

## Jill L. Nicholson

Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP



**Jill Nicholson** is a Partner and trial lawyer with Foley & Lardner LLP and Chair of the firm's national Bankruptcy & Business Reorganizations Practice. She concentrates her practice in commercial bankruptcy and insolvency matters, creditors' rights, out-of-court workouts and restructurings, and complex multidistrict financial services litigation. She is also a member of the firm's Real Estate Practice.

Nicholson has represented a broad array of clients in bankruptcy and insolvency proceedings, including secured lenders, special servicers, creditors' committees, SIPA trustees, bondholder committees, foreign representatives, unsecured creditors, Chapter 11 debtors, indenture trustees, commercial landlords, governmental agencies, and federally chartered entities. Nicholson has also served as a court-appointed receiver for the Securities & Exchange Commission. Her experience encompasses all facets of bankruptcy and insolvency, including Chapter 11 plan restructuring and related litigation, 363 sales, valuation disputes, single asset real estate, debtor-in-possession financing, tax credit bond finance deals, adversary actions, bankruptcy appeals, assignments for the benefit of creditors, broker-dealer liquidations, and receiverships.

Nicholson counsels a number of *Fortune* 500 companies regarding best practices with respect to bankruptcy and insolvency issues, including distressed real estate, commercial lending, special servicing, and automotive restructuring.

### Recognition

In both 2016 and 2015, Nicholson was recognized by *Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in Illinois and also one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Illinois. In 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, Global M&A Network selected Nicholson as one of the top 100 restructuring professionals in the world, which recognizes the 100 most influential and innovative consultants, investment bankers, lawyers, and providers from the restructuring, distressed M&A and insolvency communities. In 2014, Nicholson was featured by *Law360* as a Female Powerbroker in the legal industry. Nicholson was ranked as one of the top bankruptcy and restructuring attorneys in Illinois by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* in 2016. In 2013, Nicholson was named by *Turnarounds & Workouts* magazine as one of twelve Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyers under the age of 40 in the United States. Nicholson was selected for inclusion in the 2014 - 2016 *Illinois Super Lawyers*<sup>®</sup> lists and has been named to the list of *Illinois Super Lawyers-Rising Stars*<sup>®</sup> (2008 - 2013) for her work in the field of bankruptcy. She was selected as a Leading Lawyer, Finance - Corporate Restructuring, by *Legal 500 US* (2015, 2014, 2013 and 2010) and is Peer Review Rated as AV<sup>®</sup> Preeminent<sup>™</sup>, a mark of excellence in Martindale-Hubbell's peer review rating system. Nicholson is board certified as a business bankruptcy specialist by the American Board of Certification. She is a fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society composed of less than one half of one percent of American lawyers.\*

## **Education**

Nicholson received her juris doctor degree, with honors, from the University of Illinois College of Law, where she served as an editor of the University of Illinois Elder Law Journal. While in law school, she received the American Bankruptcy Institute's Medal for excellence in bankruptcy and the American Bankruptcy Law Journal Prize and was named the Rickert Scholar for excellence in trial advocacy, legal writing, and legal publications. Nicholson received her undergraduate degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago, where she was selected as a Norman Maclean scholar. She also served as president of the University of Chicago Debate Team.

## **Affiliations**

Nicholson is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, the Chicago Network, the Executives' Club of Chicago, and the Women's Board of the University of Chicago. Nicholson serves as an adjunct professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis where she teaches a course on advanced commercial bankruptcy and corporate restructuring (2007-2016). She is a past vice director of North American Programs for the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), is a past chair of the board of directors of the Chicago Network of IWIRC, and is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the National Association of Federal Equity Receivers, the Turnaround Management Association, and the Chicago Bar Association. Nicholson has also served on the University of Chicago Women's Board's Grants Selection Committee and currently serves on the Board's Urban Education Institute Committee, which is dedicated to enhancing educational opportunities in urban settings.

## **Admissions**

Nicholson is admitted to practice in Illinois and New York and before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Eleventh Courts of Appeals and is a member of the Trial Bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

\* The Illinois Supreme Court does not recognize certifications of specialties in the practice of law and no certificate, award or recognition is a requirement to practice law in Illinois.