



James P.S. Leshaw

Shareholder

Chair, Florida Business Reorganization & Financial Restructuring Practice | Latin America Practice Group; International Insolvency Group | Subprime & Mortgage Markets

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Jim chairs the Florida Business Reorganization & Financial Restructuring Practice.

Jim has been recognized as one of the "Best Lawyers in America," one of the "Top Bankruptcy M&A Lawyers" by *The Deal*, as a leading bankruptcy lawyer by *Chambers and Partners*, as a "Legal Elite" by *Florida Trend Magazine*, and as one of the "Top Lawyers in South Florida" by the *South Florida Legal Guide*, and as a "Super Lawyer" by *Florida Super Lawyers Magazine*. Jim has been described in *Chambers* as "smart, results-driven, innovative and effective;" as a "thoughtful, intellectual and practical lawyer" and as "dogged in getting to the point," "extremely knowledgeable" and "proactive."

He has handled mergers, acquisitions and asset purchases of financially distressed businesses involving billions of dollars in assets; bankruptcies, workouts, reorganizations and restructurings; securitization transactions; cross-border insolvency transactions; and advised clients in connection with municipal bankruptcies (Chapter 9). Jim is familiar with various restructuring and creditor laws in Canada, Mexico and throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

Jim has also worked with or overseen litigation teams defending private equity sponsors, financial institutions and other participants in complex litigation, where he often takes the lead in developing strategy and managing high stakes litigation.

He is a graduate of the New York University School of Law, is admitted to courts throughout Florida and New York, appears regularly in courts throughout the United States and is on the Roster of Mediators for the United States Bankruptcy for the Southern District of Florida and the District of Delaware.

Areas of Concentration

- Mergers and acquisitions of financially distressed businesses
 - Mediations
 - Complex business litigation
 - Bankruptcy, workouts, reorganizations and restructurings
 - Municipal bankruptcies
 - Complex corporate transactions
 - Cross-border and international insolvency
 - International transactions
 - Securitization transactions
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Significant Representations

- Representation of numerous clients in connection with merger, acquisition, and purchase and sale of assets and distressed loans involving financially troubled entities. Representations include transactions before bankruptcy courts in more than 20 states and billions of dollars in assets.
- Representation of numerous private equity sponsors, financial institutions and other participants in complex litigation, where he often takes the lead in developing strategy and managing high stakes litigation. Representations include transactions before bankruptcy and federal district courts in multiple states involving more than a billion

dollars in claims.

- Workouts, insolvencies, restructurings, mergers and acquisitions of numerous entities in cross-border insolvency transactions, including entities established in multiple jurisdictions in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe and Mexico. Significant experience with the Companies Act (Bahamas, Cayman Islands, etc.) and quiebra, suspensión de pagos, procesos de ejecución colectiva and other creditor laws throughout Latin America.
 - Representation of numerous clients in complex financial restructurings, workouts and bankruptcies involving foreign and domestic real estate developers, banks, airlines, shipping companies, cruise lines, hotels, telecom companies, high technology companies, agricultural businesses, manufacturing and industrial facilities, power plant projects, healthcare companies, and entertainment companies.
 - Representation of numerous borrowers, lenders, purchasers, sellers and trustees in connection with complex corporate transactions, including creation of "bankruptcy remote" entities; structuring transactions to avoid or reduce bankruptcy and insolvency risk; and substantive non-consolidation opinions, fraudulent transfer opinions, preference opinions and true sale opinions.
 - Structuring of multinational and cross-border commercial transactions for foreign and domestic corporations, trusts and wealthy individuals.
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Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Bankruptcy Litigation, 2007-2012
- Listed, *Super Lawyers* magazine, *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2006-2012
- Listed, *Chambers USA Guide*, 2008-2012
- Member, Winning Team, Chambers USA Awards for Excellence, Corporate & Finance - Law Firm of the Year (Florida Based), 2010
- Member, Winning Team, Chambers Latin America Inaugural Awards for Excellence, Focus on Latin America - Law Firm of the Year (Florida-Based) 2009
- Listed, *Florida Trend Magazine*, "Legal Elite," Bankruptcy Law, 2004-2006
- Listed, *The Deal*, "Top Bankruptcy M&A Lawyers"
- Listed, *South Florida Legal Guide*, "Top Lawyers in South Florida"
- Rated, AV[®] Preeminent[™] 5.0 out of 5

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Previous Experience

- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, New York
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Articles, Publications & Lectures

Jim has written articles and lectured on multiple topics, including Constitutional and Jurisdictional Issue in Bankruptcy; Trading Claims in Bankruptcy; Acquiring Troubled Companies in Bankruptcy; Cross-Border Insolvency; Claim Subordination; Allowance of Claims in Bankruptcy; Estimation of Claims in Bankruptcy; Ethics regarding Asset Protection; Preference and Fraudulent Transfer Law; Bankruptcy Evidence Issues; Asset Protection in Florida; Latin American Insolvency Regimes; Impact of Sarbanes Oxley on Latin American Based Companies; Preferences, Fraudulent Transfers, and Entertainment Law and Bankruptcy

Education

J.D., New York University School of Law

B.A., Religion and Political Science, Tufts University

Admitted to Practice

- Florida
 - New York
 - U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York
 - U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
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