

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTION

Adopted Unanimously by the Executive Committee of the National Bankruptcy Conference
June 1, 2021

John J. Jerome was a member of the National Bankruptcy Conference for more than forty years. John was born in New York City on October 17, 1932, a fifth generation New Yorker.

After high school John joined the air force during the Korean War and served in Korea as part of the United Nations Civil Assistance Corps (UNCACK). After his military service John went to St. John's University receiving his BBA degree in 1958 and his LLB degree in 1961. During his years at St. John's, John worked in the managing attorney's office at Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy. He became an associate at Milbank in 1962, the first person from the managing attorney's office promoted to associate. In 1970, John became a partner at Milbank. His early mentor was Samuel Ross Balin, a permanent associate at Milbank, addressed by his fellow associates as "Sam" and always addressed by John as "Mr. Balin."

In 1976 John was invited by his close friend, Professor Charles Seligson, to attend the ALI-ABA sponsored conference on the Report of the Commission on the Revision of the Bankruptcy Laws of the United States. Subsequently John joined with Leonard Rosen, Bob MacKinnon, Steve Case, Pat Murphy and Henry Goodman to form the American Bankers Association - Robert Morris Associates Committee on Bankruptcy Law Reform. When the House Judiciary Committee looked for support for H.R. 8200 and Article III status for bankruptcy judges, John got David Rockefeller to call bank chairmen in numerous states to contact their respective Senators and House members and to request that they support the bill. The House Judiciary Committee staff quickly realized that John would be a formidable ally. Along the way, John sent a team of Milbank paralegals to the Federal Records Center in Maryland to analyze the results of Chapter XI cases versus Chapter X cases which research found its way into the legislative history of the Bankruptcy Reform Act.

After Milbank, John practiced law at Jerome Advisors, Saul Ewing and Sullivan & Cromwell. He was involved in most of the seminal Chapter 11 cases principally as counsel for the banks or creditors committee.

Later in his career he helped his close friend, Donald Judd, one of America's preeminent artists, in the creation of the Judd Foundation and the Chinati Foundation and, after Don's death, he continued to advise Don Judd's children concerning the work of the foundations.

The 1973 edition of Milbank's Christmas musical contained a parody which to the music of the song "Big Bad Leroy Brown" described John as sharing traits with a "junk yard dog." Whether or not such a description was fair, John evolved into a person better described as a "country squire," respected for his intellect, sense of humor and graciousness.

WHEREAS, John Jerome elevated Milbank's bankruptcy and corporate reorganization practice to elite status among major American law firms;

WHEREAS, John played a significant role in the improvement of bankruptcy practice incorporated in the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978;

WHEREAS, the National Bankruptcy Conference was graced for more than forty years with John's participation in the work of the Conference;

WHEREAS, John's passing is keenly felt by the younger lawyers he mentored, and by the professionals, business persons and judges who had the opportunity to engage with a lawyer of great intellect and a personality which was not easy to forget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Bankruptcy Conference recognizes the achievements, contributions and exceptional character of John J. Jerome and expresses its most sincere

condolences and sympathy to his beloved spouse, Maureen, his daughters Mairin and Emily and his children by his first marriage, Christopher and Jennifer.