



Mary Joanne Dowd

PARTNER

Mary Jo represents debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, committees, trustees, and asset purchasers in bankruptcy court cases, out-of-court debt restructures, and related litigation.



Industries

Automotive
Construction
Real Estate

Practices

Bankruptcy & Financial Restructuring
Complex Litigation

Education

State University of New York at Buffalo JD
State University of New York College at Buffalo
BA, summa cum laude

Offices

Washington, DC

Phone

202.857.6059

Email

mary.dowd@arentfox.com

Mary Jo has particular experience in the automotive, broadcast, construction, intellectual property, real estate, and not-for-profit areas.

Client Work

Mary Jo's practice includes representation of entities with contracts, real estate leases, intellectual property licenses, supply agreements, franchise agreements, and other business relationships with debtors or potential debtors. She litigates a wide variety of bankruptcy and commercial matters, including lift stays, plan confirmations, claim objections, contract and lease assumptions and rejections, preferences, fraudulent transfers, withdrawals of reference, and guarantee claims.

Mary Jo has represented several Canadian debtors in the transportation industry in ancillary bankruptcy proceedings in the United States. She has represented the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation in bankruptcy cases. She represented a nationwide coalition of automotive dealers in their successful effort to have federal legislation enacted in the wake of the Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcy cases. Mary Jo is currently a court-appointed Chapter 11 trustee in the Eastern District of Virginia. She was on the Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee panel for the District of Maryland.

Previous Work

Prior to Arent Fox, Mary Jo served as a law clerk to the Honorable Beryl McGuire and the Honorable John W. Creahan, US Bankruptcy Judges for the Western District of New York. She also worked at a major New York law firm.

Professional Activities

Mary Jo has served three terms as a member of the Advisory Committee on Local Bankruptcy Rules for the District of Columbia. She has been a member of the Advisory Board for the American Bankruptcy Institute and Georgetown University Law Center's "Views from the Bench" program for over 10 years. Mary Jo is a member of the Walter Chandler Inn of Court. She was an adjunct professor of bankruptcy and creditors rights at the Georgetown University Law Center.

Mary Jo has served on the Dean's Advisory Council for the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School for over 15 years.

Publications, Presentations & Recognitions

Chambers USA has recognized Mary Jo as a leading bankruptcy and restructuring lawyer in Washington, DC annually since 2006. In its December 2004, December 2008, December 2013, December 2015, December 2017, and December 2018 issues, *Washingtonian* named Mary Jo a "Top Lawyer" in bankruptcy law. She has been selected by her peers to be included in *The Best Lawyers in America* annually since 2006.

Mary Jo lectures on asset sales in the insolvency context, treatment of intellectual property licenses in bankruptcy, individual Chapter 11 bankruptcy issues, ethics, and evidentiary issues in bankruptcy litigation.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

New York

Virginia

Maryland

Florida

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit

US District Court, District of Columbia

US District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

US District Court, District of Maryland

US District Court, Eastern District of New York

US District Court, Northern District of New York

US District Court, Southern District of New York

US District Court, Western District of New York

US District Court, Middle District of Florida

US District Court, Northern District of Florida

US District Court, Southern District of Florida

US Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia

US Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Virginia