

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BANKRUPTCY
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**
By: Ryan J. Really, Esquire – President

On March 23, 2023, the Southwest Florida Bankruptcy Professionals Association (SWFBPA) held its Tenth Annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Dinner at Pinchers Restaurant in Fort Myers. The dinner is held to honor the lifetime achievements of the late Bankruptcy Judge Alexander L. Paskay.

The evening's program commenced with the recognition of longtime SWFBPA Treasurer Gerard "Jerry" A. McHale for his many years of years of service to the Bar. Jerry has "retired" as Treasurer and is succeeded by incoming Treasurer Luis E. Rivera, II.

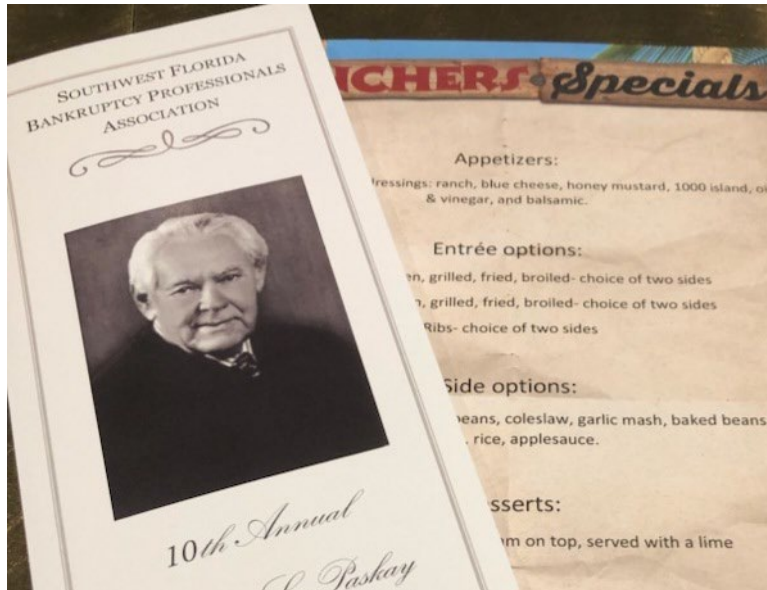
For the first time ever, the Judge Alexander L. Paskay Professionalism Award was presented posthumously. Luis Rivera announced the presentation of the Award to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Michael G. Williamson. Judge Williamson's wife, Linda, attended the dinner and accepted the Paskay Award on Judge Williamson's behalf. Judge Williamson's law clerk, Ed Comey, also attended the dinner.

The Paskay Award is given annually to a bankruptcy professional who exemplifies the following qualities: outstanding effectiveness in presentation of matters in court; a reputation for thorough preparation; civility and courtesy to other parties; appropriate courtroom demeanor; ethical conduct and professionalism at the highest level; and long-term service to the Bar.

Although Judge Williamson's "duty station" was in the Tampa Division, he presided in Fort Myers for nearly nine months in 2006 and 2007. Judge Williamson greatly enjoyed his visits to Fort Myers, and he always spoke highly of the Fort Myers bar and the high level of the attorneys' practice and professionalism. In 2010, when Judge Paskay was no longer able to travel to Fort Myers, Judge Williamson arranged, first for Judge David Adams, and then for Judges Barry Schermer and Jeffery Hopkins to serve as visiting judges in Fort Myers. Judge Williamson also enjoyed his many trips to Fort Myers and attending SWFBPA events during his term as Chief Judge of the Middle District of Florida.

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The evening concluded with Chief Judge Caryl E. Delano swearing in this year's SWFBPA officers: President Ryan J. Really; Vice-President Christian Haman; Secretary Shannon Puopolo; and Treasurer, Luis E. Rivera, II.



*Left to right:
Luis Rivera, Shannon Puopolo, Christian Haman, Ryan Really, and Judge Delano*