



Julia Jensen Smolka

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Education

- University of Illinois at Chicago BA, 1997
- Loyola University Chicago JD, 2000

Admissions

- Illinois 2000
- Northern District of Illinois 2001

Memberships

- Illinois State Bar Association – Past Chair of Commercial Banking, Collections, and Bankruptcy Committee
- Advocates Society of Lawyers
- National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys
- American Bankruptcy Institute

Julia has over 20 years of experience representing diverse business industries and individuals as debtors in reorganizations, bankruptcy, and debt restructuring. She has been lead and co-counsel in Chapter 11 bankruptcies on behalf of real estate developers, hospitality companies, commercial landlords, manufacturers, fabricators, logistic companies and high net-worth individuals. She also has significant experience representing lenders and creditors in bankruptcy court and state court, including stay modification litigation, adversary actions, priority lien disputes and commercial collection and foreclosure, as well as contractors and homeowners in construction and mechanic's lien litigation.

Julia has in-depth experience drafting contracts, leases, business sales transactions and settlement agreements with an eye toward anticipating potential litigation and protecting her clients. Additionally, she represents condominium and homeowners' associations in litigation, collection, negotiations with vendors and disputes with utilities and municipalities. Julia is experienced with drafting estate plans and representing estate and beneficiaries in probate litigation.

As a seasoned attorney, Julia handles all aspects of litigation including investigations, pleadings, discovery, pre-trial matters, trial, and if appropriate, settlements and/or appeals of trial decisions.

Julia is a frequent speaker with the Illinois State Bar Association on topics in Bankruptcy, Mechanics Lien and Collection Strategies.

Julia is the Chair of the Firm's Litigation Practice, and a second year honoree for the 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers recognized a top rated Bankruptcy attorney.

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