MELAND | BUDWICK

James C. Moon

Partner

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Practice Areas:

- Bankruptcy and Restructuring
- Commercial Litigation
- Creditors' Rights
- Receiverships and Assignments

"James consistently provides exceptional service, and breadth and depth of knowledge."

– Chambers USA

James "Jim" Moon is a Miami-based bankruptcy attorney and commercial litigator with a national practice representing high-profile entertainers, recording artists, high-net-worth individuals, and sophisticated corporate clients. He handles complex Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 bankruptcy matters, creditors' rights disputes, and civil litigation in state and federal courts. His clients have included internationally known artists such as Cardi B and Mary J. Blige. Jim has handled all aspects of litigation from inception through trial and appeals, including before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, and has successfully pursued and defended all manner of fraudulent transfer and preference litigation, foreclosure actions, and claims against large financial institutions and their professionals.

In his bankruptcy practice, Jim represents debtors, trustees, official and ad hoc committees, and individual creditors in complex Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 cases.

Entertainment Industry & High-Profile Clients

Jim has developed a specialized focus representing entertainers, recording artists, and high-net-worth individuals in bankruptcy and complex litigation matters. He understands the unique financial complexities facing clients in the entertainment industry—including revenue streams, royalties, management disputes, social media monetization, and judgment enforcement—and counsels both creditors and debtors in high-profile Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 proceedings. Jim brings a practical, results-oriented approach and is attuned to the reputational and privacy sensitivities that matter to high-profile individuals and their business teams.

Community Leadership

Jim is a recognized leader and activist in the LGBTQ community. He is a past Vice-Chair and national board member of A Wider Bridge, a civil rights organization advocating for LGBTQ rights in Israel and fostering international support for Israel. He is also a past Chair of the SAVE Foundation and Board Member of SAVE, Inc., South Florida's leading organizations dedicated to protecting people who are LGBTQ against discrimination, and has served on the board of the Outshine Film Festival.

In addition, Jim has been recognized as a leading progressive advocate for Israel, lecturing and writing about the progressive case for support for the State of Israel. He is also a past board member of the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation, and a past member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee for the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Prior to his legal career, Jim served for nearly a decade in the United States Navy aboard ballistic missile and fast-attack submarines as a communications and cryptographic specialist. He is also a Gulf War veteran.

EDUCATION

- University of Connecticut, School of Law, J.D. with honors, 2000
- International Law Programme, Leiden University, Leiden, NL, 1999

- University of Connecticut, B.G.S, 1995

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Florida
- New York
- Connecticut
- Maine
- Southern District of Florida
- Middle District of Florida
- Southern District of New York
- Eastern District of New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

MEMBERSHIPS

- Chair, Artificial Intelligence Task Force of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Past Vice-Chair, A Wider Bridge
- Past Chair, SAVE Foundation
- Past Member, Diversity Equity And Inclusion Committee for the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida
- Past Chair, 2026 Labor Day Retreat Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Past Chair, Judicial Liaison Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Past Chair, Pro Bono Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Past Chair, Inclusion/ Mentoring/ Fellowship Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Past Chair, Bankruptcy/UCC Committee of the Business Law Section of the Florida Bar
- Board Member, Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation
- Member, American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member and Past President, Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida
- Member, Business Law Section of the Florida Bar

AWARDS & RANKINGS

- Chambers USA, Bankruptcy/Restructuring in Florida: South, 2026
- Daily Business Review's Florida Legal Awards, Unsung Heroes, 2026
- Dade Legal Aid – Put Something Back, Pro Bono Service Award, 2026
- Lawdragon, 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers, 2025-2026
- The Best Lawyers in America, 2022-2027
- Florida Super Lawyers, 2011-2026
- Distinguished Service Award, Business Law Section of The Florida Bar, 2025
- AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Florida Trend Legal Elite, 2016
- Winner, Alva P. Loiselle Moot Court Competition, 1998

