My work on this book was supported by grants from the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Endowment for Education and the American Bankruptcy Institute Endowment for Education. The content of the book is based in part on work supported by the National Science Foundation under grant SES-8618353 and also in part on findings from a series of research projects conducted and reported with coresearchers and coauthors. These colleagues are Professor William C. Whitford of the University of Wisconsin Law School; Professor Theodore Eisenberg of the Cornell Law School; Joseph W. Doherty, associate director of the Empirical Research Group at the UCLA Law School; and Sara Kalin, a graduate of the UCLA Law School who currently practices with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

I thank Mike Campion, Christian Dodd, Scott Halvorsen, L. Nicolle Hollingsworth, Michael Kovaleski, Drew LoPucki, and Richard Scheelings for assistance with research and Frances H. Foster, Jim Reische, Gary D. Rowe, Lynn A. Stout, Elizabeth Warren, and Jay L. Westbrook for comments on the manuscript or portions of it, and Susan Rabiner for guidance. Jim Reische, my editor at the University of Michigan Press, did a marvelous job of rescuing this project from obscurity and guiding me through the publication process.

I am also deeply indebted to the dozens of bankruptcy lawyers and judges who furnished leads for my investigations. Their only reward will be the contribution they made to the integrity of the bankruptcy system; nearly all of them requested anonymity. Without their help, I would not have found the facts and documents that make the case presented in this book.