



James M. Hoffman

Principal

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Bethesda, MD – 240.507.1710

James Hoffman is a corporate, bankruptcy and litigation attorney. James focuses his practice in the areas of representing various business types, particularly closely held businesses and has a broad base of experience representing creditors, receivers, trustees and debtors in bankruptcy cases and litigation.

In his business practice, James represents businesses through their life cycles from creation to formulating employment and shareholders agreements, creating contracts, collecting debts, selling assets and ownership and closing the business through sale or liquidation. James has represented nine (9) different Chapter 7 trustees, and several Chapter 11 trustees and receivers. Thus, he is “a lawyer’s lawyer.”

Additionally, James has been involved in handling a broad range of litigation before state courts, including disputes involving complex commercial litigation, breach of contract actions, and collection cases.

Prior to bringing his expertise as a bankruptcy lawyer to Offit Kurman, James had been a senior partner within the largest law firm in Montgomery County, Maryland, before leaving after a twenty-year tenure.

Education

- University of Maryland (J.D.)
- James Madison University (B.A., *cum laude*)

State Bar Admissions

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Services

- Business Law and Transactions
- Distressed Real Estate
- Bankruptcy
- Creditors' Rights
- Restructuring Debts and Workout

Professional Affiliations

- Served and continues to serve as a director for nonprofit organizations
- National Association of Bankruptcy Litigators
- Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland, Former Director
- Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland, Chapter 13 Committee, Former Chairman, 3 Consecutive Terms

Recognitions

- 2025 Top Attorney for Bankruptcy: Creditors' Rights / Bankruptcy: Individuals' Rights, Bethesda Magazine
- Selected to Maryland Super Lawyers® for Business/Corporate (2014 - 2027)
- Washingtonian Top Lawyer (2023 - 2024)
- Martindale-Hubbell's AV Preeminent® Top Rated Lawyers (2019 - 2023)
- Named *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Litigation - Bankruptcy (2013-2026)
- *Bethesda Magazine* Top Attorneys, Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Corporate (2019-2021, 2023)

Representative Matters

James has experience handling matters on behalf of creditors in many states. He is litigation counsel for a client that transacts a regulated business in 16 states as well as other clients that do business in multiple states involving diverse issues. For example, he:

- Represents a public company in litigation between management and the majority shareholders to prevent corporate waste.
- Represents a receiver in three (3) consolidated receiverships involving more than 200 creditors, more than \$50 million in claims and approximately \$40 million in assets.
- Has represented attorneys and law firms in the acquisition of other firms or developing shareholder agreements.
- Assisted several clients to contemporaneously closing on the sale of multiple franchised restaurants in Maryland.
- Prevailed on an appeal where the District Court affirmed the Bankruptcy Court's decision upholding a contract between a bankruptcy trustee and an individual owner of a business in bankruptcy when the individual owner waived the right to participate in portions of the remaining bankruptcy case.
- Expedited injunctive relief on behalf of a client before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The client alleged in the Complaint that a former franchisee had, among other things, violated federal trademark law, engaged in unfair competition, and violated the franchise agreement. The order granting injunctive relief was entered less than one (1) month after the filing of the Complaint and pleadings with the Court, and the Office of the U.S. Marshals assisted James to enforce the Court's order.
- He is litigation counsel to the largest private vendor of "811" one call notification services in the United States.

- Represented a Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee in the pursuit of assets and the investigation of more than a hundred million dollars of claims. Ultimately, general unsecured creditors were paid 100% of their allowed claims.
- James represented a Receiver who is liquidating a nationwide collection law firm, which proceeding is more than five (5) years old.
- With the assistance of the Bankruptcy Court and the U.S. Marshals, James, on behalf of a Chapter 7 Trustee, compelled a two (2) time heavy-weight champion to turn over possession of his heavyweight belts and a gold ring he was given at the Boxing Hall of Fame.
- He represented multiple trustees in connection with complex, individual bankruptcy proceeding. Ultimately, the Court authorized the removal of the debtor (an attorney), his family and all personal property from their home. The U.S. Marshals and local police assisted counsel in the removal of the individuals and the disposal of all the personal property. The real property was liquidated, the Court awarded sanctions of more than \$70,000 against the attorney and his family in favor of the bankruptcy trustees and the Court denied the debtor his discharge.

Publications & News

July 10, 2026

32 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Edition of Maryland Super Lawyers

December 19, 2025

24 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Edition of Maryland Super Lawyers

October 31, 2025

Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to Bethesda Magazine's 2025 Top Attorneys List

August 21, 2025

98 Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized in Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch Lists

January 2, 2025

24 Offit Kurman Attorneys Honored on 2025 Maryland Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

November 22, 2024

Eleven Offit Kurman Attorneys Recognized as 2024 Washingtonian Top Lawyers

December 18, 2023

Offit Kurman Maintains a Strong Presence on the 2024 Maryland Super Lawyers List

October 26, 2023

Seven Offit Kurman Attorneys Named to Bethesda Magazine's 2023 Top Attorneys List

May 24, 2023

James Hoffman and Michael Mercurio Mentioned in The Daily Record Article on

Existence of De Facto Dividends in Maryland

June 27, 2022

Offit Kurman Files Receivership Action for Merchant Portfolio Management Group, LLC in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD Case No. C-15-CV-22-002267

March 9, 2022

James Hoffman to Present on Bankruptcy at the Bar Association of Montgomery County CLE Program

March 3, 2022

James Hoffman to Speak at Montgomery County Bar Association CLE

Blog Posts

September 2, 2022

Splintering Door Frames (Almost) as U.S. Marshals Enforce Order of the Bankruptcy Court

Last month, Jim Hoffman of Offit Kurman, P.A., Counsel to Cheryl E. Rose, a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Trustee, accompanied the U.S. Marshals and the Prince George's County Police to the home of an uncooperative debtor to enforce a Bankruptcy...

May 27, 2022

Chapter 7 Trustee's Perspective: Selling Litigation in Bankruptcy is Prohibited?

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee may receive the opportunity to pursue a large claim for an avoidable transfer, such as a fraudulent conveyance, a preferential transfer or a pre-petition claim that the debtor holds. However, such litigation may be...

March 31, 2022

Lenders Beware

WHEN IS A LENDER CROSSING THE LINE AND ENTERING LENDER LIABILITY WONDERLAND? A 2022 decision out of a bankruptcy court in Texas reminded lenders that an overly aggressive approach to a borrower can result in lender liability^[1] and substantial...

Featured Works

Publications

- *Baltimore SmartCEO*, "Attorney of Roundtable" section, which includes Baltimore's top lawyers
- *Journal of the American Society of CLU & ChFC*, "Proper Use and Abuse of Family Limited Partnerships," Co-Author
- *Commercial Leasing Law & Strategy*, "Guiding the Court – Don't Underestimate Bankruptcy Clauses in Commercial Leases," Co-Author

Speaking Engagements

He has been a speaker at corporate and bankruptcy related programs.

- Bar Association of Montgomery County CLE program, Bankruptcy Primer: "How to Keep Yourself and Your Client Out of Trouble", March, 2022

Additional Speaking Engagements:

- Rockville Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business Conferences, Speaker, 4 Years
- Annual Spring Break Continuing Legal Education Weekend, Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland, Speaker