

Francis J. Lawall

Partner

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Fran represents major industrial and utility companies in complex bankruptcy workouts and litigation. Clients facing massive toxic tort liabilities rely on his guidance to take them through the reorganizations necessary to preserve their businesses.

OVERVIEW

Fran concentrates his practice on national bankruptcy matters and workouts, including the representation of major health care, energy, and steel companies, and creditors' committees in commercial transactions, bankruptcy proceedings, and general litigation throughout the U.S. Engagements have included a comprehensive analysis of the liabilities presented and the implementation of programs to ensure a long-term resolution. He also has broad experience in the reorganization of companies plagued with massive toxic tort liabilities, as well as companies in the textile, automotive, clothing, and construction materials industries. He has represented numerous buyers and sellers of assets in and out of bankruptcy proceedings.

In addition to his undergraduate degree in economics, Fran earned a master's degree in economics and finance, which has proven vital in assisting clients in understanding and solving complex financial problems. Fran has lectured and published extensively on restructuring and credit issues. In addition, he writes monthly articles on current bankruptcy topics for *The Legal Intelligencer* (Philadelphia). He regularly presents educational seminars to the National Petroleum Energy Credit Association and the International Energy Credit Association. He has also presented numerous programs to the Philadelphia Bar Association on various topics, including Representing the Asset Purchaser in Chapter 11, and to the American Bar Association Subcommittee on Mass and Massive Torts, concerning the use of limited fund class actions as an alternative to bankruptcy. In addition, he routinely lectures to various creditor groups concerning general bankruptcy issues, including preferences, reclamation, the role of creditors' committees and related litigation issues.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- 4 West Holdings, Inc., et al., d/b/a Orianna Health Systems, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Dallas, TX.
- Advanced Living Technologies, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, San Antonio, TX.
- Beam Management LLC dba harmony Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center of Sarasota, Chapter 11 proceeding, Tampa, FL.
- Carrollton Graphics, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Wilmington, DE.
- Center City Healthcare, LLC dba Hahnemann University Hospital, et al., Chapter 11 proceeding, Wilmington,

DE.

- Central Iowa Healthcare, Chapter 11 proceeding, Des Moines, IW.
- Chateau Senior Services LLC, Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- Danny's Happy Valley, LLC, chapter 11 proceeding, Arizona.
- Enron Corporation, Chapter 11 proceeding, New York, NY.
- Fairview Retirement Center, Chapter 11 proceeding, Harrisburg, PA.
- Fauser Oil Co., Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Northern District Iowa.
- Haven Eldercare, LLC., et al., Chapter 11 proceeding, New Haven, CT.
- In re Joint Eastern and Southern Asbestos Litigation, EDNY/SDNY.
- Integrated Healthcare, Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- Logan Square East, Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- Mason Coppell, Chapter 11 proceeding, Dallas, TX.
- Memorial Hospital, Roxborough, Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- New Louisiana Holdings, LLC, Chapter 11 proceeding, Lafayette, LA.
- North American Energy Conservation, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, New York, NY.
- PNW Healthcare Holdings, LLC, et al., Chapter 11 proceeding, Western District, Washington.
- Progressive Healthcare of Hudson County LP, Chapter 11 proceeding, Newark, NJ.
- Reliant Energy Channelview LP, Chapter 11 proceeding, Wilmington, DE.
- RHA/Pennsylvania Nursing Homes, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- Skyline Manor, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Omaha, NB.
- Southern Regional Health System, Inc., d/b/a Southern Regional Medical Center, et al., Chapter 11 proceeding, Atlanta, GA.
- Sugar Land Garden LLC dba Chelsea Gardens, Chapter 11 proceeding, Jackson, MS.
- Swann Oil, Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Reading, PA.
- The Baptist Home of Philadelphia, Chapter 11 proceeding, Philadelphia, PA.
- Trenton Convalescent Center Urban Renewal Associates, L.P., et al, Chapter 11 proceeding, Camden, NJ.
- US Automotive Manufacturing Inc., Chapter 11 proceeding, Wilmington, DE.
- Victory Medical Mid Cities, LP, et al, Chapter 11 proceeding, TX.
- Wachusett Ventures Inc., et al., Chapter 11 proceeding, Boston, MA.

AWARDS

- *Chambers USA*: Bankruptcy/Restructuring, Pennsylvania: Philadelphia & Surrounds (2005-2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2009-2026), Litigation – Bankruptcy (2011-2026)
- *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* (2013, 2019-2020)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bankruptcy + Restructuring
- Finance + Banking

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bankruptcy + Restructuring
- Debtor + Committee Representations
- Distressed Mergers + Acquisitions
- Finance + Banking
- Insolvency Litigation
- Natural Resources
- Trade Creditors Representation

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Temple University Beasley School of Law, J.D., 1985, editorial board, *Temple Law Review*
- Temple University, M.A., 1982, economics
- Temple University, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1981, economics

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Treatment of Physical and Financial Energy Commodity and Service Contracts in Bankruptcy (I/A)," 2023 IECA Spring Education Conference, April 18, 2023.
- Speaker, "The Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Working Group LIVE: A Discussion About Recent Issues and Decisions of Interest," 2023 IECA Spring Education Conference, April 17, 2023.
- Speaker, "Bankruptcy After COVID: Trends, New Developments and a Look Forward," National Association of Credit Management, November 16, 2022.
- Presenter, "Guaranties 201 – Why We Get Them and How to Make Them Stick!" National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, April 10, 2022.
- Presenter, "What Went Wrong: Bankruptcy in the Wake of Winter Storm Uri," International Energy Credit Association, March 29, 2022
- Presenter, "The Fundamentals of Prep-Packaged Bankruptcies," International Energy Credit Association, October 10, 2021.

