

## Joseph Cioffi

Chief Operating Partner/Chair

212 468 4875

jcioffi@dglaw.com



### Areas of Focus

Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights + Finance |  
Lending and Specialized Financings |  
Insolvency and Financial Products Litigation |  
Bankruptcy | Corporate + Transactions | Credit  
Facilities | Litigation + Dispute Resolution

"In my business career, I disliked the lawyers who so easily said 'no' in order to avoid any risk without a rational assessment of the potential reward and alternatives. I internalize my clients' goals and find a way to achieve them as if they were my own."

### Overview

**Joseph Cioffi, Chief Operating Partner and Chair of the Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights + Finance Practice Group, gives his diverse client base a competitive edge through his deep and nuanced understanding of financial market dynamics. He advises businesses including domestic and international financial institutions, marketing communications firms, and creditors from various sectors.**

Joseph's practice focuses on credit and finance transactions, insolvency matters, and financial products litigation. He skillfully manages significant commercial and bankruptcy cases, helps marketing communications firms resolve liability issues stemming from counterparty insolvencies, and advises clients across lending and credit markets for mortgage, auto, fintech, student loans, and emerging sectors such as cryptocurrency and cannabis.

With 20 years of experience tracking market cycles, Joseph has a unique ability to discern patterns and foresee movement in credit markets. He applies that knowledge to find opportunities others might miss and to protect his clients against potential risk. In addition, Joseph's understanding of bankruptcy court dynamics informs his pragmatic approach to negotiating credit terms.

As a former finance and marketing executive, Joseph brings a business perspective to providing the critical information clients need for informed decision-making. Widely acknowledged as a thought leader in subprime lending and securitizations, he pioneered the firm's acclaimed [Credit Chronometer](#) blog, fostering dialogue on pivotal legal and industry topics.

---

## Representative Experience

- Developed a proprietary strategy to limit a marketing communications intermediary's legal exposure to media and other third parties when its clients became insolvent and the threat of preference liability loomed. This strategy has since been implemented on numerous occasions to save intermediaries hundreds of millions in situations where their clients have not paid them or have sought to claw back funds in bankruptcy.
- Achieved numerous victories, including multiple dismissals and favorable resolutions for one of the largest residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) sponsors in cases brought by investors and securitization trusts for fraud and repurchase, leading to the dismissal of over \$1 billion in claims. These litigation victories created precedent that cut off future claims against our client and other defendants in the RMBS space and benefit ABS sponsors in all credit markets with similar deal structures.
- Defending a European investment bank against over \$600 million in exposure from an ongoing fraudulent transfer lawsuit brought by Madoff bankruptcy trustee based on derivative transactions, including total return swaps and leveraged notes. In Madoff-related litigation, achieved, with other similarly situated banks, dismissal of over \$200 million state law- and foreign insolvency-based actions asserted by liquidators of largest offshore Madoff feeder fund. The litigation resolved legal exposure for the client incurred in providing its customers with desired synthetic deal structures.
- Pursuing over \$300 million in recoveries from Wells Fargo as the master servicer of securitization trust for breach of contract and failing to comply with servicing standards, through a detailed analysis and proprietary calculation of losses caused by servicing failures, including delays in foreclosure, failures to modify loans and unreasonably low-priced collateral sales, all of which contributed to the client-sponsor's legal exposure for repurchases of loans.
- Advised investors on regulatory risk exposure of subprime auto lending targets and potential litigation recoveries in RMBS and subprime auto ABS. Our guidance enabled the investors to anticipate regulatory changes and litigation outcomes, helping to determine long and short positions.
- Counseled a bank working under partnership with a marketplace lender in compliance with consumer protection and privacy laws, clearing the path to client offering new online products and creating consortium for industry sharing of information.
- Advised one of the largest subprime auto lenders on solutions to minimize losses from consumer fraud, including fraudulent fees and liens placed on collateral by mechanics and impound lots.
- Developed a holding structure of distressed loans to insulate a global investment bank from reputational and financial risk related to mortgaged properties and minimize legal exposure in liquidating of portfolio.

