

# RECENT EXEMPTION DEVELOPMENTS: INCLUDING CLARK V. RAMEKER

Presented By:



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Panelists:

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William Houston Brown Adviser to Academy United States Bankruptcy Judge, Retired Partner, Brown and Ahern



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## Inherited IRAs: Background

- In re Clark, 714 F.3d 559 (7th Cir. 2013)
- In re Chilton, 674 F.3d 486 (5th Cir. 2012)
- In re Nessa, 426 B.R. 312 (BAP 8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2010)
- See Brown, Ahern & MacLean, Bankruptcy Exemption Manual, § 5:13, for history





# Clark v. Rameker: What Happened?

- Inherited IRA lacks characteristics of "retirement fund" within meaning of § 522(b)(3)(C)
- § 522(d)(12) implicitly included, because of same statutory language
- Supreme Court did not distinguish, as did 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit, the IRA inherited from spouse





#### After Clark: What's Left?

- Supreme Court was not addressing state law exemptions
- · Effect of opt out
- State exemptions for IRAs may not use term "retirement fund"
- State exemptions may refer to Internal Revenue Code—effect?

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### **Transfers to Spouses in Divorce**

- In re West, 507 B.R. 252 (Bankr. N.D. III. 2014)
- Distinguished 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit's Clark
- Applied state law and retention of retirement purposes behind transfer



## Law v. Siegel

- Law v. Siegel, 134 S.Ct. 1188 (Mar. 4, 2014), surcharge not remedy when conflicted with § 522(k)
- Law being cited for its § 105(a) authority— See, e.g., In re Franklin, 506 B.R. 765 (Bankr. C.D. III. 2014)





#### OTHER RECENT DECISIONS

- Crawford v. Franklin Credit, 758 F.3d 473 (2d Cir. 2014)
- Javery v. Lucent, 741 F.3d 686 (6th Cir. 2014)
- *In re Traverse*, 753 F.3d 19 (1st Cir. 2014)
- In re Pfister, 749 F.3d 294 (4th Cir. 2014)
- *In re Kim*, 748 F.3d 647 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)
- In re Frost, 744 F.3d 384 (5th Cir. 2014)



### **Avoidance Developments**

- In re Frates, 507 B.R. 298 (BAP 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)—Proper service of lien avoidance motion
- Prangley v. Cokinos, 509 B.R. 822 (D. Md. 2014)—valuation date for avoidance
- In re McCracken, 509 B.R. 329 (Bankr. D. Ore. 2014)—foreclosure judgment



#### **TURNOVER**



 Shapiro v. Henson, 739 F.3d 1198 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)— Turnover not limited to property of estate at time of motion

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#### **INHERITED PROPERTY**

- In re Dale, 505 B.R. 8 (BAP 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014)
  inheritance more than 180 days postpetition included in estate, following Caroll v. Logan, 735 F.3d 147 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2013)
- Accord In re Roberts, 2014 WL 3937456 (Bankr. E.D. N.Y. Aug. 12, 2014)
- Compare In re McAllister, 510 B.R. 409 (Bankr. N.D. Ga. 2014)

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### **Effect of Increased Exemptions**

- In re Dickey, 2014 WL 4296003 (Bankr. D. Mass. Aug. 28, 2014)
- In re Kyle, 510 B.R. 804 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 2014)

Debtors entitled to legislature's increase in exemption amounts shortly before bankruptcy filings.



## **Amended Exemptions**

In re Walker, 505 B.R. 217 (Bankr. E.D. Tenn. 2014)—citing majority rule, amended exemptions only restarts objection period for those amended, not original, and not amended exemptions







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