



Steve Jakubowski

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Practice Areas

Banking & Finance

Business Representation

Creditor's Rights &
Bankruptcy

Government Relations

Litigation

Educations

University of Chicago,
J.D., 1985

Union College, B.S., 1979

Bar Admissions

Illinois, 1985

U.S. District Court, Central
District of Illinois

U.S. District Court,
Northern District of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals,
Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals,
Federal Circuit

As a 30+-year bankruptcy veteran, I've served as bankruptcy counsel in a number of high profile matters nationwide for debtors, creditors' and equity committees (both official and *ad hoc*), lenders, distressed asset acquirors, and litigation targets. Those matters have involved me in variety of industries, including most recently dairy, swine, meat packing, farming, pharmaceuticals, commercial real estate, retail electronic stores and clothing wholesalers, auto suppliers, casinos, medical technology, metal fabrication, and online music streaming services. I have remained a trusted corporate lawyer and advisor to several companies following their emergence from bankruptcy or completion of out-of-court restructurings.

I have represented several publicly-traded Chinese companies making outbound investments in the United States in the past four years, both in traditional and distressed M&A transactions, and provide round-the-clock support for Chinese co-counsel needing a dependable advisor who understands the complexity of cross-border transactions involving Chinese companies.

Capitalizing on my roots in the medical field and my long M&A practice in the distressed space, I have integrated with the firm's practice in advising physician office practices in complex purchase and sale transactions.

Throughout my bankruptcy litigation career, I've recovered hundreds of millions of dollars for bankruptcy estates by pursuing actions against officers and directors for breaches of fiduciary duty, against attorneys and accountants for professional malpractice, and against recipients of fraudulent and preferential transfers. In representing liquidating trusts, I have represented entities and class members in federal securities matters, including in pursuit of D&O insurance recoveries. I also provide bankruptcy-related advice to support the firm's other practice areas.

In the mid-1990's, the Delaware Bankruptcy Court appointed me to serve as Chief Operating Officer of a public restaurant company and Chairman/CEO of New England's top snack manufacturer (with the operating entity emerging from chapter 11 in both engagements). Beyond that, I also have significant experience as a principal in the fields of renewable energy and biomass recycling.

My role in the General Motors bankruptcy case in 2009 on behalf of personal injury products liability claimants left behind by the sale to "New GM" led to my filing in 2015 of a \$200 million class action case on their behalf in the Court of Federal Claims against the United States on the theory that the stripping of these claimants' successor liability causes of action against "New GM" constituted an unconstitutional takings of these claims under the Fifth Amendment. That case remains pending before the Court.

My analysis of various bankruptcy litigation matters has been quoted in the *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and several regional media outlets and bankruptcy publications. I also enjoy speaking on bankruptcy related issues for various professional organizations, including on topics of Creditors' Committees roles and responsibilities, intellectual property licenses in bankruptcy, and the ramifications of the auto bailouts of 2009.

I'm proud to have been selected by American Lawyer Media, the largest publisher of legal media, as one of Chicago's "Top Rated Lawyers" and as a "Top Rated Lawyer Nationally" in the field of Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy.

Outside of the office, I've served as a Member of the Planning Commission of the Village of Lincolnwood, Illinois since 2009 and as an executive member of my local synagogue for over 10 years. I also am head coach of my twin boys' basketball team in the winter and their little league baseball team in the spring.