



John C. Cannizzaro

Partner

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As a business-focused legal advisor and litigator at Ice Miller, John strives to help clients solve financial problems. John works with clients on secured transactions, loans, workouts and other financial deals and frequently represents clients in debtor/creditor disputes, commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and other insolvency matters. In addition to his work for the firm's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring practice group, John frequently works cross-functionally with other teams, including Ice Miller's Finance, Litigation, Business, Public Finance, and Real Estate groups. John is an important part of the firm's opinion practice, rendering substantive consolidation and other opinions for structured finance, real estate, and bond deals.

Prior to joining Ice Miller, John clerked for two federal bankruptcy judges. He served for five years as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Hannah L. Blumenstiel in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California and for more than two years as a law clerk to the Honorable Judge Charles M. Caldwell in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio. Before that, John worked in private practice representing clients in a variety of matters, including bankruptcy, civil litigation, foreclosure defense and mediation, municipal law, and business planning.

John received his juris doctor from Capital University Law School in 2009, graduating valedictorian and earning a certificate of concentration in publicly held companies and small business entities. During law school, John served as associate editor of *The Capital University Law Review* and worked as a legal intern in a variety of settings, including the taxation section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company's office of general counsel. John received his Bachelor of Science in computer and information sciences from The Ohio State University, where he graduated magna cum laude with honors in the arts and sciences.

John is a recipient of the American Bankruptcy Institute's 40 Under 40 award and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' NextGen award. John currently serves as a co-chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute's Litigation Committee, chair of the Columbus Bar Association's bankruptcy committee, and vice-chair of the Attorney Advisory Committee of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio.

Services & Industries

- Banking & Financial Services
- Bankruptcy & Restructuring
- Bankruptcy Litigation
- Business
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate Reorganization & Workouts
- Creditors' Rights & Commercial Law
- Distressed Investments
- Distressed Health Care & Life Sciences
- Distressed Real Estate Litigation & Restructuring
- Finance
- Financial Services Litigation & Counseling
- Financial Technology
- Lenders & Investors
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Official Committees of Unsecured Creditors
- Real Estate Financing
- Receiverships & Fiduciaries

In their free time, John and his wife Jennifer enjoy running, hiking, cooking, volunteering, traveling and spending as much time as possible with their two children. A former software developer, John also stays up to date on the latest gadgets and technology.

Education

- The Ohio State University (B.S., 2005)
 - Computer and Information Sciences
- Capital University Law School (J.D., *Valedictorian*, 2009)

Admissions

- California
- United States District Court - Central District of California
- United States District Court - Northern District of California
- United States District Court - Southern District of California
- United States District Court - Southern District of Indiana
- United States District Court - Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court - Western District of Michigan
- Ohio
- United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court - Southern District of Ohio

Professional Affiliations

- American Bankruptcy Institute, Board of Directors, 2025-2028; Co-Chair, Bankruptcy Litigation Committee, 2023-Present
- Columbus Bar Association, Chair, Bankruptcy Law Committee, 2023-Present
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Ohio Attorney Advisory Committee, Vice-Chair, 2023-Present
- *Law360* Bankruptcy Editorial Advisory Board, 2021

Awards & Honors

- *Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers List*, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2024-2025
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2024-2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*®, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2021
- American Bankruptcy Institute, 40 Under 40 Class, 2021
- NCBJ Next Generation Program, Class of 2017
- *Ohio Super Lawyers*, 2026
- *Ohio Super Lawyers* Rising Star, 2022

Community Involvement

- Former Vice President, The Ohio State University Alumni Club for the San Francisco Bay Area
- Consumer Bankruptcy Volunteer, Legal Aid Society of Columbus

