John H. Thompson

Partner, Bankruptcy and Reorganization

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John Thompson focuses his practice on complex Chapter 11 cases and debtor and creditor rights. He handles business reorganizations and cross-border insolvency matters, and has extensive experience representing debtors, creditors, acquirers, landlords, and equity holders both in and out of court across a broad range of industries. John has served as counsel for numerous high-profile Chapter 11 debtors, including Enron, Worldcom, Northwest, and LyondellBasell. His creditor representations include a local council in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy, a major auto maker in the Takata airbag Chapter 11, national energy companies in the White Star and First Energy restructurings, and several swap counterparties in the Lehman bankruptcies.

John regularly assists private equity funds, family offices, and other asset managers with opportunistic section 363 acquisitions and efficient dispositions of distressed assets. He also advises financial institutions on trading contract and derivatives issues, and he is a member of Akerman's Crypto Insolvency Team.

Dedicated to giving back to his community, John frequently volunteers and handles pro bono matters. He served as counsel of record in the restructuring of a nonprofit school for emotionally disturbed adolescents and represented African-American police officers in their employment discrimination litigation against the city of Baltimore. John actively participates in pro bono activities on behalf of veterans and military service members serves as co-chair of the legislative committee for the American Bankruptcy Institute's Veterans Task Force.

Before earning his law degree, John served as a captain and helicopter pilot in the United States Army. During his service, John commanded a company of 275 soldiers stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia, and led an air cavalry platoon of the 24th Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Published Work and Lectures

Areas of Experience

Bankruptcy and Reorganization
Chapter 11 Business Debtors
Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency
Distressed Property
Financial Services

Education

J.D., American University Washington College of Law, 2001, cum laude
M.A., American University, 2001
B.A., Bucknell University, 1991

Admissions

Bars

District of Columbia
New York

Courts

U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, District of Maryland
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Related Content

Akerman Hosts Private Equity Boot Camp Session Four on Distressed Company Transactions
October 29, 2024

Chambers USA Ranks Akerman Among the Nation's Best Law Firms in 2024
June 06, 2024

Akerman Hosts Private Equity Boot Camp Session Three on Distressed Company Transactions
November 15, 2023

- *ABI Journal*, Co-Author, “Second Circuit’s Purdue Decision Intensifies Debate,” September 2023
- American Bar Association’s Section of Taxation, 2023 Midyear Tax Meeting, Speaker, “Employee Benefits Mergers & Acquisitions,” February 10, 2023
- *Oil & Gas Financial Journal*, Co-Author, “Emerging Trends in Distressed Oil Patch,” October 2016
- 7th Annual Law of Shale Plays Conference, Panelist, “Opportunities, Risks and New Developments in the Distressed Oil and Gas Industry,” September 7, 2016
- *Law360*, Co-Author, “Some Clarity On Madoff Recovery Calculations,” January 28, 2016

Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Member
- American Bankruptcy Institute, Member
  - ABI “Views from the Bench” 2023 Program, Advisory Board Member
  - ABI Veterans and Service Members Task Force, Legislative Committee Co-Chair
- Turnaround Management Association (TMA), Member
- ABI Veterans and Service Members Task Force
- Military Veterans Network, Akerman Chair

Honors and Distinctions

- *Chambers USA,* 2021-2024, Ranked in Washington, D.C. for Bankruptcy/Restructuring
- *Best Lawyers,* 2018-2025*,* Listed for Litigation - Bankruptcy, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law