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George M. Kelakos



Of Counsel

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George M. Kelakos is Of Counsel to Salans' New York office. He is part of the Reorganisation, Restructuring and Insolvency Practice Group. George specialises in complex domestic and cross-border business reorganisations and distressed mergers and acquisitions across a wide range of industries and business sectors. His past and current clients include domestic and Asia-based debtors, acquirers of distressed assets and businesses, official creditors' committees, chapter 7 and 11 trustees, domestic and Asia-based private equity groups and alternative lenders, and state and federal court receivers and common law assignees for the benefit of creditors.

George has extensive experience working in Greater China and Southeast Asia, both on private sector engagements and in the public sector, primarily on World Bank and US AID-funded projects in the Kingdom of Thailand.

OFFICE DETAILS

New York
 Rockefeller Center
 620 Fifth Avenue
 New York, NY 10020-2457
 USA

PRACTICE AREAS

Banking & Finance
 Corporate
 Reorganisation,
 Restructuring &
 Insolvency

SECTORS

Automotive
 Retail
 Real Estate
 Telecommunications
 Global China Desks

Recent Experience:

Advised and currently advising domestic and Asia-based buyers of technology patent assets

Advised and currently advising U.S.-based and China-based funds in connection with their efforts to acquire distressed assets and businesses in North America and in Asia

Chapter 11 Trustee of Terra Nostra Resources Corp.

Advised a well-known company in monetizing over 95% of its extensive patent portfolio

Select chapter 11 engagements: Global Home Products (Thai creditor/supplier); Polar Air (creditors' committee); Enron (creditors); MCI WorldCom (debtors); Consolidated Freightways (bidder); Loral (creditor/key supplier); New Care, et al. (acquirer of 30 health care facilities); Shape Inc. (chapter 11 trustee); Nordic Track, Inc. (debtor); UNIFI Communications (chapter 11 trustee)

Select domestic non-bankruptcy workouts and reorganizations: ELSI; Avian Farms (Hong Kong and Southeast Asia-based affiliates); Cape Cod Broadcasting (state court receiver)

Select cross-border engagements: CP Group (Thailand) (sale of US operations); Lone Star Asia Pacific, Ltd. (Thai investments); Thai Petrochemical Industries, Plc. (creditors); Nakhorn Thai Steel (prospective buyers); represented myriad debtors and creditors in Thai and Southeast Asia-based out-of-court workouts

Career:

Joined Salans in 2009

Founder and Managing Director - Kelakos Advisors LLC (2006-present)

Of Counsel - Heller Erman LLP (2002-2005)

Managing Director - Tonson Planners, Ltd. (1999-2002)

Founding Partner - Cohn & Kelakos LLP (1990-2002)

Founding Member and Co-Chair of the Asian Developments Committee, International Insolvency Institute

Member of the American Bankruptcy Institute (previously served as co-chair of the International Committee, V.P. of International Affairs, and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors); lead guitarist for organisation's all-lawyer band, the "Indubitable Equivalents"

Qualified: New York (2003), Massachusetts (1986-inactive) and Colorado (1982-inactive)

Publications:

The ABI Guide to Cross Border Insolvency in the United States, ABI, 2008.

"Corporate Debt Restructuring: Japan, The Hong Kong SAR and The People's Republic of China," *ABI Law Review*, Spring 2002.

"ABI in the 'Land of Smiles': A Report on Joint ABI/Thai Educational Projects," *ABI Journal*, March 2000.

Speeches:

"A Global Perspective to Bankruptcy Risks and Challenges When Dealing With Financially Distressed Customers in Foreign Jurisdictions: The Asian Perspective," FCIB International Credit Executives Conference, April 2009.

"New Challenges and Opportunities in Asia," American Bankruptcy Institute's Winter Leadership Conference, December 2008.

"Industry Opportunities," Financial Research Associates' Seventh Annual Distressed Investing Summit, November 2008.

Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors' Second Annual Restructuring and Investment Conference, Shanghai, September 2008.

"Asia-Pacific Update" International Insolvency Institute's 8th Annual International Conference, June 2008.

"Patents and Patent Applications: Unlocking Their Value for the Bankruptcy Estate," American Bankruptcy Institute Annual Spring Meeting, April 2008.

"Asset Management Companies and the Disposal of Non-Performing Loans," PRC Insolvency Law Symposium, Hong Kong University, March 2008.

"Distressed Investing in the Middle Kingdom," Distressed Investing Conference, Turnaround Management Association, January 2008.

Distressed Debt Conference, Financial Research Associates, January 2008.

Education:

University of Denver College of Law (J.D., 1982)

Brandeis University (B.A., Politics, 1979)

Languages:

English

French

Italian

Thai