

# Melissa A. Peña

Member

Melissa A. Peña, a member of the firm's Management Committee and Chair of the [Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group](#), concentrates her practice on commercial litigation and bankruptcy and creditors' rights. Her clients include financial institutions, private lenders, creditors, and accounting firms. Melissa has successfully represented secured creditors and unsecured creditors in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and state court insolvency proceedings. She frequently handles commercial foreclosure actions, actions to enforce promissory notes and guarantees, lien priority disputes, fraudulent conveyance actions, and creditor enforcement matters.

Melissa also defends accounting firms in disputes regarding alleged failure to detect criminal and fraudulent activity in the state and federal courts of New Jersey and New York.

Outside the courtroom, Melissa handles commercial workouts, negotiating forbearance agreements on behalf of lenders and troubled cross-border transactions. She represents investors seeking to acquire defaulted loans from the due diligence stage to closing on the sale. Melissa also helps lenders to liquidate their collateral through UCC sales, including sales of co-ops. In connection with the firm's cross-border practice, she represents clients concerning inbound and outbound transactions that require working with government agencies such as the U.S. Office of Foreign Asset Control and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Whether she is inside or outside the courtroom, Melissa's goal is to find a practical business solution for her clients. She utilizes litigation as a tool to further her client's business objectives in a cost-effective manner.

Melissa is Co-Chair of the [Meritas](#) Financial Services section.



## Contact

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## Connect

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## Areas of practice

Banking & Financial Services

Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights, and  
Financial Restructuring

Litigation

## Education

The American University Washington  
College of Law

J.D., *cum laude*

George Washington University

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Political  
Science



Bankruptcy Inn of Court

Member

International Women's Insolvency and  
Restructuring Confederation

New York County Lawyers'  
Association

National Association of Women  
Lawyers

Meritas

Board of Directors

Co-Chairman, Financial  
Services/CRABS Section

New Jersey

New York

U.S. District Court

District of New Jersey

Northern District of New York

Southern District of New York

Eastern District of New York

Western District of New York

U.S. Court of Appeals

Third Circuit

## **Languages**

Tagalog

