



M. Douglas Flahaut

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Doug Flahaut is an associate in the Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Group, where he focuses on business reorganizations, representation of chapter 7 and chapter 11 trustees, preference litigation, and related business litigation matters.

Practices and Industries

Bankruptcy & Financial Restructuring

Client Work

The Walking Company

Doug assisted in Arent Fox's representation of an \$80 million, publicly-traded retailer of specialty footwear in a highly successful and rapidly-executed Chapter 11 reorganization that resulted in full payment of all unsecured creditors; a \$10 million recapitalization of the company; the renegotiation of significant lease obligations; and the preservation of all of the company's stores, substantially all of its employees, and its management team. This reorganization was selected as the Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (Lower Middle Market) by *The M&A Advisor*.

Right Start Acquisition Company and Baby Style, Inc.

Doug represented the official committee of unsecured creditors and was instrumental in successfully confirming the committee's liquidating plan. Doug represented the liquidating trust post-confirmation in the prosecution of more than 30 adversary proceedings aimed at recovering over \$1.3 million in preferential transfers and successfully resolved all matters by way of final judgment or settlement within 12 months.

In re NGTV, Inc.

Doug was part of the Arent Fox team that successfully sold the intellectual property and litigation assets of the estate for the Chapter 7 trustee over the vigorous objections of a secured creditor and structured the sale such that unsecured creditors would receive a distribution even though secured debt far exceeded the sales proceeds.



In re New Meatco Provisions, LLC

Doug was responsible for filing and prosecuting over 70 adversary proceedings seeking to recover preferential transfers. In the course of a little over a year, Doug was successful in reaching a final resolution of 60 of those actions resulting in recoveries for the estate of over \$1.1 million.

Previous Work

During 2008 and 2009 Doug served as a judicial law clerk to Judges Peter H. Carroll and Robert N. Kwan of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. He also served as a staff attorney for the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel.

Prior to his clerkships, Doug was an associate at a boutique litigation law firm in Southern California. He litigated complex civil disputes, including a fight for control of a large family-owned corporation that was successfully removed to Bankruptcy Court. Doug also successfully litigated a specific performance action for the turnover of a \$5 million commercial property.

Professional Activities

Doug is on the board of the Southern California Bankruptcy Inn of Court and an active member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Turnaround Management Association, and the Federal Bar Association.

Publications, Presentations and Recognitions

- Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating.
- 2013-2015 Southern California Rising Star, Super Lawyers Magazine.
- Pincus Professional Education, *Business Bankruptcy Chapter 11 Essentials and More* (day-long seminar), September 19, 2014.
- California Bankruptcy Forum, *Where the Rubber Hits the Gold: Claims and Claim Objections* (producer), May 17, 2014.
- Southern California Bankruptcy Inn of Court, *Retention, Payment, and Getting Out*, March 13, 2012.
- Pincus Professional Education Webinar, *Business Bankruptcy Boot Camp: Chapter 11 Demystified*, September 2010
- Southern California Bankruptcy Inn of Court, *Bankruptcy Ethics Presentation*, October 5, 2010.
- *Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court Biddle Book Award 2008* – Recognized for demonstrating outstanding leadership, both in the Inn as well as in the legal profession.
- *The Bankruptcy Strategist*, “Triggering Event Test” (co-authored with Aram Ordubegian), December 2014.

Published Decisions

- *Imagine Fulfillment Servs., LLC v. DC Media Capital, LLC (In re Imagine Fulfillment Servs., LLC)*, 489 B.R. 136 (Bankr. C.D. Cal. 2013).



Bar and Court Admissions

California Bar
Montana Bar
US District Court, Northern District of California
US District Court, Central District of California
US District Court, Southern District of California
US District Court, Eastern District of California
US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Education

University of California at Los Angeles School of Law, JD (Corporate Law Specialization)
Walla Walla College, BA (cum laude)

Life Beyond the Law

Doug is fluent in Spanish and has a working knowledge of French. In his free time, he enjoys mountaineering, and fly fishing.

