



SpencerFane®

Richard F. Holley

Of Counsel

Contact

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Overview

Richard Holley helps clients throughout Nevada and elsewhere in the U.S. with difficult bankruptcy and related commercial litigation matters. His primary focus is bringing value to the clients he serves through open communication, collaboration, and transparency while reducing frustrations. These attributes, along with a keen ability to identify colleagues with precisely the right skill sets for each unique dispute, are the foundation of the enduring and successful relationships Richard has with his clients.

Richard's legal philosophy recognizes litigation as a last resort on a continuum in which there are natural breaking points to reevaluate strategy for maximal recovery and minimal loss. He has a trusted reputation among banks and lenders, creditors, receivers, charter schools, and others facing insolvency and adversarial claims and disputes. In addition, Richard is well known in the real estate sector, particularly for matters involving complex landlord-tenant issues and retail properties.

Depending on economic conditions, Richard actively supports his banking clients in realizing their goals and objectives and represents creditors and receivers in contentious bankruptcy proceedings and related state court litigation.

With time served as a fellow of the prestigious American College of Bankruptcy, Richard focuses on creditor representation, including financial institutions, in complex Chapter 11 cases and in pre-bankruptcy workouts. He also represents bankruptcy trustees in Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 cases. The pre-bankruptcy workouts frequently involve state court enforcement actions, including actions to appoint receivers for commercial real estate and businesses, actions to recover personal property collateral, breach of contract related claims, and deficiency actions against borrowers and guarantors.

Beyond his practice, Richard holds community service as a critical pursuit, frequently volunteering his time with and advocating for several charitable organizations. He notably serves as a long-standing board member for The Shade Tree, which provides a safe center and resources for homeless and abused women and children in Las Vegas.

Education

- Brigham Young University – J. Reuben Clark School of Law, 1987 (J.D.)
- Brigham Young University, 1984 (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- Nevada, 1987

Court Admissions

- Nevada Supreme Court
- Nevada Court of Appeals
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

Community Involvement

- Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Board Member
- Legal Aid of Southern Nevada, Volunteer Lawyer
 - Serves low-income individual debtors and as a child advocate in family court
- Pro Bono Project, Mid-Case Bankruptcy Committee, Founding Member
- American College of Bankruptcy, Pro Bono Committee
- The Shade Tree
 - The Shade Tree Endowment Board, 2006–Present
 - Advisory Board, Present
 - Treasurer, 2003–2006
 - Board of Directors, 1999–2006
- Boy Scouts of America

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America*, 1995–2026
 - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law
 - Litigation – Bankruptcy
- *Super Lawyers*, Mountain States, Bankruptcy, Debtor-Creditor Rights, 2007–2025
- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers*, 2025
- American Bar Association, Fellow, 2020
- *Martindale-Hubbell*, AV Preeminent, Bankruptcy, Creditor-Debtor Rights
- *Nevada Business Magazine*, Legal Elite, 2013
- American College of Bankruptcy, Fellow, 2011
- Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark School of Law, Order of Barristers

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- American Bankruptcy Institute

- American College of Bankruptcy, Fellow Special Assets Management Association (SAMA), Affiliate Member
- State Bar of Nevada, Member
 - Finance Co-Chair, 2012
 - Bankruptcy Section, Treasurer, 2010-2011
- U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada, Magistrate Selection Committee, 2010
- Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Las Vegas, Valedictorian, 2006
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Lawyer Representative, 2003-2005
 - Nevada Delegation, Co-Chair
 - Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee
 - Admission Fund Committee
 - Federal Court Security Committee
- Clark County Bar Association

Presentations and Publications

- "Chapter 11 vs. Out-of-Court Restructuring: Predictions and Strategies," American Bankruptcy Institute Winter Leadership Conference, December 2024

Related Experience

- Appointed receivership counsel for the first charter school in Nevada to navigate and address difficult financial, employment, and administrative issues. Successful handling resulted in second appointment as receivership counsel for another Nevada charter school in addition to serving other operational, employment, and administrative needs and challenges for charter schools.