary contributions to the international insolvency community through his work for the Conference, UNCITRAL, the International Insolvency Institute and a legion of other distinguished organizations.