

Jeffrey B. Cohen

Partner



Bailey & Ehrenberg



Jeff Cohen has over 30 years of ERISA litigation experience. He has extensive experience litigating a wide variety of ERISA issues at all levels in the federal court system and in arbitration proceedings. He is also a nationally recognized expert on employee benefits issues in bankruptcy. Mr. Cohen is a skilled negotiator and has resolved billions of dollars of benefits liabilities. He brings the same intensity to bear on his clients' behalf whether the matter involves billions of dollars or more modest amounts.

From 2005 through 2007, Mr. Cohen was Chief Counsel of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the federal agency that insures traditional, private pension plans. In that capacity, he directed the work of 50 attorneys and served as lead counsel for the agency in major bankruptcy proceedings and ERISA litigation. Before his appointment as Chief Counsel, he served for many years as Deputy General Counsel of PBGC.

During his distinguished tenure at PBGC, he was lead counsel for the agency in the bankruptcy proceedings, and related district court and appellate litigation, in such high-profile cases as United Airlines, Delta Airlines, Northwest Airlines, US Airways, Enron, Kaiser Aluminum, Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel, Pan American World Airways, Trans World Airlines, and New Valley (Western Union). Mr. Cohen has successfully argued over a dozen cases and filed scores of briefs in the federal courts of appeals. In addition, he has appeared as counsel in numerous ERISA cases in the Supreme Court. He also spearheaded PBGC's defense of individual and class actions involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and claims for benefits.

In March 2006, *The American Lawyer* named him as a Dealmaker of the Year for 2005 for his work on behalf of PBGC in the United Airlines bankruptcy and other major bankruptcy cases, one of a very small number of government attorneys ever to be so honored. Mr. Cohen is a Fellow of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, and was co-chair of the American Bankruptcy Institute's Employee Benefits Committee from 2007 through 2009. He is a Contributing Author to *Business Workouts Manual* (West 2011), for which he wrote a chapter on *Pensions in Restructurings*. Additionally, Mr. Cohen has been quoted in a variety of media outlets ranging from the *New York Times* to specialty publications such as the *BNA Pension & Benefits Reporter*, *Pensions and Investments* and *Ignites*. He has also been interviewed on the *Fox Business Network*.

Since returning to the private sector, Jeff has represented employers, an international union, plan fiduciaries, a bankruptcy trustee, an official bankruptcy committee, private equity and hedge funds, secured creditors, and individuals. He has been selected for inclusion in the 2010 and 2011 editions of the Best Lawyers in America and DC Super Lawyers.

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