

Abigail Willie of the Eastern District of Missouri is Chosen for 2018 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award Recipient

Abigail Willie has been chosen to receive the 2018 Michael R. Roser Excellence in Bankruptcy Award from the Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar.

Since 1994, the Commercial Law Committee of the Missouri Bar, through a special selection subcommittee consisting of past recipients and attorneys representing different geographical areas throughout the state in a variety of practice sizes, has presented the Roser award to an attorney who manifests the highest standard of excellence in bankruptcy practice, who contributes distinctively to the development and appreciation of bankruptcy law, and who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of bankruptcy practice or administration. The award is named in honor of the late Michael R. Roser, a prominent Kansas City bankruptcy lawyer.

Ms. Willie graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with honors, in 1996 with a B.A. in English. She attended law school at Southern Methodist University School of Law, receiving her J.D. degree, cum laude, in 2000. Ms. Willie has been the law clerk to the Honorable Charles E. Rendlen, III, at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri for 12 years. Ms. Willie started her legal career as a law clerk to the Honorable George P. Kazen at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas from 2000-2001. She began her bankruptcy career as an attorney at Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. in Dallas, Texas, in 2001 and worked there until 2005. From 2005-2006, she was a law clerk to the Honorable Raymond W. Gruender at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in St. Louis, Missouri. She then became the law clerk to the Honorable Charles E. Rendlen, III, in 2006.

Ms. Willie has been very active in the bankruptcy community during her career. She serves as a Board Member ex officio of the Advisory Board of the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute, on the Leadership Board of the Ethics & Professional Compensation Committee of the American Bankruptcy Institute, and is a member of the Committee for Pro Bono Bankruptcy Legal Services in St. Louis. In addition, Ms. Willie has used her considerable talents during the past couple of years on multiple occasions to author professional publications and/or to speak professionally at seminars. Most recently, Ms. Willie was awarded a one-year in residence fellowship for the 2018-19 academic year with the Supreme Court Fellows Program for the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ms. Willie also finds time to do public service and volunteer in the community at the Center for Women in Transition in St. Louis, an organization that assists women in St. Louis successfully re-integrate into society after incarcerations, and other organizations.

The award will be presented at the Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 12, 2018.