- Consumer Collections Defense Volunteer, Legal Aid Society of Columbus

Key Matters

Reported and Representative Cases

- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (representing the interests of thousands of customers and creditors of the bankrupt payroll processing company) in a massive check kiting scheme that involved multiple national banks, hundreds of millions of dollars in kiting and asserted bank overdraft liabilities exceeding \$142 million. We successfully obtained a settlement of certain key claims in the case, which resulted in the confirmation of a plan of reorganization with a significant anticipated distribution to unsecured creditors.
- Represented the primary trade creditor and chair of the unsecured creditors committee in the bankruptcy case of a restaurant chain in Michigan and surrounding states. The case concluded in a sale, which included a significant recovery for our client and meaningful post-confirmation protection for our client's ongoing relationship with the buyer.
- Represented the primary trade creditor and unsecured creditor committee member in the bankruptcy case of a national Italian restaurant chain. The case resulted in a sale of the business and a significant recovery for our client and meaningful post-confirmation protection for our client's ongoing relationship with the buyer.
- Represented the administrative agent with respect to outstanding term loans in the complex chapter 11 bankruptcy cases filed by Murray Energy Holdings Co. and ninety-eight affiliated entities, along with the prosecution of an associated adversary proceeding, which resulted in the following reported decision: *Black Diamond Commercial Finance, L.L.C. v. Murray Energy Corp.* (In re Murray Energy Holdings Co., 616 B.R. 84 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 2020) (granting, in part, and denying, in part, defendants' motions to dismiss).
- Represented the lender in a complex agricultural foreclosure and receivership action that involved approximately 730 acres of farmland, farm equipment and machinery, and a grain elevator property. We obtained judgment in our favor, entry of an order appointing a receiver, and ultimately a significant recovery for our client.
- Represented lender in dispute with borrower and tenant of borrower, including issues related to tenant's claimed continued right to occupancy. Following a four day bench trial in July 2018, the court issued a decision in favor of our client on all issues.

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Vietnamese Company in Expanding Sustainable Packaging Operations in the United States

Ice Miller serves as legal counsel to Plascene Inc., a subsidiary of Vietnam's DUYTAN Group, providing strategic legal guidance as the company strengthens its position in the United States plastics market and advances its commitment to sustainable packaging.

Founded in 2011, Plascene has grown from a single manufacturing facility in Oxnard, California, into a recognized leader in food-grade PET and recycled PET (rPET) bottles and jars. The company now operates 15 production lines with an annual capacity exceeding 270 million bottles, serving global clients across the food, beverage, and nutraceutical sectors. Plascene has built long-standing partnerships with brands whose products are distributed in leading retailers, including Costco, Walmart, Trader Joe's, Target, and Sam's Club. As part of DUYTAN Group—Vietnam's largest plastic manufacturer with more than 38 years of industry experience—Plascene benefits from its parent company's global network and shared dedication to sustainability.

The deal team was led by partner [Mai Zymaris](#) and supported by partners [Justin Swindells](#), [Wonnie Lee](#), [Freedom Smith](#), [Olga Voinarevich](#), Ken Robinson, [Terri Czajka](#), [John Cannizzaro](#), and [Brad Jones](#). Associates [Grace Dahm](#), [Amy Flowers](#), [Zenas Shi](#), and law clerk Kelly Xia provided additional assistance. Ice Miller's [Vietnam Practice](#) interdisciplinary team has counseled

Plascene on intellectual property protection, international trade compliance, commercial and IP-related contracts, tax credits, employee benefits, and cross-border transactions. The firm's guidance has enabled Plascene to navigate complex regulatory frameworks while strengthening its competitive position in the global packaging market.

"Ice Miller stands out by combining that same 'Big Law' caliber expertise with the personalized, flexible service of a boutique firm—all at reasonable rates. No issue is too small; the team always prioritizes practical solutions over billable hours or high-profile wins," said Plascene General Counsel Minh Khoa D. Tran. "What impressed me most is their remarkable responsiveness and flexibility. Despite Plascene not being their largest client, they treat us as a top priority, seeing our future potential and supporting our U.S. expansion every step of the way."

Plascene's continued expansion demonstrates how thoughtful legal counsel can support mission-driven manufacturers as they scale across jurisdictions and advance industry standards for sustainable production.