PUBLICATIONS & PANELS

- Panelist, "*The FAILLA Fallout: What Consumer Bankruptcy Practitioners Need to Know About Surrender*," 25th Annual Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association Seminar, May 2017.
- "*Surrender, Reaffirmation and Right to Defend a Post-Discharge Foreclosure Action*," American Bankruptcy Institute Journal, December 2015.
- "*One Size Does Not Fit All: Information Sharing Requirements for Official Committees Pursuant to Section 1102(b)(3)*," Annual Survey of Bankruptcy Law, September 2007.
- "*When a creditor is not a creditor: Failure to file a proof of claim may jeopardize party in interest standing*," Pratt's Journal of Bankruptcy Law, December 2005.
- "*Fifth Amendment Apogee: How the Supreme Court's Ruling in United States v. Balsys Checked American Ideas of Personal Liberty at Our Borders*," 32 Conn.L.Rev. 351 (1999).

Representative Matters

Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Creditors' Rights – Entertainment &

High-Profile Clients

Represented Grammy Award-winning recording artist Cardi B (Belcalis Marlenis Almánzar) as creditor in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of YouTube entertainment blogger Latasha Kebe (a/k/a “Tasha K”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. Following a $3.9 million federal defamation judgment against the debtor—which the bankruptcy court ruled non-dischargeable—negotiated and secured confirmation of a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization requiring the debtor to pay $1.2 million over five years, with the full judgment
surviving plan completion. As a condition of the client’s agreement to defer collection, secured a sweeping non-disparagement clause prohibiting the debtor from making any derogatory or coded references to the client, her family, or associates across all social media platforms and online channels. When the debtor committed more than 25 documented violations of the clause while asserting a First Amendment defense to enforcement, successfully prosecuted a sanctions motion in which the bankruptcy court rejected the free speech defense—holding that the First Amendment does not shield a debtor from the consequences of a contractual obligation voluntarily undertaken as a condition of a consensual bankruptcy plan—and obtained sanctions, attorneys’ fees, and a court order requiring removal of non-compliant content.

Bankruptcy – Retail Chapter 11

Served as Chapter 11 counsel to IT’SUGAR LLC, a specialty candy retailer with approximately 100 stores and over 700 employees across 28 states. Through extensive negotiations with dozens of landlords, IT’SUGAR was able to obtain millions of dollars in pre- and post-petition rent relief, restructure vendor debt, and successfully confirm a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization.

Bankruptcy, Commercial Litigation, Creditors’ Rights, Financial Fraud

Represented the largest victim in the Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Scott Rothstein and Rothstein Rosenfeldt & Adler, P.A. law firm in Fort Lauderdale.

Bankruptcy and Restructuring, Corporate

Represented 1433 Collins, LLC, the purchaser of the senior secured loan in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of The Carlton Hotel, which loan 1433 successfully sold during the bankruptcy case.

Commercial Litigation

Represented EMI Resorts, Inc. and 20 related company defendants through two appeals to the Eleventh Circuit in an action alleging wire fraud, money laundering, and other violations of RICO in the amount of $170 million. Successfully defended the action through ultimate dismissal by the plaintiffs.

Represented multiple individual and corporate plaintiffs, including Berjaya Group (Cayman) Limited and Prime Gaming Philippines, Inc., in litigation against Duffy's Holdings, Inc. involving allegations of breaches of a stock purchase agreement regarding the multi-national restaurant chain of Roadhouse Grill, Inc.

News

- 13 Meland Budwick Attorneys Listed in the 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America® (Aug. 20, 2026)
- James Moon Featured in Florida Bar News on the Business Law Section's New AI Task Force (Aug. 14, 2026)
- James Moon Appointed Chair of the Florida Bar Business Law Section's Artificial Intelligence Task Force (Jul. 27, 2026)
- Six Meland Budwick Attorneys Named 2026 Florida Super Lawyers (Jul. 01, 2026)
- James Moon and Meaghan Murphy Receive Dade Legal Aid – Put Something Back Pro Bono Service Award (Jun. 05, 2026)

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