



## C. John M. Melissinos

Partner

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John Melissinos practices in all areas of bankruptcy law, representing debtors, creditors, trustees, committees, and other interested parties in chapter 11 cases, bankruptcy related litigation, and complex chapter 7 matters. He also regularly represents parties with respect to general assignments for the benefit of creditors under California law. John is experienced in representing distressed companies as they seek to restructure or dispose of business units, including in the entertainment, retail, food, and home building industries.

John also regularly represents purchasers of assets from bankruptcy cases. He advises clients in analyzing and restructuring critical contracts through the bankruptcy process and provides input to senior management, directors and counter-parties with respect to employee retention, insurance, environmental and other operational issues that arise in chapter 11 proceedings and workout situations.

He also regularly represents chapter 7 trustees in complex business liquidation proceedings, including auctions and other dispositions of property. He has extensive experience in evaluating and litigating preference and other avoidance actions, especially fraudulent transfer claims and claims against officers and directors.

### **Comprehensive, responsive, full service counsel**

Companies, entrepreneurs and investors facing tough times can count on John Melissinos's know-how and determination to make the best out a seemingly bad situation. A former president of the Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum, John knows how to tackle tough problems.

Possessing a strong combination of legal knowledge and experience, and always putting the client and its business goals first, he is a relentless advocate when the situation demands it. If an out-of-court settlement cannot be reached, he will get the best results for his clients in bankruptcy court.

"Clients most appreciate the fact that they know I'm thinking about their problem in a way that's going to get it resolved," says John. "They also like that I am responsive and will explain everything they need to know in order to make the right decisions for their interests."

John's clients also like the full-service expertise at Greenberg Glusker. "One of the benefits of coming here for your bankruptcy matter is that we can provide seamless service over a wide variety of areas where you're going

to need help, including real estate, tax, regulatory, employee, and litigation matters,” he says. “It’s a benefit that very few other firms in Southern California can provide.”

Another benefit is John’s 25 years of experience in the Southern California bankruptcy community. “Generally,” he says, “I’m going to have a relationship with counsel on the other side of the case, which enables a faster, more cost-effective understanding of a bankruptcy case. It cuts out wasted effort that bankruptcy cases cannot support.”

For John, however, the bottom-line is always how much he contributes to the well-being of clients facing tough choices, and their employees.

“We recently had a media company in great distress and managed to run a very quick auction of its assets. We were then able to transition most of the operations to a new company and preserve most of the jobs in very short order. That,” he says, “was very satisfying.”

### **Professional Affiliations**

- [Los Angeles Bankruptcy Forum](#), Member, Board of Directors, 2009-2018; President, 2016-2017
- [Los Angeles County Bar Association](#)
- [Financial Lawyers Conference](#)
- [American Bar Association](#)
- [American Bankruptcy Institute](#)

### **Awards**

- Rated, "AV Preeminent 5.0 out of 5," Martindale Hubbell
- Listed, "Southern California Super Lawyers," in Business Bankruptcy, 2009 - 2018
- Public Counsel - Debtor Assistance Project - 2016 Pro Bono Award

### **Bar Admissions**

- California

### **Court Admissions**

- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- US District Court for the Central District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California
- US District Court for the Southern District of California
- US District Court for the Eastern District of California

### **Education**

- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (J.D., 1989)

- Cornell University (B.A., 1986)
- Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies (Certificate, 1994)

## Experience

### Chapter 11 Experience

- Represented special effects company in successful \$30 million sale of assets and confirmation of chapter 11 plan, including resolution of very significant claims under WARN Act and related state statutes.
- Represented timber company in its Chapter 11 case, involving numerous asset sales and the restructuring of over \$500 million in debt
- Represented oil rig and ship building company and its affiliates in their Chapter 11 case and resulting assets sales of operating business units
- Represented internet retailer in its Chapter 11 case
- Represented creditors' committee of "land bank" entity with over \$200 million of debt
- Represented a poultry processor in Chapter 11 case
- Represented creditors' committee and then Liquidating Trustee of real estate firm with property located in various western states. Successfully liquidated property and litigated with claims, resulting in distributions to creditors in excess of those originally projected
- Represented creditors in a variety of courts across country
- Advised leaseholders on assumption and assignment of leases as part of bankruptcy sale transaction
- Advised asset purchases with respect to bankruptcy sales

### Assignments for Benefit of Creditors and Related Restructurings

- Represented apparel company in successful \$15 million asset sale consummated through assignment for benefit of creditors.
- Represented Northern California in successful wind-down sale through article 9 foreclosure sale and assignment for benefit of creditors
- Represented new media company in successful wind-down and sale of assets through assignment for benefit of creditors.
- Represented cosmetics company in sale of assets by lender through sale under Article 9 of UCC.
- Represented hotel in deed-in-lieu transaction resulting in releases of principals under guaranties.

### Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 Trustee Representation

- Advised chapter 7 trustees in numerous assets dispositions, including sales of real property and many different types of personal property and equipment

- Advised chapter 7 trustee of property designated as superfund site in sale of property and litigation against insiders
- Advised chapter 7 trustee in bankruptcy cases of singer/songwriters.

### **Litigation Experience**

- Defended preference and fraudulent transfer targets, including a financial services company, in avoidance litigation brought in the Bankruptcy Court
- Defended claims for breach of fiduciary duty against member of Board of Trustees of charitable institution

### **Receivership Experience**

- Represented receiver appointed by District Court after SEC action against alleged ponzi scheme
- Represented state court receiver in complex family law property division case

## **Media**

July 13, 2018

### **Clear Thinking Required When the Chips Are Down**

*Small Enough To Fail*

June 20, 2018

### **Equity Partners HG Serves as Investment Banker to LORAC Cosmetics in Asset Sale**

*ABL Advisor*

March 27, 2018

### **Bankruptcy Cases To Watch In 2017**

*Law 360*

January 18, 2018

### **Thoughts From the BAP on How to (re)Define an “Executory Contract”**

*Small Enough to Fail*

February 15, 2017

### **What 2017 May Bring for the Restructuring Community**

*Small Enough to Fail*

January 22, 2016

### **23 Greenberg Glusker Attorneys Named to Super Lawyers 2016**

*Super Lawyers*

April 7, 2015

### **9th Circ. Panel Bolsters Trustees’ Reach-Back Powers**

*Small Enough to Fail*

March 25, 2015

**Rhythm and Hues: Former Officers Sued for Questionable Transactions**

*Troubled Company Reporter*