



## Stephen R. Franks

Of Counsel

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Cleveland, OH

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Stephen represents financial institutions in a wide range of litigation and bankruptcy matters, including proceedings under Chapters 7, 11, and 13. His approach is defined by a commitment to practical, result-oriented advice, with a focus on resolving disputes efficiently and equitably on behalf of his clients. His experience spans a variety of financial services matters, and he is often called upon to handle cases that require both legal precision and innovative thinking. Whether navigating complex bankruptcy litigation or defending creditors in state and federal court, Stephen brings a thoughtful and strategic approach to every case.

Stephen's work is grounded in collaboration, both with clients and with other legal professionals. He believes that strong relationships and open dialogue are essential to achieving successful outcomes. Clients appreciate Stephen's candid, no-nonsense style, which is aimed at managing expectations and providing clear-eyed guidance and consistent communication to client institutions throughout the legal process. While Stephen maintains client focus on the practicalities of a given matter, his thoughtful and creative approach frequently helps clients identify alternative solutions that other counsel miss to find common ground in even the most challenging disputes.

Beyond his legal practice, Stephen is actively involved in his community. He has served on the Civil Service Commission for the City of Lyndhurst since 2014 and holds a leadership role with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. He also dedicates time to coaching youth sports and supporting local athletic programs.

### Services

- Litigation

### Education

- University of Akron School of Law (J.D.)
  - Treasurer, Phi Alpha Delta
  - Environmental Law Society
  - ABA Student Member
- University of Cincinnati (B.S.)
  - Environmental Science

- Earned Certificate in Scientific/Technical Writing
- President of Tau Kappa Epsilon, two-time Chapter Top TEKE Award
- Dean's List

## **Bar Admissions**

- Ohio
- Kentucky
- Pennsylvania

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

## **Affiliations/Memberships**

- Civil Service Commissioner for the City of Lyndhurst (2014 - present)
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Executive Committee