- Presenter, “Corporate Bankruptcies and the Pandemic – The Impact and What Lies Ahead,” International Energy Credit Association, May 6, 2021.
- Presenter, “Bankruptcy in a COVID Environment and the New Subchapter 5,” National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, April 27, 2021.
- Presenter, “Planning Ahead: What Every Business Lawyer and Credit Professional Should Know About Bankruptcy Law,” National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, April 15 and 22, 2020.
- Presenter, “Anatomy of a Contract – Standard Terms & Conditions and Risk Mitigation,” National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, April 15, 2019.
- Presenter, “What Happens Before, During, and After a Bankruptcy Simulation,” National Petroleum Energy Credit Association, March 31, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Gamesmanship and Weaponizing the Automatic Stay—A Cautionary Tale for Debtors,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, August 1, 2025.
- Co-author, “Delaying Rent Payment by Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Facilities in Chapter 11,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, December 13, 2024.
- Co-author, “Supreme Court Rejects Refunds for Excessive US Trustee Fees,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 29, 2024.
- Co-author, “Trustees May Pursue Third-Party Claims Acquired From Settling Preference Defendants,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 3, 2024.
- Co-author, “Third Circuit – Chapter 11 Examiner Appointment Now Mandatory,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, February 9, 2024.
- Co-author, “Pre-petition Payment of Insurance Proceeds Triggers Preference Recovery,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 26, 2023.
- Co-author, “Second Circuit Finds Syndicated Loan Notes Are Not Securities,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, September 7, 2023.
- Co-author, “BSA Plan Triggers Denial of Abuse Claims in Rockville Center Diocese Chapter 11,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 27, 2023.
- Co-author, “Consulting Experts—When Privilege May Not Apply,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 4, 2023.
- Co-author, “No Blackout for Abstention in Chapter 15: Fifth Circuit Weighs In,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, February 2, 2023.
- Co-author, “Second Circuit Orders Refund of Unconstitutional Quarterly Fee Overpayment,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, December 15, 2022.
- Co-author, “Stay Violations and Sanctions Require More Than Competition,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 27, 2022.
- Co-author, “Plan Appeal Rights Expanded but Exculpation Limited by Fifth Circuit,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, September 8, 2022.
- Co-author, “Unfunded Pension Liabilities Not an ‘Interest’ That Survives 363 Sales,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 28, 2022.
- Co-author, “Mandatory Cost-Shifting for Compliance With Nonparty Subpoenas?,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, June 9, 2022.
- Co-author, “Clarity of Intent in Stipulations Is No ‘Minor’ Issue,” *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 5, 2022.
- Co-author, “Does the 2017 Amendment to 28 USC 1930(a)(6)(B) Violate the Uniformity Requirement of the US Constitution Bankruptcy Clause by Subjecting Chapter 11 Debtors in Some States to Higher Fees Than Similarly Situated Debtors in Other States?,” *ABA’s Preview of the United States Supreme Court Cases*, April 18, 2022.
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- Co-author, "[Bankruptcy Court Remains Open as a Venue to Resolve Mass Tort Litigation](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 10, 2022.
- Co-author, "[Is the Door Closing on Broad Third-Party Releases in Bankruptcy?](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, February 3, 2022.
 - Co-author, "[Chapter 15's Use by Foreign Debtors as a Discovery Tool in the US](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, December 16, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[Not All Distributions Are 'Disbursements' Subject to US Trustee Fees](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 28, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[Third Circuit—Bar Date Controls Post-Confirmation, Pre-Effective Date Claims](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, September 10, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[Buyer Beware—Sixth Circuit Highlights Notice Risk in 363 Bankruptcy Sales](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 29, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[US Quarterly Fee Differential Ruled Unconstitutional](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, June 23, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[When Is Content of Bankruptcy Bar Date Notice Sufficient?](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 6, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[Applying the Common Interest Doctrine in Plan-Related Discovery](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 11, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[High Court: Merely Retaining Estate Property Is Not a Stay Violation](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, February 4, 2021.
 - Co-author, "[Automatic Stay Blocks Interference With Debtor Business Relationships](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, December 17, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[Rejecting Midstream Gathering Agreements in Bankruptcy—Yes, No, Maybe?](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 29, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[A Primer on Municipal Bankruptcy](#)," *Pratt's Journal of Bankruptcy Law*, October 2020.
 - Co-author, "[FERC v. US Bankruptcy Courts: The Battle Continues](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, September 10, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[10th Circuit Narrows Scope of Subsequent Transferee Recovery](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 30, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[Advocacy in the Time of a Pandemic: You Can't Just Cry 'COVID!'](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, June 11, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[Bring in a Restructuring Team Now to Survive COVID-19 Disruption](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 7, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[Discharging Future Asbestos Claims Without a Litigation Trust?](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 12, 2020.
 - Co-author, "[Stay Relief Orders Denied With Prejudice Immediately Appealable](#)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, February 6, 2020.