

Leech Tishman's Del. Leader Chats Goals, Bankruptcy Trends

By **Rose Krebs**

Law360 (November 23, 2022, 12:51 PM EST) -- Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC recently hired Jeffrey M. Carbino, an experienced bankruptcy attorney, to oversee and revive the firm's Delaware office.



Jeffrey M. Carbino

Carbino, who most recently worked at Offit Kurman, **joined** Leech Tishman as counsel in the firm's business restructuring and insolvency practice group, a recent announcement said. He will oversee and grow the Wilmington office and also spend time in the firm's Philadelphia office.

The Delaware office hasn't been staffed since a few attorneys left roughly a year ago, Leech Tishman partner and chief operating officer John M. Steiner told Law360 Pulse. The firm initially launched its Delaware office in 2012, but it is once again kick-starting its Wilmington office with Carbino at the

helm.

Here, Carbino tells Law360 Pulse about plans to grow the office, bankruptcy trends he's keeping an eye on, and offers advice to younger attorneys looking to sustain lengthy legal careers.

You have been hired to help reestablish Leech Tishman's presence in Delaware. What priorities will you focus on to grow the Wilmington office and ensure the firm can stake a place in Delaware's competitive legal market?

Wilmington is well known for its bankruptcy and Delaware Court of Chancery practices and has been a critical market for Leech Tishman's business restructuring and insolvency clients historically. Accordingly, a presence in Delaware is of critical importance to Leech Tishman's many corporate clients, and we look forward to continuing to expand our local service offerings.

I believe that our immediate focus will be to hire a Delaware Court of Chancery attorney, a seasoned trial lawyer in the Delaware state and federal courts, and an intellectual property attorney.

What led you to join Leech Tishman and take on the responsibility of reestablishing and leading an office for a Mid-Law firm at this point in your career?

At this point in my career, I was looking to join a full-service, national law firm with a truly collaborative culture and a commitment to professional and personal growth. After meeting with the firm's leadership, I felt confident about the strategic direction of the firm, the overall high level of competency of the firm's lawyers and the firm's commitment to building long-term relationships with its clients.

I hope to bring a depth of experience in complex bankruptcy-related matters, as well as knowledge of the Wilmington bankruptcy bar and bench. Leech Tishman has a presence in major financial hubs and jurisdictions across the nation, and I think I'm well positioned to make immediate, beneficial contributions to our business restructuring and insolvency team.

I was drawn to the opportunity to reestablish Leech Tishman's Wilmington presence and have found the opportunity to be overwhelmingly satisfying, as I have always enjoyed the leadership aspect of being a mentor and seasoned lawyer.

During your more than 25-year legal career, you have worked for numerous firms and focused your practice on bankruptcy and corporate reorganization. What advice would you offer to attorneys looking to maintain successful and long-term careers as bankruptcy lawyers?

The practice of bankruptcy law is highly specialized. It's critical to keep up to speed on the latest legal developments in the case law and to be familiar with the local rules of bankruptcy courts. Membership in bankruptcy-related associations, such as the American Bankruptcy Institute, have been beneficial to my continuing education, as well as networking with other bankruptcy attorneys and professionals.

If you are just starting out, make a commitment to provide excellent client service from day one. My clients choose me because I try to communicate openly and often, keep them informed on the latest news and developments, and have a deep-rooted knowledge of the complexities of bankruptcy law and practice.

Delaware has one of the nation's busier bankruptcy courts, especially for major corporate insolvency filings, but the past year or so has been slower than usual. How do you see things playing out in the next year or so, and are there trends you are keeping an eye on?

I do envision that bankruptcy filings will start to pick up in 2023. With steady inflation, rising interest

rates and limited availability of many commodities that we have seen this year, I think businesses will increasingly be looking for solutions to economic issues, which will likely include bankruptcy. While no one knows the scope of the increase, I believe that we will continue to see a steady increase in bankruptcy filings in, among other industries, cryptocurrency, health care and real estate.

--Editing by Daniel King.