Published In

- "Growing Number of Small Businesses Finding Bankruptcy Relief Under the SBRA," *Columbus Business First*, October 2020
- "[Why You Should Consider DIP Lending](#)," *American Bankruptcy Institute Secured Credit Committee Newsletter*, March 2021
- "[Ninth Circuit \(Sort of\) Splits from First Circuit to Hold that § 106\(a\)'s Waiver of Sovereign Immunity Extends to Emotional Distress Damages for Willful Stay Violations](#)," *American Bankruptcy Institute Litigation Committee Newsletter*, May 2019
- "[Can Debtors Claim a Homestead Exemption in One State if They Bought a House in Another State and Plan to Leave?](#)," *American Bankruptcy Institute Real Estate Committee Newsletter*, June 2018

Thought Leadership

June 23, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 36

April 23, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 35

March 6, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 34

January 27, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 33

October 7, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 32

August 27, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 31

June 27, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 30

May 1, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 29

March 20, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 28

February 6, 2025

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 27

December 2, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 26

August 29, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 25

July 18, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 24

May 10, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 23

March 4, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 22

November 14, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 21

September 6, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 20

July 21, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 19

June 7, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 18

April 27, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 17

February 27, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 16

November 18, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 15

September 13, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 14

August 4, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 13

July 5, 2022

Congress Further Extends Expanded Eligibility for Small Business Bankruptcy Relief

March 21, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 11

February 8, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 10

December 2, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 9

October 29, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 8

September 20, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 7

July 14, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 6

June 10, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 5

May 6, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 4

March 29, 2021

COVID-19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Act Passed, Signed

March 23, 2021

Expanded Eligibility for Small Business Bankruptcy Relief Set to Expire This Week

March 10, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 3

December 11, 2020

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 2

December 7, 2020

Why You Should Consider DIP Lending

June 23, 2020

Landlords Beware: Pandemic Alters Post-Petition Rent in Bankruptcy

June 11, 2020

Commercial Landlords' Guide to Navigating a Tenant in Bankruptcy

March 23, 2020

COVID-19 Business Impact Update

Speaking Engagements

- "What You Need to Know about Recent Changes to the Bankruptcy Code and Their Impact on Your Business as a Supplier," National Association of Credit Management - CFDD Portland, May 2021
- "Small Business Bankruptcy in the COVID-19 Era," Ohio State University Restructuring Series, December 2020
- "Chapter 11, Subpart V, and You," Columbus Bar Association Bankruptcy Law Institute, November 2020

- "The Impact of Bankruptcy on the Pursuit of Property Taxes," Ohio Township Association Winter Law Directors' Group Meeting, December 2019
- "When Good Customers (or Suppliers or Vendors) Go Bad, Minimizing the Impact of Their Financial Distress on Your Business," Ice Miller In-House Counsel Year-End Seminar, December 2018

Events

June 10, 2024

American Law Institute CLE | Commercial Real Estate Leases in Bankruptcy: The Latest on Landlord and Tenant Issues

Video Webcast

November 11, 2021

Columbus Bar Association's 2021 Bankruptcy Law Institute

News

May 14, 2026

John Cannizzaro Quoted in *Bloomberg Law*: "Cannabis Bankruptcy Relief Broadens With Delaware Court Ruling"

September 5, 2025

Ice Miller Featured in 2025 *Columbus CEO's Best of Business List* with Multiple Top Lawyer Honors

August 21, 2025

134 Ice Miller Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2026 Rankings

May 5, 2025

Ice Miller Partner John C. Cannizzaro Elected to American Bankruptcy Institute Board of Directors

October 25, 2024

Ice Miller Congratulates Partners Named on *Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers List*

August 15, 2024

130 Ice Miller Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025 Rankings

March 1, 2024

Ice Miller Ranked in *Columbus Business First's The List for Largest Central Ohio Bankruptcy Law Practices*

December 11, 2023

City of Chicago Awarded 22nd Annual Deal of the Year by *Bond Buyer*

August 17, 2023

133 Ice Miller Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024 Rankings

January 3, 2022

Ice Miller Announces New 2022 Partners

October 8, 2021

John Cannizzaro Named to ABI's 40 Under 40

August 19, 2021

Ice Miller Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® as 2022 “Lawyers of the Year,” “Best Lawyers in America” and “Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America”

March 23, 2021

John Cannizzaro Named in *Law360*: “Law360’s 2021 Bankruptcy Editorial Advisory Board”

October 1, 2020

Ice Miller Announces Formation of Distressed Investment Group

August 20, 2020

121 Ice Miller Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*© 2021