

Hon. Melanie L. Cyganowski (Ret.)

Former Chief Bankruptcy Judge Melanie Cyganowski joined Otterbourg P.C. as a partner in 2008, after serving a full term as a Bankruptcy Judge in the Eastern District of New York and as Chief Judge from November 29, 2005 through the end of her term. She graduated *magna cum laude* from the School of Law at SUNY at Buffalo. She then served as law clerk to the late Hon. Charles Brieant (SDNY), a litigation associate at Sullivan & Cromwell, and a senior attorney in litigation at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, before joining the bench.

Judge Cyganowski presently chairs Otterbourg's Bankruptcy practice. She is currently co-counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors for Tort Claimants – Related to Use of Combat Arms Version 2 Earplugs in *Aearo Technologies LLC*; the Official Committee of Unsecured Talc Claimants in *LTL Management LLC*; and the Ad Hoc Committee in *Purdue Pharma*. She was appointed pre-petition as a member of a blue-ribbon committee by the Rockville Center Diocese with former Chief Bankruptcy Judge Arthur Gonzalez and former Comptroller of the City of New York Harrison J. Goldin. Her fiduciary appointments include: Receiver in *SEC v. Straightpath Venture Partners* and in *SEC v. Platinum Partners*; CRO; Receiver in *The People of the State of New York v. Laurence G. Allen, et al.*; Temporary Operator of Brooklyn's Interfaith Medical Center; Patient Care Ombudsman in *Randolph Hospital Inc., Promise Healthcare, Orianna Health Systems, 21st Century Oncology* and *California Proton*; Auditor of Capital One; and various trusteeships. She also served as Special Master in *Vivendi* and *Neogenix Oncology*, a Court-Appointed Expert in *Orion HealthCorp*, and an arbitrator/mediator in cases including in connection with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Avoidance Actions Trust, *Madoff* and *Lehman*. She has testified as an expert in international cases involving U.S. bankruptcy laws.

Judge Cyganowski is a Fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy, on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Practice & Law*, and an adjunct professor at St. John's University School of Law in the Bankruptcy LL.M. Program. She is active in philanthropic organizations, including *Tina's Wish*.