

## White And Williams' NY Office Head Named Bankruptcy Chair

By **Emily Sawicki**

Law360 (January 23, 2025, 4:12 PM EST) -- The managing partner of White and Williams LLP's New York office has taken on the role of chair of the firm's financial restructuring and bankruptcy practice, where she plans to focus on improving the practice group's visibility while ensuring high quality of client service and helping its attorneys to excel.

Heidi Sorvino brings more than 30 years of experience to her new position, including close to eight years with White and Williams, where she launched a New York-based financial restructuring and bankruptcy practice group in 2017 and has led the firm's New York office **since 2021**.

"Over the last eight years, the group has grown to 13 attorneys across our practice," Sorvino told Law360 Pulse in an email Thursday, a day after the firm announced her new role.

"We have a strong group of attorneys who work with clients nationally and internationally on both creditor and debtor matters, loan modifications, restructuring and asset recovery, structured finance workouts, and distressed loan and asset sales among our specialty and focus areas," she added.

Thomas Pinney, the chair of the firm's business department, praised Sorvino in a statement, calling her "well-poised to lead the financial restructuring and bankruptcy practice."

"She has distinctive knowledge of many aspects in the restructuring space including both debtor and creditor matters across a number of industries including real estate, healthcare and distressed debt," Pinney said.

After receiving a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College, Sorvino went on to earn a master's degree in social work at New York University before graduating from St. John's University School of Law.

In **previous conversations** with Law360, Sorvino said studying social work led her to a career in law since she came to understand that in "difficult cases," it is often "lawyers that had the power to help people and make real changes."

Sorvino is no stranger to **leading bankruptcy practices**. Earlier in her career, she was head of the New York bankruptcy practice at Smith Gambrell & Russell LLP, **co-chair** of the bankruptcy department at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and co-chair of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP's insolvency group.

Sorvino has also handled complex bankruptcy matters at Hodgson Russ LLP and LeClairRyan before coming aboard White and Williams.

When asked what goals she has set for herself and the practice group, Sorvino wrote that she had three in mind: "Improve our visibility, provide unparalleled client service and support our attorney's advancement."

Though she noted that expansion was also a "high priority," Sorvino said she wanted to ensure that each member of the practice group was given the best opportunity to succeed.

"I'm committed to advancing our attorneys' leadership, knowledge and expertise — which is integral to our success as a whole," she said.

Sorvino said she has been with White and Williams for the past eight years largely because of its "extremely collegial atmosphere" and the support the firm has shown her as she pursues professional goals.

Notably, the attorney mentioned her roles within the nonprofit Turnaround Management Association — where she is the New York City chapter's former president and current chair, as well as a member of its global board of directors — and said she "could not have" undertaken those responsibilities "without the support of the firm."

"I am proud of the dedicated and talented financial restructuring attorneys in our practice — from associate to partner who have the same goal — the utmost dedication to client service," she added.

--Editing by Covey Son.