



Michael J. Gearin

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Michael Gearin is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. He concentrates his practice in insolvency, workouts and commercial reorganizations. His practice is broad based, encompassing transactional, litigation and other advice in the insolvency and creditors rights arenas. He represents debtors, creditors' committees, secured creditors, purchasers, and trustees in Chapter 11 cases. He represents secured creditors, purchasers and receivers in state law receivership proceedings, and has experience in real estate workouts and bankruptcies. He has substantial experience in the resolution of Ponzi schemes through the Chapter 11 plan confirmation process. He has significant experience in the representation of pension interests in municipal bankruptcy cases. He has represented debtors and purchasers in complex asset sales transactions in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

Michael is a past chair of the Seattle-King County Bar Association Bankruptcy Section, is a panel mediator under the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington's mediation program, and has been a frequent speaker at professional seminars on municipal bankruptcy, Chapter 11 plan confirmation, Ponzi cases in bankruptcy and other bankruptcy issues.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in the *Best Lawyers in America*® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2014
- Recognized in *Chambers USA* for Bankruptcy/Restructuring, since 2012
- Selected as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America
- Named to the Washington Super Lawyers list for Bankruptcy, 2004, 2014-2021
- Selected as one of the Top Attorneys in Washington by *Seattle Met*

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Past President, Seattle King County Bar Association, Debtor-Creditor Section
- American Bankruptcy Institute Committee on Real Estate

- American Bankruptcy Institute Committee on Legislative Developments
- Creditor-Debtor Section, Washington State Bar
- Bankruptcy Section, Western District of Washington Federal Bar Association

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Military Experience: Captain, United States Marine Corps, Helicopter Pilot

EDUCATION

- B.A., University of Notre Dame
- B.S., University of Washington
- J.D., University of Washington School of Law, (*Extern, Hon. Sidney C. Volinn, Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- February 2022, February 2022 Accolades
- 19 May 2021, Litigation Minute: Bankruptcy Issues for Vendors and Other Contractual Counterparties
- 29 July 2020, Investor Landmines in a Work-Out World: What Fiduciaries Need to Know
- 13 April 2020, COVID-19: Impact of the CARES Act on Subchapter V Reorganizations under the Bankruptcy Code

NEWS & EVENTS

- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 24 July 2019, K&L Gates Advises Microsoft on US\$1 Billion Equity Investment in OpenAI
- 26 April 2019, *Chambers USA* 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in *Chambers USA* 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, *Chambers USA* 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Restructuring and Insolvency

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Representation of Coast Crane in successful Chapter 11 case.
- Representation of Fortress Credit Corporation in Chapter 15 cross border bankruptcy cases
- Representation of Crowley Maritime and affiliates in receivership of brownfield developer Denovo Seattle, LLC
- Representation of Perry A. Stacks, Jr. as Trustee in the Chapter 11 case of Polymer Technology Corp., as Trustee in the Chapter 11 case of Jasper VII LLC, and as the receiver for 7800 LLC
- Representation of the Official Unsecured Creditors Committee in the Chapter 11 reorganization of Brown and Cole Stores
- Representation of Conenza, Inc as debtor in successful Chapter 11 case
- Official Unsecured Creditors Committee in the Chapter 11 reorganization of Larry's Markets, Inc,
- Representation of Avatar Financial Group as secured lender in Chapter 11 case of MOC Investments, LLC
- Representation of the Official Unsecured Creditor's Committee in the successful Chapter 11 reorganization of Amerion, a Washington State ISP
- Representation of Expedia, Inc. in bankruptcy cases of TWA, United Airlines, US Air, Alamo Rental Cars and National Airlines
- Representation of the Official Unsecured Creditor's Committee in the successful Chapter 11 case of Country Harvest Buffet Restaurants, Inc.
- Representation of Washington First International Bank as a secured creditor in multiple bankruptcy cases

- Representation of Price Waterhouse as the receiver for two Seattle based telecommunications companies
- Representation of the Official Unsecured Creditor's Committee in the Chapter 11 case of real property developer P. Hendley & Associates, Inc.
- Representation of VECTRA Technologies, Inc. as debtor's counsel in its successful Chapter 11 case
- Representation of the Microsoft Corporation in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of a Seattle-based Internet service provider