

## Charles C. Crumley

Charles C. Crumley, CPA, of Atlanta, Georgia, a Fellow of the inaugural class of the American College of Bankruptcy and the only non-lawyer included in the first class, died on March 17, 2016. He was 91.

Charlie had a successful career with Arthur Young from 1947 until 1980, making partner and working in its New York, Cleveland, Chicago, and Atlanta offices. He was instrumental in establishing the firm's consulting practice and served in several leadership positions, including National Director of Management Consulting and partner in charge of the Atlanta office.

After serving as accountant for the trustee in a Chapter X case, developing an interest in bankruptcy reorganizations, and studying bankruptcy law at various seminars in his spare time, Charlie recognized that the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978's introduction of examiners in 1980 created a need for professionals who could combine business consulting experience and accounting background with an understanding of the bankruptcy process. Charlie took early retirement from Arthur Young in 1980 and formed his own firm, Bankruptcy Examiners, later known as Crumley Consulting Services, in Atlanta, to start an accounting and consulting practice focused in bankruptcy.

Charlie and his firm served as examiners, trustees, and accountants for chapter 11 debtors and trustees in innumerable cases for the next 30 years until he retired again at age 85. He was the professional that everyone wanted on his or her side and that everyone was glad to see on the other side.

Charlie introduced the bankruptcy bench and bar and the accounting profession to what a knowledgeable bankruptcy accountant could contribute to bankruptcy cases. As one Atlanta bankruptcy professional reported upon the occasion of Charlie's receipt of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Insolvency Restructuring Advisors in 2007, "A number of folks have caught up with Charlie over the years, but I remember when he seemed to be the only accountant who could even carry on a conversation in bankruptcy. Before there were consulting practices locally, all accountants were either tax or audit. The tax guys didn't know where to start and the audit guys didn't know where to stop. It was difficult to say which was more useless in bankruptcy."

Charlie knew where to start, where to stop, and how to get from one place to the other. He could promptly and accurately evaluate the real situation of a distressed business, learn what information lawyers and judges needed, and supply it in a way they could understand and use. He understood the legal principles involved, how they related to the business, and what the alternatives and solutions might be. His study and experience qualified him, as he put it, to be an "accountant at law." To this day, lawyers and judges in Atlanta in difficult cases will say that it needs a "Charlie Crumley type" to help sort it out.

While engaged in a successful bankruptcy practice, Charlie worked to teach accounting principles to both lawyers and accountants and served as mentor and guide to many.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 72 years, Betty, daughter Carole Ressa, son Steve Crumley, three grandsons, and one great-grandson. He will be missed.

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