# Douglas R. Gooding

HEAD OF RESTRUCTURING & BANKRUPTCY

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Douglas Gooding is a Partner in Choate's Finance and Restructuring Group, where he serves as Head of the Restructuring and Bankruptcy practice. He has more than 25 years of experience advising on financing and restructuring transactions, particularly on debtor-in-possession lending and the representation of holders of senior, second lien, and mezzanine debt in complex restructurings. Doug also specializes in advising troubled companies in various industries including healthcare and retail, and has extensive experience in mass tort bankruptcy cases representing insurance providers.

In addition, Doug advises independent directors, boards and special committees of distressed companies on restructuring strategies in connection with various complex transactions.

Doug has appeared in courts throughout the United States and in Canada and has been appointed as mediator in several bankruptcy disputes.

Doug is a member of the Firm's management committee, was a co-chair of Choate's Business Department for seven years and the Practice Group Leader of the Finance and Restructuring Group for ten years.

## Focus Areas

- Finance and Restructuring
  - Independent Directors & Special Committees
- Litigation and Investigations
  - Insurance and Reinsurance

## Recognition

- *Chambers USA* (2004-2026)
- *The Legal 500* (2021-2026)
- *Thomson Reuters* "Stand-out Lawyer" (2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America* (2007-2027)
- *Best Lawyers in America*: "Lawyer of the Year" for Bankruptcy Litigation (2024, 2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*: "Lawyer of the Year" for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2025)
- *Best Lawyers in America*: "Lawyer of the Year" for Bet-the-Company Litigation (2027)
- *Boston* Magazine Top Lawyer in Bankruptcy and Workout (2021-2024)
- Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy
- *LawDragon* 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers (2020; 2023-2024)
- *LawDragon* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers (2025)
- *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*

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## Representative Engagements

- Counsel to lender owed $190 million secured by multi-family complexes in Massachusetts, Florida, Georgia, and Texas.
- Lead counsel to lessor in $150 million leveraged railcar lease transaction and workout relating to bankruptcy of The CIT Group.
- Lead counsel of purchasers in Section 363 sales including in food, retail, and drug industries.
- Counsel to senior lender in workout involving fractional share ownership aviation company.
- Represented debtor-in-possession lenders in numerous retail bankruptcy cases in Delaware, New York, Maryland, Connecticut, and Illinois.
- Representation of insurers in numerous bankruptcy cases throughout U.S. relating to collateral, surety, and premium disputes as well as alleged asbestos, toxic tort, and hazardous waste liabilities. Cases include: Armstrong World Industries, Owens Corning, U.S. Airways, Boy Scouts of America, Hopeman Brothers, Reilly Benton, Archdiocese of Syracuse, Buffalo, Okland, Camden and Alexandria, Mallinckrodt, Endo, Kidde-Fenwal, Limetree, New England Compounding Company, and Walker & Zanger.
- Advised Fortune 150 company on its company-wide collateral and security documentation.
- Successfully represented law firm against claims of legal malpractice relating to documentation of loans.
- Served as mediator and successfully resolved dispute between liquidating trustee in bankruptcy and insurance company.
- Lead counsel to Creditors' Committee in case with over $1 billion in debt.
- Lead counsel to portfolio companies in out of court restructurings of companies in industries, including contract manufacturing, national dry cleaning chain, operators of sleep disorder centers, healthcare, and software.
- Counsel to holders of $50 million in sub debt which commenced involuntary bankruptcy proceeding against manufacturer of household appliances.
- Representation of software companies in cases throughout the country in efforts to protect and enforce rights under licenses.
- Representation of sellers and purchasers of assets in bankruptcy in industries ranging from retail, auto parts, home healthcare, food, photo imaging, and advertising.
- Representation of retailers in workout matters and pre-bankruptcy planning.
- Lead lawyer in several reported decisions, including:
  *Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. v. Greenwich Insurance Co.*, 1st Cir.; *Fish Market Nominee Corp. v. Pelofsky*, 1st Cir.; and *In re Moon, SDNY.*

## Publications and Presentations

- "Appointing Independent Directors to Distressed Companies: An Alternative to Bankruptcy," co-author, *The Secured Lender*, January 2026
- "United States Bankruptcy Court 2019 Summer Associate Reception," program chair, Boston Bar Association
- "Chapter 11 Plans: The Role of Committees in Plan Formulation," speaker, ABI Northeast Conference
- "Pendulum Swings Back Toward Lenders in Credit Bidding Disputes," co-author, *Journal of Corporate Renewal*
- "Appeal Issues and Equitable Mootness Revisited," panelist, 26th Annual Bankruptcy Bench Meets Bar Conference
- "1st Circuit Injects Uncertainty Into Stay Relief Denials," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Cash Collateral and Incurring Debt," co-author, *Bankruptcy Practice in Massachusetts*, *Massachusetts*

*Continuing Legal Education*

- "How Fisker Changes the Bankruptcy Asset Sale Landscape," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Foreclosure & Bankruptcy: Offensive and Defensive Xs & Os Before & During Litigation," moderator, 3rd Annual Real Estate General Counsel Forum East
- "The Art and Styles of Bankruptcy Negotiations," speaker, ABI Northeast Conference
- "'Free and Clear' Means Free and Clear," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Q&A With Choate's Doug Gooding," featured, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Debtor's Counsel, Be Careful Who You Help," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "10th Circ. Has Left Less Static for Secured Creditors," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Houghton Mifflin: Practically Proper Improper Venue," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Seeking Clarity on Credit Bidding," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Debating Bankruptcy Venue Reform," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Bankruptcy Jurisdiction – Beyond Section 1334," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Questions You Never Used To Ask: Emerging Ethical And Liability Concerns In Commercial Loan Workouts," panelist, ABA Spring Meeting
- "Viewpoint: Court Ruling Endangers 'Credit Bidding'," co-author, *American Banker*
- "Technology and Telecommunications Committee: Selling, Buying and Keeping Technology Licenses in Bankruptcy," panelist, ABI Conference
- "The Evolution of Credit Bidding," co-author, *Bankruptcy Law360*
- "Surviving the Credit Markets and Succeeding in a Turnaround," co-author, *Bloomberg Law Report: Banking & Finance*
- "Credit Market Exposure," panelist, Periscopes Up: Managing Your Company in Turbulent Economic Waters
- "Chief Restructuring Officer: Coming to a Company Near You?" co-author, *ACC Northeast Chapter Quarterly Newsletter*
- "Troubled Portfolio Companies," panelist, ABI Northeast Conference
- "The Role of a Chief Restructuring Officer," co-presenter, Boston Bar Association Business Law Section Meeting

## Professional & Community Involvement

- First Circuit Regent in the American College of Bankruptcy
- Member of the Boston Bar Association (formerly two-year co-chair of the Bankruptcy Section), Turnaround Management Association, American Bankruptcy Institute and Commercial Loan League of America.
- Member of the BBA Council and is a former co-chair of the BBA's Public Service Oversight Committee and a former co-chair of the BBA's Bankruptcy Section
- Active in pro bono matters and the BBA's Financial Literacy program
- Advisory board to Tufts Hospital

## Education & Credentials

- Duke University School of Law, JD (1991) *cum laude*
- University of California at Berkeley, AB (1987) *cum laude*

## Admissions

- Massachusetts

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- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Colorado