



Robert T. Honeywell

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Robert Honeywell is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. He has more than three decades of experience in bankruptcy litigation and structured finance transactions. His litigation practice centers on New York and Delaware Chapter 11 and 15 bankruptcy cases—with a focus on defending against clawback suits and representing foreign (non-US) creditors in US bankruptcies—and has included appeals before the Southern District of New York and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. His transactions practice includes providing deal structure advice and closing opinions to protect against potential bankruptcy challenges later (for example, for recharacterization, true sale/off-balance-sheet challenges, substantive consolidation, or fraudulent transfer). Special areas of expertise have included representing aircraft lessors and lenders in Chapter 11 cases filed by foreign air carriers in New York (including Avianca, Aeroméxico, and LATAM), and representing investment funds and brokerage customers in recovering their assets in broker-dealer bankruptcies (including Lehman Brothers).

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Robert originally practiced for several years in Houston (his hometown), and has made New York City his home since 1997. Prior to joining the firm, he served as the chair of the restructuring and insolvency practice at an international law firm.

Recent successes include obtaining a judgment in New York federal court (Southern District) against an international bank for breach of its duty to honor a letter of credit, and successfully settling aircraft leasing claims in the LATAM bankruptcy and clawback claims in the Sears and Arcapita bankruptcies. Prior successes include the consensual Chapter 11 restructuring of an equipment finance company (as debtor's counsel), the first restructuring of Avianca airlines (as creditors' committee counsel), and the dismissal or consensual settlement of multiple Chapter 11 clawback suits in the Adelphia, Lehman Brothers, and Tribune bankruptcies.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Robert is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) and INSOL International. He is also active in efforts to expand broadband to underserved communities in upstate New York, and co-founded and served for over 20 years as a board member of The Brick Theater, an experimental performance space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *“The Collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank: What it Means for the Financial Ecosystem?”* with Grant F. Butler (K&L Gates), Tess Virmani (LSTA), Sarah Fergusson Chambless (Fenwick & West), Douglas Landy (White & Case), Jelena McWilliams (Cravath, Swaine & Moore), and Edwin E. Smith (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius). ABA Business Law Section, Hybrid Spring Meeting (Seattle), April 2023
- *“Surviving a Bust: Crypto, NTFs, and Insolvency,”* Beverly Hills Bar Association, Webinar, August 2022
- *“How Safe Are the ‘Safe Harbors’?: A Look at the Development of Section 546(e) and New Questions After the Supreme Court’s Decision in Merit Management,”* with Hon. Michelle M. Harner (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maryland), Eric R. Goodman (Baker Hostetler), and Brian D. Koosed (K&L Gates). National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges webinar
- *“A FERC in the Road to Recovery?: The Clash Between Bankruptcy and Regulated Power Contracts,”* with William M. Keyser (K&L Gates). Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition conference (Seattle)
- *“How Chapter 11 Impacts Mexican Companies,”* with Elisa Botero (Curtis Mallet). Ilustre y Nacional Colegio de Abogados de México (INCAM) - Mexico City-based webinar (in Spanish)
- *“Mapping the Advantages and Disadvantages of the U.S. System and the Spanish System in Terms of Insolvencies,”* with Adrian Thery (Garrigues). Fundación Fide - Madrid-based webinar
- *“Managing Credit Risk in a Post-Lehman World: Protecting Investment & Finance Transactions Against Potential Bankruptcy Fallout,”* with Chad Dale, Stephen Moller, Anthony Nolan and Skanthan Vivekananda. K&L Gates webinar and live presentation (Washington, DC)
- *“Best Practices for Achieving a Successful Workout,”* 2nd Annual LatinFinance Conference on Corporate Restructuring, Turnaround Management & Distressed Investing (New York)
- *“Look Before You Leap: Tips from a New York Bankruptcy Lawyer Before Jumping into the U.S. Market,”* IBEF SP Seminário: Nova Lei de Falências (São Paulo)

EDUCATION

- J.D., Yale Law School, 1991
- B.A., Duke University, 1986

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York
- Bar of Texas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

LANGUAGES

- Portuguese
- Spanish

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- April 2023, Cash Management Strategies for a Post-SVB World
- March 2023, Cash Management in the Post-SVB World
- 10 March 2023, Silicon Valley Bank Receivership - Flash Briefing on Its Impact and What Comes Next
- 21 April 2020, COVID-19: Crisis Management for End-Users of Swaps and Repos: Key Issues in Responding to Margin Calls and Early Termination Notices

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “*Key Insolvency Issues for Broker-Dealers, Custodial Banks and Counterparties to Repos, Swaps and Other Financial Contracts*,” with Anthony Nolan, Donald Smith and Robert Wittie. K&L Gates Financial Services Alert

NEWS & EVENTS

- 3 March 2022, K&L Gates Advises Vertical Bridge in \$1.4 Billion Asset-Backed Securitization

MEDIA MENTIONS

- “Voyager Digital former executive seeking to file competing restructuring plan,” *Axios*, 2022
- “Crypto influencer wakes up ‘with Celsius sweats,’” *Axios*, 2022
- “Voyager Digital’s one-of-a-kind bankruptcy,” *Axios*, 2022
- “\$2 trillion crypto crash leaves victims with nowhere to go,” *The Times*, 2022
- “FERC’s Say in Bankruptcy Gets New Test in FirstEnergy Case,” *Bloomberg Law*, 2020

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Restructuring and Insolvency

- Aviation Finance
- Corporate and Acquisition Finance
- Real Estate Finance
- Securitization and Structured Finance