

Keynote Speaker

Judge Carl Bucki

Carl L. Bucki serves as the Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York. In addition to his experience in the law, however, Judge Bucki has participated actively in the Polish community of Western New York and has received recognition for his expertise regarding the history of Polonia.

Judge Bucki is a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences of Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* and with distinction in 1974. Two years later, he received his Juris Doctor degree *cum laude* from the Cornell Law School. Following graduation, Judge Bucki worked as confidential law clerk to the Honorable Matthew J. Jasen of the New York Court of Appeals. After more than sixteen years in private practice, he was appointed to his current post as Bankruptcy Judge in 1993.

Carl Bucki developed his interest in history at Cornell, where he authored a senior thesis entitled "A Stacked Deck: Frustration Politics in Buffalo's Polish Community." The work was later used as material for courses at the University at Buffalo. In 1990, he edited "The American Constitution from a Polish Ethnic Perspective," a book published through a grant from the New York State Bicentennial Commission. He is the author of numerous articles on the history of Poles in Buffalo, and was the principal text writer for the Polonia Exhibit at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in 1998. For the past decade, Judge Bucki has volunteered to write a bi-weekly column for the Am-Pol Eagle, a newspaper serving the Polish community of West-

ern New York. He was also a contributor to the Polish American Encyclopedia that was published in 2011. Altogether, he has authored more than 250 columns examining the history of Poland and of Polonia. He is a frequent lecturer on the history of Buffalo's Polish community.



Carl Bucki served as president of the Polish Community Center of Buffalo from 1978 to 1980. He is a member of the Professional and Businessmen's Association, an organization of Polish American business and professional leaders, and served as its president from 1981 to 1982. After serving as a director of the Polish Union of America from 1982 to 1986, he became that organization's national attorney, a position which he held until his appointment to the bench. He served as a director of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo from 1997 to 1999, and as a member of the Board of the Permanent Chair of Polish Culture at Canisius College from 2008 to 2012. Judge Bucki is a member of the Buffalo History Museum (formerly known as the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society), and served as its president from 1996 to 2001.



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