

Hugh M. Ray

PRINCIPAL

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Hugh Ray is a Principal in McKool Smith's Houston and New York offices and head of the firm's national Bankruptcy practice. During more than 40 years as a practicing attorney, he has played a lead role in many of the country's most recognizable bankruptcy proceedings. In addition to making several appearances before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to testify on proposed amendments to the Federal Bankruptcy Code, Mr. Ray has served in leadership positions with several notable bankruptcy and business groups and co-authored three books on bankruptcy, including *Last Rights* (Oxford University Press) and *Creditor's Rights-Texas Practice Guide*, (Thompson Reuters).

Mr. Ray is the former chair of both the American Bar Association (ABA) Bankruptcy Committee and the Bankruptcy Committee of the State Bar of Texas and a former member of the ABA's Standing Committee on Judicial Selection, Tenure and Compensation; a member of the American College of Bankruptcy and a Life Member of the American Law Institute. He is also former chair of the ABA Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Bankruptcy Court Structure. Prior to his work in private practice, Mr. Ray served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Houston. He is consistently recognized as a top lawyer in his field by leading legal publications and directories, including *Chambers USA*, *Benchmark Litigation*, and *The Best Lawyers in America*, among others.

Representative Matters

- The Official Statutory Producer's Committee of SemGroup
- The Trustee for the Bank of New England Corporation
- The Debtor in Friede Goldman Halter, Inc.
- Enterprise Products, Lyondell Petrochemical
- The Debtor in Physicians Resource Group
- The Debtor in ProMedCo
- The Debtor in ForceEnergy
- The Debtor in Crown Pacific Partners
- The Unsecured Creditors Committee of Flagstar Corporation (Denny's)
- The Unsecured Creditors Committee of Encompass Services
- The Unsecured Creditors Committee of In re First Republic Bank Corporation
- The Unsecured Creditors Committee and Petitioning Creditors of First City Bancorporation of Texas
- The Creditors Committee of Rubus Realty (Furrs Supermarkets)
- The Creditors Committee of Drypers Corporation
- The Creditors Committee of Dorskocil (Wilson Foods)
- The ad hoc Bondholders Committee of American Rice, Inc.
- The Agent Bank and Bank Syndicate for William Herbert Hunt, Nelson Bunker Hunt Trust Estates, et al., ("Hunt Brothers")
- The Institutional Lenders of Storage Technology



Practice Areas

Bankruptcy

Education

LLB, Vanderbilt University Law School, 1967

B.A., English, Vanderbilt University, 1965

Court Admissions

State of Texas

State of New York

District of Columbia (Inactive Status)

The U.S. Supreme Court

The New York State Supreme Court

The U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits

The U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Western and Northern Districts of Texas

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

Bar Associations

State Bar of Texas, past Chair, Bankruptcy Committee, 1986-1989, and past Program Director, Advanced Business Bankruptcy Institute

American Bar Association

Houston Bar Association

Hugh M. Ray (Cont.)

- The Institutional Creditors of Continental Airlines, Inc. (both cases)
- The Insurance Company Lenders of In re Braniff Airlines, Inc.
- The bank lenders of CompuAdd Corporation
- The bondholders in the CalFed and GlenFed restructurings

Professional & Community Activities

- Business Bankruptcy Specialist, Texas Board of Legal Specialization
- Business Bankruptcy Specialist, American Board of Bankruptcy Certification
- American College of Bankruptcy
- American Law Institute
- Chair of the ABA Business Law Section's Business Bankruptcy Committee, with approximately 1,400 practitioners, 1993-1996
- Council of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association, 1997-2001
- Member of the Standing Committee of the American Bar Association on Judicial Selection, Tenure and Compensation
- Chair of the ABA's Energy Business Committee
- Chair of the ABA Joint Ad Hoc Committee on Bankruptcy Court Structure and Insolvency Processes
- Chair of the ABA Committee on Trust Indentures and Indenture Trustees

Rankings and Honors

- Recognized in the 2015 edition of "*Best Lawyers in America*" for Litigation: Bankruptcy; and Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Ranked as a leading Bankruptcy and Insolvency lawyer by *Chambers USA*. In the 2014 edition, Mr. Ray is described as a "*guru in bankruptcy*" and "*a hard worker who is good in the boardroom, very articulate and smooth.*" The publication also notes that Mr. Ray "*is highly regarded for his many years of experience in bankruptcy litigation.*"
- Ranked as a Bankruptcy "Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation*
- Named by his peers to the list of Texas *Super Lawyers* in Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights
- Ranked in the *Best Lawyers in America* as a leading lawyer in Litigation: Bankruptcy; Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Profiled as one of the leading Bankruptcy lawyers in the Southwest, *The Legal 500 (US)*, 2009
- Named #1 in Texas in Bankruptcy Law, *Texas Lawyer - Go To Guide*, October 2002

Events & Speaking Engagements

- Speaker: 20th Annual Distressed Investing Conference "Maximizing Profits in the Distressed Debt Market"; New York, NY
- Chair; 19th Annual Distressed Investing Conference "Maximizing Profits in the Distressed Debt Market;" New York, NY
- Panelist; "Reviewing *Stern v. Marshall*," 2012 Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference; Santa Fe, NM
- Panelist; "A Civilized, Diplomatic Discussion About Venue: Pending Venue Legislation & its Possible Impact," The Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum; San Francisco, CA
- Speaker; "Distressed Investing," The Beard Group's Update on Bankruptcy Code Rule 2019 - Recent Rulings and Updates; Houston, TX

Testimonials

"Hugh Ray is not only a top-notch expert bankruptcy attorney, but he brings with him a top-notch team of lawyers. Moreover, Hugh knows everyone who is anyone in the field of bankruptcy law. He has participated in one way or another in the vast majority of bankruptcy cases over the last 30 years. He knows the players and he knows the plays. You can't do better than Hugh Ray if you need help in a bankruptcy case."