



Frances Smith

Principal

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Dallas, Texas – 214.593.4976

Frances Smith brings more than 20 years of experience guiding businesses, creditors, and stakeholders through the challenges of bankruptcy, restructuring, and related disputes. Known for her ability to build consensus in complex matters, she advises clients in bankruptcy courts across the United States and in out-of-court restructurings.

Her work spans a wide range of industries, including energy, hospitality, retail, franchise, and agriculture. Frances has experience with bankruptcy appellate matters and has frequently written and spoken on the subject, drawing on this background as a mediator to help clients navigate complex disputes. Clients value her depth of knowledge, steady judgment, and ability to provide solutions that preserve value in high-pressure situations.

Frances began her career as a judicial law clerk before joining a national law firm where she worked on some of the country's most significant bankruptcy cases. She later led the bankruptcy practice at a Dallas-based firm before forming her own boutique restructuring practice. Throughout her career, she has represented debtors, creditors, landlords, asset purchasers, and trustees in bankruptcy proceedings and related litigation.

In addition to her practice, Frances is actively involved in the professional bankruptcy community. She is the Immediate Past Chair of the Bankruptcy Section of the State Bar of Texas. She serves on the Executive Committee of the John C. Ford Bankruptcy Inn of Court, an organization dedicated to advancing the practice through education and mentorship. A frequent speaker on bankruptcy and restructuring topics, she is recognized as a valuable resource for both colleagues and clients.

Frances' practice is defined by her collaborative approach and her commitment to helping clients navigate financial challenges with clarity and confidence.

Education

- Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)
- University of Texas at Arlington (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

State Bar Admissions

Services

- Bankruptcy
- Creditors' Rights
- Restructuring Debts and Workout
- Equine and Livestock

- Texas

Court Admissions

- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association - New Developments Task Force, Member
- State Bar of Texas - Bankruptcy Section, Member and Past Chair
- John C. Ford American Inn of Court, President
- Dallas Bar Association - Bankruptcy Section Member, Past Chair
- DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers (DAYBL) - Sustaining Member and Past President

Recognitions

- Chambers and Partners USA Guide, Bankruptcy/Restructuring, 2025, 2026
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers, 2023, 2026
- Best Lawyers® in America – Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2018-2023
- Super Lawyers® – Bankruptcy, 2021-2026
- D Magazine – Best Lawyers in Dallas – Bankruptcy and Workout Practoice, 2018-2023
- Romina L. Mulloy-Bossio Achievement Award for Outstanding Young Bankruptcy Lawyer, 2011
- Rookie of the Year 2002 – John C. Ford American Inn of Court, William J. Rochelle, Jr. Course – The Practice of Corporate Bankruptcy Reorganization Law

Publications & News

June 10, 2026

Offit Kurman Earns Recognition in Chambers USA 2026 Rankings

May 29, 2026

Two Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized on 2026 Texas Super Lawyers® List

March 17, 2026

**Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to the 2026 Lawdragon 500 Leading Global
Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers**

October 1, 2025

**Offit Kurman Continues Growth of New Dallas/Ft. Worth Office with Four New
Attorneys**