

Rachael L. Smiley

Partner

972.476.1952

rsmiley@goodwin.com

Dallas, TX

[View Full Bio](#)



Rachael L. Smiley is a partner in Shipman's Workout, Restructure and Bankruptcy practice and partner in charge of the firm's Dallas office. She represents debtors, creditors, and other parties in interest across all phases of the Chapter 11 reorganization process, including asset sales, plan confirmation, and post-confirmation plan administration. Clients value her practical approach to restructuring challenges and her ability to navigate complex insolvency matters with efficiency and clarity.

Rachael has nearly twenty years of legal experience and concentrates her practice on bankruptcy litigation and reorganization matters. She has significant experience litigating contested matters and adversary proceedings, including valuation disputes, claim objections, and avoidance actions. Her comprehensive understanding of the bankruptcy process allows her to guide clients through high-stakes restructuring situations while protecting their interests at every stage.

Before joining Shipman, Rachael served as Chair of the Restructuring practice at FBFK Law and previously held positions at boutique and large law firms, and an in-house position with a university hospital system.

Rachael is deeply involved in the restructuring community, serving as the current Chair and former President of the Turnaround Management Association at the global level. She is also a past Chapter President of TMA's Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter and past Chair of the Dallas-Fort Worth Network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation.

Distinctions

- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America[®]: *Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation - Bankruptcy* (2025-2027)
- Listed as a Texas Super Lawyer[®]: *Business Bankruptcy* (2022-2026)
- Listed in Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch[®] in America: *Insolvency and Reorganization Law* (2021–2024); *TMA Turnaround & Transaction of the Year, Small Business Category* (2023)
- Lawdragon 500: Leading Litigators in America (2023)
- ABF Journal 2021 Top Women in ABL
- Dallas Bar Association "WE LEAD" Women's Leadership, Class of 2020
- Listed as a Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star[®]: *Business Bankruptcy* (2018)
- John C. Ford American Inn of Court, Rochelle Chapter 11 Course John King "Rookie of the Year" Award (2009)
- Elliott Cup 5th Circuit Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition – 2008 Champion
- Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition – 2008 Finalist (2nd Place) and Outstanding Oral Advocate

Professional Affiliations

- Dallas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Texas Bar Foundation, Fellow
- American Bankruptcy Institute
- Turnaround Management Association (TMA) – Global Chair (2026) and Global President (2025)
- John C. Ford American Inn of Court, Master and Pupilage Group Leader
- TMA DFW Chapter – Past President (2019) and Board Member (2013 -2026)
- International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) – Past Chair, DFW Network (2020)
- DFW Area Young Bankruptcy Lawyers (DAYBL) – President (2013) and Board Member (2010 -2013)

Credentials

Education

- Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, J.D., 2008, *cum laude*, Order of the Barristers
- Texas Christian University, B.A., 1999, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of CO
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of TX
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of TX
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of TX
- U.S. District Court, Western District of TX
- U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of TX