

# Ex-BigLaw Partner Arrested, Charged With Bankruptcy Lies

By [Pete Brush](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (March 28, 2023, 1:14 PM EDT) -- A former BigLaw partner abused the bankruptcy system by lying about his assets in court in White Plains, New York, last year, the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office charged on Tuesday.

John Roesser, 52, of Bronxville, New York, is charged in a newly unsealed indictment with one count of falsification of records in bankruptcy and one count of false oaths and claims in bankruptcy. He was released on \$250,000 bail in the afternoon after an appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert W. Lehrburger.

Roesser allegedly lied in order to remain a debtor-in-possession to keep a multimillion-dollar home and an [Aston Martin](#) sports car while attempting to discharge debt, U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said in a statement.

"He manipulated the bankruptcy system by lying and falsifying bank records so that he could use its protections to keep his assets and to avoid paying his bills. And he should have known better — he used to be a lawyer," Williams said.

Roesser resigned from the New York bar about June 2020 after admitting to misappropriating client funds, prosecutors said in a release, describing him as a former partner at unnamed "major law firms."

Prior to leaving the law Roesser [worked for firms](#) including [Dechert LLP](#), [Arnold & Porter LLP](#), [Alston & Bird LLP](#) and [Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP](#). He specialized in financial disputes involving arbitration.

Roesser's case will be handled by U.S. District Judge Analisa Torres. A date for him to appear before Judge Torres for arraignment was not set. He intends to enter a plea of not guilty, his lawyer told Judge Lehrburger.

Roesser's lawyer declined comment after Tuesday's court appearance.

Roesser is represented by Mark Cohen of Mark I. Cohen Esq.

The government is represented by Steven Kochevar of the [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York](#).

The case is USA v. Roesser, case number [1:23-cr-00155](#), in the [U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York](#).