

## MoFo Grows Bankruptcy Practice With Creditor-Side Pro

By **Carmen Germaine**

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Morrison & Foerster LLP has expanded its New York bankruptcy practice with the addition of an Andrews Kurth LLP creditor-side bankruptcy partner with extensive experience in both complex restructurings and public and private securities offerings, the firm announced on Thursday.

Jonathan I. Levine has joined MoFo as a partner in the firm's bankruptcy restructuring and insolvency group in New York, bringing 12 years of experience representing a range of investment funds, hedge funds and other creditors in complicated reorganizations and out-of-court restructurings, as well as knowledge on more traditional corporate transactions.



Jonathan Levine

Levine told Law360 on Thursday that he is eager to help the MoFo team expand its bondholder and creditor representation while taking advantage of the firm's wide-ranging international platform.

"I think Morrison Foerster over the past four or five years has established itself as one of the preeminent restructuring practices in the country," Levine said. "I'm very excited about the opportunity."

As a partner at MoFo, Levine will continue to represent a broad spectrum of restructuring clients, including official and ad hoc creditors committees, stockholders committees, bank groups and debtors as they navigate restructurings both in and out of court. His experience stretches a gamut of industries, including mining, oil and gas, maritime shipping and technology.

"I've done everything from the largest poultry producer in the country to telecommunications to mining to one of the largest video game producers in the world," Levine said.

Levine said he has represented clients in various stages of restructurings, from helping ad hoc bondholder and creditor groups reach a deal with debtors outside of court, to working on distressed acquisitions, to complete balance sheet restructurings in Chapter 11 cases.

"I like the challenge of putting together ultimately consensual deals between parties in very difficult situations," Levine said.

During his time at Andrews Kurth, Levine represented clients including the creditors committee for

defunct video game developer THQ Inc., achieving an agreement for a Chapter 11 auction, and a group of shareholders in Falcon Gas Storage Co. Inc., an affiliate of bankrupt Arcapita Bank BSC, reaching a settlement in 2014 of a complicated dispute over the \$515 million sale of a Falcon subsidiary.

Levine's work in restructuring has earned him several accolades, including being named a New York Rising Star in bankruptcy and creditor and debtor rights by Metro magazine for the past five years.

In addition to his bankruptcy and restructuring work, Levine also helps clients in traditional corporate transactions. He has represented issuers and underwriters in public and private offerings, facilitated public and private mergers and acquisitions, and worked on venture capital financings, particularly in emerging technology, among other things.

Levine began his career as a corporate associate at Winston & Strawn LLP in 2000 and moved to Andrews Kurth LLP in 2002, where he was placed in the unfamiliar territory of the firm's restructuring practice.

"I frankly didn't know much about it," Levine said. "The group I moved to was restructuring, and I've loved it ever since."

He received a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 1996 and earned his law degree in 2000 from the UCLA School of Law.

Levine's move to MoFo follows the firm's addition of business restructuring and insolvency partners Peter Declercq and Sonya Van de Graaf, who joined the firm's London office from Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP.

--Additional reporting by Maria Chutchian and Jamie Santo. Editing by Aaron Pelc.

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