

Aaron C. Smith

Counsel

Chicago

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Aaron's vast experience in corporate restructuring makes him a trusted advisor on complex bankruptcy matters.

OVERVIEW

Aaron brings extensive experience in corporate restructuring, representing clients in both in-court and out-of-court scenarios. He advises debtors, buyers, and creditors on all aspects of bankruptcy sales, plans of reorganization, liquidation plans, and disclosure statements. Aaron also represents buyers and sellers in distressed asset sales, including multibillion-dollar transactions. His clients range from official committees of unsecured creditors and bondholders to large corporations and asset management firms.

Aaron has a deep understanding of the potential bankruptcy implications of strategic corporate transactions. He has represented clients in high-profile cases, such as the Chapter 11 reorganization of Sears Holdings Corporation and the acquisition of assets from Mad Catz, Inc. Aaron's client-focused approach ensures that each client receives tailored advice and strategic solutions to navigate complex bankruptcy and restructuring challenges. His work spans various industries, including energy, finance, insurance, health care, and entertainment, making him a versatile and reliable partner in any restructuring or insolvency matter.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Seadrill Partners LLC.
- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Benevis Corp.
- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Yuma Energy, Inc.
- Represented a member of the Steering Committee of the Ad Hoc Group of Subrogation Claim Holders Against Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation.
- Represented the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation in the Chapter 11 reorganization of Sears Holdings Corporation.
- Represented one of the largest suppliers of Takata Corporation in its Chapter 11 case.
- Represented California Proton Treatment Center, LLC, as debtor's counsel.
- Represented Device Expert, Inc., in its acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Mad Catz, Inc., and its affiliated debtors.
- Represented BroadRiver Asset Management L.P. as a proponent of a competing plan in the Life Partners

Holdings, Inc., bankruptcy case.

- Represented the acquirer of substantially all of the assets of Blue Sun St. Joe Refining LLC and its related debtors.
- Represented Superior Aviation in its attempted acquisition of Hawker Beechcraft, Inc., and its affiliated debtors.
- Represented DiamondRock Hospitality Company as senior lender in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case concerning the Allerton Hotel.
- Represented Palm Harbor Homes, Inc., as debtor's counsel.
- Represented the plan proponent in the Whitton Corporation Chapter 11 case.
- Represented Empire Carpets in its debt restructuring.
- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in Global Capacity Holdings.
- Represented Barcalounger Corporation as debtor's counsel.
- Represented New Vision Television as debtor's counsel.
- Represented the Joint Liquidators of Tri-Continental Exchange, Ltd., and affiliated entities in their Chapter 15 cases.
- Represented Orius Corp. as debtor's counsel.
- Represented the Estate Representative of Global Crossing Ltd.
- Represented Vanguard Airlines, Inc., as debtor's counsel.
- Represented the Official Committee of Bondholders of Farmland Industries, Inc.
- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Payless Cashways, Inc.

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bankruptcy + Restructuring
- Corporate
- Distressed Mergers + Acquisitions

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bankruptcy + Restructuring
- Corporate
- Debtor + Committee Representations
- Distressed Mergers + Acquisitions
- Trade Creditors Representation

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Turnaround Management Association
- Member, American Bankruptcy Institute

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Iowa College of Law, J.D., *with honors*, 1999

- University of Iowa, B.A., 1995

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Unexpected Rescue: Observations on the Silicon Valley Bank Closure and Ongoing Market Disruptions,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, March 16, 2023.
- Co-author, “State Restrictions on Non-Essential Business Operations During the COVID-19 Crisis,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, February 1, 2021.
- Co-author, “CARES Act Guide: Overview of Key Reorganization Provisions and Bankruptcy Code Amendments,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, April 10, 2020.
- Co-author, “The Use of Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code to Address Business Disruption Resulting From COVID-19,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, March 24, 2020.
- Co-author, “State Restrictions on Employee Travel During the COVID-19 Crisis,” Locke Lord QuickStudy, March 21, 2020.