



IWIRC WOMAN OF THE YEAR IN RESTRUCTURING AWARD PRESENTED TO JUDGE JENNEMANN

On Friday, October 16, 2020, the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation presented its annual Woman of the Year in Restructuring Award to Hon. Karen S. Jennemann. Following are the remarks presented by Leyza Blanco, IWIRC Vice Chair, at the awards ceremony that was held in Judge Jennemann's courtroom and attended virtually by members and friends from around the world:

Welcome to IWIRC, the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation. We at IWIRC are committed to being the premier organization devoted to enhancing the professional status of women in insolvency & restructuring.

Each year, IWIRC honors a woman for her recent contributions to or lifetime achievements as part of the insolvency and restructuring industry with the Woman of the Year in Restructuring (WOYR) Award. The winner of this award has had an extraordinary legal career making lasting contributions to the insolvency and restructuring profession.

This year we present this award to a woman who for more than 36 years, in the busiest bankruptcy district in the US, has inspired, helped, mentored, and supported other women. She has not only directly mentored many women, but she has impacted and inspired the innumerable women who have appeared in her courtroom. From attorneys, to expert witnesses, to party representatives, she has inspired us all by example. Excelling in a profession and in an area dominated by the old guard and showing us what was possible by paving the way, becoming the first female bankruptcy judge and the first female chief judge. This year we present the 2020 Woman of the Year in Restructuring Award to Judge Karen Sue Jennemann. Through her leadership and service, Judge Jennemann has developed several programs improving the administration of the Bankruptcy Court and its service to the public.

She was instrumental in unifying the Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, making it possible for the Southern and Northern District Bankruptcy Courts of Florida to coordinate on many procedures. Always devoted and a constant supporter of IWIRC, actively participating in our events and a strong supporter of other women, this year she adds the WOYR award to a list of other meritorious awards, most recently the Florida Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Service Pro Bono Award and the Orange County Bar's Professionalism Award for her high ethical conduct, courtesy, and professional behavior. Her immeasurable impact on the lives and careers of women make her an exceptionally deserving recipient of this award.

An exemplary career in the restructuring community and beyond, Judge Jennemann consistently personifies IWIRC's mission. She has often provided guidance on a variety of issues to her colleagues. Consistently a supporter of many organizations, including Dress for Success, empowering women to achieve economic independence, Judge Jennemann has helped women thrive. An embodiment of IWIRC's fostering of growth and celebration of success, I am honored to present the Woman of the Year in Restructuring Award today to Judge Karen Sue Jennemann.



Photos courtesy of Business PhotoPros.