---

## Insights + Events

### Publication

Reuters Legal News | The Return of Stolen Crypto Can Be a Taxing Event  
June 17, 2025

### Press Mention

Cryptopolitan | Trump's Crypto Partners Bailed on Old Clients To Chase MAGA Money  
May 20, 2025

### **Press Mention**

Reuters | How Trump's Crypto Business Partners Left Their Old Clients in the Lurch  
May 19, 2025

### **Publication**

Reuters Legal News | Crypto Ownership and Custodial Wallets: Owning Without Owning?  
March 31, 2025

### **Publication**

Reuters Legal News | When Stolen Crypto is Recovered, Who Is Entitled to Restitution?  
December 11, 2024

### **Press Mention**

Law360 | Deal with Feds in FTX Bankruptcy Remains Undone  
October 24, 2024

### **Publication**

Reuters Legal News | Valuing Crypto in the Bankruptcy Multiverse  
July 30, 2024

### **Publication**

Reuters Legal News | Debtors Without a Cause: Whether Non-Distressed Entities Can Access Bankruptcy  
July 10, 2024

### **New Risks, Regulations and Enforcement in Lending Markets, Press Mention**

Commercial Observer | Flood of Property Assessment Appeals Could Wallop U.S. Cities  
May 9, 2024

### **Press Mention**

Valuation Review | Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy, and Other Matters Are Examined  
Regarding CRE  
April 8, 2024

### **Press Mention**

Valuation Review | Attorney Highlights Litigation Risks in Commercial Real Estate, Valuation  
April 3, 2024

### **Publication**

Westlaw Today | Knowledge Is Power: Accessing Loan Information in Troubled CMBS  
March 11, 2024

### **Press Mention**

BisNow | 'You Can Imagine the Pressure': Commercial Appraisers at the Center of CRE's Price Reckoning  
March 11, 2024

## **Balancing Compliance and Creativity in Regulated Industries, Publication, Risk and Reward in Cannabis Financing**

Law360 | A New Push To Clear Up Marijuana's Foggy Legal Status  
March 7, 2024

## **Publication, Risk and Reward in Cannabis Financing**

Law360 | Regulatory Shift May Offer Lifeline to NY's Cannabis Industry  
November 2, 2023

## **New Risks, Regulations and Enforcement in Lending Markets, Press Mention**

Law360 | Long Before FTX, Criminal Cases Have Complicated CH. 11  
October 3, 2023

## **Emerging Issues, New Risks, Regulations and Enforcement in Lending Markets, Publication**

Westlaw Today | Valuation and Regulation Risks and Opportunities in Commercial Real Estate  
September 21, 2023

## **New Risks, Regulations and Enforcement in Lending Markets, Press Mention**

ProPublica | Wall Street Bet Big on Used-Car Loans for Years. Now a Crisis May Be Looming.  
September 13, 2023

## **Blog Post, Risk and Reward in Cannabis Financing**

What's Next for Cannabis After MasterCard's Debit Card Ban?  
August 30, 2023

## **New Risks, Regulations and Enforcement in Lending Markets, Press Mention**

Structured Credit Investor | Skid Marks: Subprime Auto ABS Shows Sign of Pain  
August 24, 2023

---

## **Credentials**

### **Education**

Rutgers Law School (J.D., 1995)  
New York University (M.B.A., 1990)  
Pace University (B.B.A., 1986)

### **Clerkship**

The Honorable Stan Bernstein, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York

### **Distinctions**

- *BTI Consulting Group* "Client Service All-Star" 2024

## Bar Admissions

New York  
Massachusetts  
New Jersey  
Texas

---

## Associations

Member, Davis+Gilbert Corporate Social Responsibility Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Culture + Opportunity Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Executive Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Growth + Planning Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Health Insurance Plans Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Technology Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Legal Opinion Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Pro Bono Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Retirement Plans Committee

Member, Davis+Gilbert Wellness Committee

Member, New York State Bar Association

Member, Non-prime Auto Financing Association

Member, American Bankruptcy Institute