



## John C. Smith

PARTNER

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**First and foremost, John believes in service before self and has served as a pilot in the National Guard for the past 24 years sworn-in shortly after the attacks on 9/11/01. John has also been practicing law for 22 years.**

John's practice focuses primarily on civil and commercial litigation, secured transactions, bankruptcy and corporate reorganization.

### Selected Representations

- Plan Trustee for Debtor asserting claims for fraudulent transfer of corporate assets.
- Committee Counsel for Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors with potential causes of action for fraudulent transfer and insider dealing.
- Plan Trustee in corporate reorganization with large fraudulent transfers and several issues with property holdings and mismanagement of trust assets.
- Counsel for three entities in a large reorganization.
- Counsel for Chapter 7 Trustee recovering amounts for unsecured creditors.
- Counsel for Chapter 11 Debtors
- Counsel for an investor in an adversary proceeding instituted against the investors of a Ponzi scheme.
- Counsel for a lessor in large reorganization of a third party logistics and warehouse provider.
- Counsel for a banking group to protect their interests in the Bankruptcy case.
- Counsel for Salamatof Native Association to protect their ancestral lands and commercial leases during the liquidation of Pacific Energy.
- Counsel for non-profit ski area to enforce its rights against the Municipality of Anchorage in a lease dispute; awarded nearly \$1 million at trial against Municipality of Anchorage.
- Counsel for homeowner whose home was wrongfully foreclosed.

### Civic Activities

- Arizona Women Lawyer Association, 2016-Present
- Arizona Minority Bar Association, 2016-Present
- Arizona Pilots' Association

### EDUCATION

**Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, Juris Doctor, 2003**

- Substantial Research Paper: Prosecuting the Corporation-Ramifications of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

**University of Washington, Bachelor of Arts, English Literature, 1998**

- Varsity Member, UW Golf Team (NCAA Division I)
- Editor, Bricolage: A Literary Journal

### ADMISSIONS

- Alaska State Bar
- Arizona State Bar
- United States District Court for the District of Arizona
- United States District Court for the District of Alaska
- United States Court of Federal Claims

### PRACTICES

- Business Litigation
- Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy
- Defense of Claims, Administrative Proceedings & Lawsuits
- Real Estate & Construction Litigation

- Arizona Wine Growers' Association, Vice President, 2015-2018
- Best Practices Committee- State Bar of Arizona, Bankruptcy Section
- State Bar of Arizona - Legal Services for Veterans, 2011-Present
- Pima County Lawyer Referral Service, 2014-Present
- Pima County Bar, Judge Pro Tem, 2016-Present
- Pima County Commissioner on Superior Court Appointments, 2020-2023

## CONCENTRATION

- Secured Transactions
- Bankruptcy and Reorganization
- Corporate and Real Estate Dispute

## Background

John is married to Jan Leavitt Smith. They have three children; Elizabeth, Jacob and Owen, and currently reside in Tucson. A second-generation Arizonan, John was born and raised in Phoenix. He attended Brophy College Preparatory School prior to college. In addition to practicing law and serving as a Lt. Colonel in the Arizona Air National Guard, John and his family own and operate an 860-acre farm, vineyard and winery in Pima and Graham County, Arizona.

## Military Experience

**161<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Arizona Air National Guard**, Phoenix, Arizona - Squadron Commander/ Evaluator Pilot KC-135 (Jul 2011—Present)

Major Smith transitioned from the combat transport mission of the C-130 airframe to the air refueling/power projection mission of the KC-135.

**144<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard**, Anchorage, Alaska - Command Pilot C-130H2 (Jun 2002—Jul 2011)

A combat-tested C-130 pilot, John has deployed to Afghanistan twice (2007 and 2009), flying more than 120 combat sorties in support of military, counter-insurgency, humanitarian, and special operations missions. During his 2009 deployment, John served as de facto executive officer, ensuring all U.S. Central Air Forces (CENTAF) requirements and documentation for the approximate 30 deployed aircrew of his unit were satisfied—ensuring timely promotion for all personnel.