BERGER SINGERMAN
FLORIDA'S BUSINESS LAW FIRM



LEWIS M. KILLIAN JR.

Certified Mediator/Retired Partner

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Lewis M. Killian, Jr. is a member of Berger Singerman's Business Reorganization Team. He has successfully completed certification to become a Circuit Civil mediator in Florida, as well as the American Bankruptcy Institute 40 hour bankruptcy mediation training program.

For more than 25 years, Lewis served as the Chief Bankruptcy Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Florida. A resident of Tallahassee, he was first appointed by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the District on September 22, 1986, and on September 22, 2000, he was reappointed for a second term. During his time on the Bench, Lewis had been the sole Bankruptcy Judge in the Northern District which had required him to regularly travel to hold hearings in each of the four divisions: Gainesville, Tallahassee, Panama City, and Pensacola.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Lewis served for 10 years as an officer in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam conflict, including a tour in Viet Nam, where he received several military awards and decorations. He retired from the Army Reserve with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, JAGC.

Education

J.D., *with honors*, Florida State University College of Law, 1976
U.S. Military Academy at West Point, 1969

Bar Admissions

Florida (inactive)

Practice Teams

Business Reorganization

Practice Areas

Bankruptcy/Restructuring

Representative Matters

- New Wave Loans
- PRIP

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2017-2023
  - *Best Lawyers,* Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor/Rights Lawyer of the Year (Tallahassee), 2019
- *Lawdragon 500*, named among the nation's 500 Leading Lawyers in Bankruptcy and Restructuring, 2023

Community Activities / Associations

- The Florida Bar, Business Law Section, Executive Council
- Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group
- National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges
  - Judicial Relations Committee
  - Judicial Orientation & Benefits Committee
- Legal Aid Foundation Tallahassee, Board of Directors
- Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend, Board of Directors
- Vestry of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Board of Directors
- School Board for Holy Comforter Episcopal School, Board of Directors
- Tallahassee Sunrise Rotary Club, President
- Paul Harris Fellow
- Florida State University College of Law, Adjunct Professor of Bankruptcy Law

In the News

Berger Singerman Attorneys Listed in the 2023 Edition of Lawdragon’s 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers
June 20, 2023

Forty-Three Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2023 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 18, 2022

Thirty-Nine Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 19, 2021

Thirty-Five Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2021 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 19, 2020

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2020 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2019

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2019 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2018

Thirty Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2018 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2017

Twenty-Eight Berger Singerman Attorneys Recognized in the 2017 Edition of Best Lawyers In America
August 14, 2016

Publications

Law 360, "How Husky Is Your 'Actual Fraud' Claim?"
August 16, 2016

American Bankruptcy Institute, "Creditors, Beware: Filing a Proof of Claim Can Get You in a Heap of Trouble"
May 31, 2016

Events & Speaking Engagements

Lewis M. Killian, Moderator, "Bankruptcy Practice is Constantly," 2020 Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar
January 16, 2020

Lewis M. Killian, Speaker, 2017 Annual Seminar for the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Northern District of Florida
October 18, 2017

Lewis M. Killian, Speaker, "Lender Strategies," CRE Financial Council's 5th Annual Educational Summit
October 25, 2016

Lewis Killian, Panelist, "Contempt Powers of the Bankruptcy Court," Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association Seminar
August 25, 2016

Doing Business in Florida Blog

The Eleventh Circuit Reaffirms the “Person Aggrieved” Standard
April 1, 2018

Long and Expensive Ride for Stay Violators
December 28, 2017

Vlog: Mediation Minute with Former Northern District of Florida Judge Lew Killian
June 29, 2017

Don't Rob Peter to Pay Paul
February 22, 2017

Husky Is Not So Lucky for Debtors – the United States Supreme Court's Recent Opinion on the Denial of Debt Dischargeability Under Bankruptcy Code § 523(a)(2)(a)'s Actual Fraud Provision
May 25, 2016

Doing Business in Florida, "Don't Be A Jerk: It Can Cost You Big $"
May 10, 2016

Prior Affiliations

- Ervin, Varn, Jacobs, Odom & Kitchen, P.A.