

Bankruptcy Group Of The Year: Quinn Emanuel

By Clara Geoghegan

Law360 (January 28, 2026, 4:03 PM EST) -- Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP in 2025 notched wins in novel bankruptcy issues, fending off a Brazilian telecommunication group's bid to ditch its Chapter 15 for Chapter 11 and representing the successful buyer of 23andMe's assets, earning it a spot among the 2025 Law360 Bankruptcy Groups of the Year.

Started in 2007, Quinn Emanuel's bankruptcy practice group now has about 40 lawyers, according to partner Susheel Kirpalani.

James Tecce, co-head of the bankruptcy and restructuring group, said Quinn Emanuel's bankruptcy practice group combines the 1,300-attorney firm's litigation chops with transactional restructuring skills.

In 2025, Quinn Emanuel's bankruptcy practice group secured wins for clients in hotly contested cases.

The firm represented the nonprofit started by 23andMe co-founder and former CEO Anne Wojcicki in its successful effort to buy the former consumer DNA testing group's assets, including its collection of genetic data, during its high-profile Chapter 11 case.

The firm served as conflicts counsel to Wojcicki's nonprofit TTAM Research Institute, which is now known as the 23andMe Research Institute, in connection with the sale.

Kirpalani said Quinn Emanuel had to "parachute in" as conflict counsel to get the auction reopened and the sale ultimately approved.

"At the beginning of that matter, you might think that case is unwinnable," Kirpalani said. "That's why I'm particularly proud of it."

TTAM was named as the runner-up bidder in 23andMe's initial bankruptcy auction, where TTAM argued it was unfairly blocked from outbidding biotechnology group Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s winning \$256 million offer.

TTAM had to first convince 23andMe and then a Missouri bankruptcy judge to reopen the Chapter 11 auction. Then, after coming out as the winner with a \$305 million offer, TTAM faced steadfast objections from parties, including 28 state attorneys general, who were worried about the sale of highly sensitive



biometric data.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Brian C. Walsh ultimately approved the sale, which was structured as an equity transfer, after a two-day hearing in June. Some of the states are appealing.

Quinn Emanuel also represented a creditor who successfully fended off Brazilian telecommunications company Oi SA's novel cross-border restructuring strategy.

In July, Oi asked a New York bankruptcy judge to dismiss its 2023 Chapter 15 recognition of a pending Brazilian restructuring to let it instead file for Chapter 11 and restructure debt it would not be able to under Brazilian bankruptcy law.

That debt included a \$139 million (R\$758.5 million) loan that Quinn Emanuel client and internet provider V.tal extended to Oi after Oi opened Brazilian insolvency proceedings, which V.tal in an objection compared to a debtor-in-possession loan.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Lisa G. Beckerman denied Oi's request **last October**, noting that its Brazilian case was still pending.

If granted, Oi's motion would have been a novel cross-border restructuring maneuver, a point that Quinn Emanuel bankruptcy group co-chair Benjamin Finestone said the firm tried to emphasize during arguments before Judge Beckerman.

"Her honor, just like us, read the law the same way, which is that it's not imperialistic. It's deferential to a real main proceeding in another country," Finestone said.

Finestone was also part of the team that represented Byju's Alpha Inc. in securing a summary judgment on its lawsuit to claw back \$533 million.

Byju's Alpha, a U.S. unit of Indian education technology firm Byju's, filed for Chapter 11 protections **in** Delaware in 2024 following a lender takeover of the company after it defaulted on nearly \$1.5 billion of debt.

Byju's Alpha swiftly kicked off bankruptcy litigation to recover \$533 million the lenders alleged was fraudulently transferred out of the company and then hidden at the direction of its former executives.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge John T. Dorsey in February 2025 granted Byju's Alpha's summary judgment motion, ruling that the \$533 million sent to a recently created hedge fund was a fraudulent transfer.

Finestone said the case required Quinn Emanuel to act quickly to make sure the funds weren't hidden further while also reassuring bankruptcy judges that the defendants, whose failure to cooperate with discovery resulted in hefty sanctions and contempt orders, had their due process rights respected.

"We had to show them the risk of further dissipation, and we had to show them that we were addressing all the issues both factual and legally and the defendants have had every opportunity to respond to them," Finestone said.

Byju's Alpha confirmed a Chapter 11 plan in October 2025 and is now in the process of domesticating the U.S. judgments in foreign courts to collect on the defendants' assets, Finestone added.

Quinn Emanuel notched another win in Delaware when it helped get biotech manufacturing group National Resilience HoldCo Inc.'s affiliate Bedmar LLC's "two-step" Chapter 11 tossed as a bad faith filing.

Bedmar filed for bankruptcy in June to shed leases for manufacturing sites and offices. Alongside its petition, which was filed less than a week after the subsidiary was formed under Delaware's LLC Act, Bedmar filed a proposed Chapter 11 plan that would have fully repaid its lease rejection claims as capped by Section 502(b)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code.

Quinn Emanuel represented one of the properties' landlords, Cobalt Propco 2020 LLC, which urged the court to dismiss the case as a bad faith filing.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge J. Kate Stickles last August held that the bankruptcy had been filed in bad faith, agreeing with Cobalt, other landlords and the Office of the U.S. Trustee that the corporate transactions that assigned Bedmar lease liabilities and limited assets shortly before the bankruptcy filing showed the petition was filed as "tactical advantage" to limit lease rejection claims.

Tecce said convincing a bankruptcy judge that a petition was filed in bad faith is a high bar to clear, but Quinn Emanuel focused on Bedmar's recent formation to convince the court that the Chapter 11 was not a proper use of the Bankruptcy Code.

"There's got to be a history to your company, there has to be a reorganization plan, there's got to be an operational turnaround that you're trying to establish. Here, this is really the most cynical of cynical," Tecce said.

--Additional reporting by Ben Zigterman, Isaac Monterose, Rick Archer, Vince Sullivan, Yun Park, Emlyn Cameron, Dorothy Atkins and Al Barbarino. Editing by Kristen Becker.