

## J. Ellsworth Summers, Jr.

Partner

Jacksonville, FL  
(904) 232-7203  
[esummers@burr.com](mailto:esummers@burr.com)



Ellsworth Summers is a partner in the firm's Jacksonville office where he practices in the firm's Creditor's Rights and Bankruptcy Practice Group.

His practice focuses on assisting lenders in commercial loan litigation in bankruptcy, federal and state courts. Ellsworth has extensive experience with workouts, business reorganizations and liquidations, distressed asset acquisitions, special counsel assignments and adversary proceedings. He has represented secured lenders, creditors' committees, local governments, trustees, trade creditors, landlords, unsecured creditors, bondholders, homeowners' associations, 363 asset purchasers and other stakeholders in a variety of business Chapter 11 cases.

Mr. Summers has significant trial experience in federal and state court as a commercial litigator. He represents clients in complex commercial litigation, shareholder and partnership disputes, homeowner association disputes, tax disputes, contract litigation, receiverships, lender liability, commercial evictions, and other real-estate related litigation.

In his business practice, Ellsworth assists clients with purchasing and selling assets, and regularly advises on the impact of insolvency on complex financial transactions.

Mr. Summers has appeared before state and federal courts in 14 states, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Virginia. Mr. Summers enjoys an AV-rating and has routinely been named to the Florida Super Lawyers, Florida Legal Elite, and Florida Best Lawyers lists.

Prior to private practice, Ellsworth clerked for the Honorable Stephen C. St. John, United State Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

### PARALEGAL/ASSISTANT

Legal Practice Assistant/Paralegal

Sarah G. Guest  
(904) 232-7216  
[sguest@burr.com](mailto:sguest@burr.com)

### CAPABILITIES

Financial Institutions  
Financial Services  
Financial Institution Disputes  
Lender Liability  
Commercial Contracts  
Commercial & Corporate Finance  
Commercial Litigation  
Corporate Governance & Shareholder Disputes  
UCC Litigation  
Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy  
Bankruptcy Litigation  
Consumer Finance Litigation & Compliance  
Insurance  
Insurance Litigation & Coverage  
Mass Torts & Hazardous Substances  
Mergers & Acquisitions

### EDUCATION

J.D., Stetson University College of Law  
*cum laude*  
M.B.A., University of Florida

# J. Ellsworth Summers, Jr.

Please click [here](#) for Ellsworth's full list of Speaking Engagements.

## Honors & Recognition

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® , Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law since 2016, Litigation- Bankruptcy since 2023
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, Business Litigation, Bankruptcy & Creditor/ Debtor Rights (2013-2016), Bankruptcy: Business since 2017
- Named, *Chambers USA*, Bankruptcy/Restructuring (2019-2023)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating
- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent™ Judicial Review Rating
- *Florida Trend*, "Legal Elite," Bankruptcy & Workout (2014, 2016, 2018-2019)
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, "Rising Star," Business Litigation, Bankruptcy & Creditor/ Debtor Rights (2009-2011)
- *Florida Super Lawyers*, "Top 100 List," Florida (2017)

## News

- Best Lawyers® 2024 Honors 242 Burr Attorneys, Including 17 "Lawyers of the Year"  
Firm News, 08.17.2023
- 18 Burr Attorneys Named 2023 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
Firm News, 06.27.2023
- 61 Burr & Forman Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Chambers USA  
Firm News, 06.01.2023
- 63 Burr & Forman Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Chambers USA  
Firm News, 06.03.2022
- 19 Burr & Forman Attorneys Named 2021 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
Firm News, 06.24.2021

## Speaking Engagements

- Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop  
Speaking Engagement, Amelia Island, FL, 07.20.2023
- JBBA Seminar (A Conversation about Subchapter V)  
Speaking Engagement, Ponte Vedra, Florida, 08.19.2022

B.A., Hampden-Sydney College  
*cum laude*

### LICENSED IN

Florida  
Virginia

### ADMITTED IN

Florida Supreme Court  
Virginia Supreme Court  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Northern District of Florida  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Middle District of Florida  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Southern District of Florida  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Western District of Virginia  
U.S. Bankruptcy Court - Eastern District of Virginia  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit  
U.S. District Court - Northern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court - Middle District of Florida  
U.S. District Court - Southern District of Florida  
U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Virginia

# J. Ellsworth Summers, Jr.

- ABI Alexander L. Paskay Bankruptcy Seminar (ABI Talks – Impact on Bankruptcy Practice of Five Recent Supreme Court Decisions or Pending Decisions)  
Speaking Engagement, Tampa, FL, 01.16.2020
- ABI Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop (Pre-Petition Pitfalls: How to Plan, Questions to Ask & Things to Avoid)  
Speaking Engagement, Amelia Island, Florida, 07.18.2019
- JBBA Seminar  
Speaking Engagement, Ponte Vedra, FL, 08.25.2017

## Articles

- "Dirt-for-Debt Buries Creditor with Risk and Uncertainty," *Real Estate ABI Newsletter*, (June 2014)  
Articles / Publications, 06.04.2014
- "'Down' Is Out 'Off' Is In: Stripping Liens after McNeal," *XXXI ABI Journal* 6 (July 2011)  
Articles / Publications, 07.04.2013
- "Exceptions to Discharge, Means Testing and Other Issues in Litigation in Consumer Cases," (March 2010)  
Articles / Publications, 03.04.2010

## Civic Activities

- First Coast Women's Services, Board Member and General Counsel (2005–present)
- Ursula Landsrath Animal Rescue Fund, Inc. (an animal rescue 501(c)(3) based in Delaplane, Va), Board Member and General Counsel (2019–present)

## Professional Activities

- ABI Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop, Advisory Board Member (2012–present)
- Bankruptcy Law Educational Series Foundation, Board Member (2013–2022)
- Bankruptcy Middle District of Florida Steering Committee, Member (2013–2018)
- Alexander L. Paskay Seminar on Bankruptcy Law and Practice, Advisory Board Member (2015–present)
- Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association, Board Member (2007–2020)
- Florida Bar Association
- Virginia Bar Association
- American Bankruptcy Institute