# Law Office of Christine E. Baur



Christine E. Baur is a seasoned Chapter 11 bankruptcy, financial restructuring, and creditors' rights attorney with 20+ years' experience representing debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, creditors' committees, lenders, landlords, strategic partners, buyers, principals, and other parties-in-interest in commercial bankruptcy proceedings and out-of-court restructurings in Southern California and across the country. She also advises healthy companies and clients on strategic business and litigation matters, serving in an outside general counsel and collections counsel capacity. Her experience encompasses a wide array of industries including health care, renewable energy, financial services, technology, real estate, retail, consumer goods, manufacturing, telecommunications, and government contractors. Ms. Baur was previously a partner at Baker & McKenzie LLP, where she was a member of its Financial Restructuring, Creditors' Rights, and Bankruptcy Practice Group.

#### **EXPERIENCE**

## Debtor Representations

- Represented a public holding company in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding that operated the largest telecommunications company in Poland in the restructuring of \$1 billion of debt consisting of multiple classes of notes, including \$400 million of publicly traded securities
- Represented seven affiliated entities in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding in the restructuring, sale, and reorganization of a \$100 million restaurant franchise business consisting of more than 100 locations in five states, including negotiation and restructuring of 13 classes of secured debt and resolution of intercompany claims
- Represented thirty tenant-in-common owners of commercial real property in \$25 million Chapter 11 case
- Represented retail furniture company in orderly Chapter 11 liquidation and wind down of multiple locations
- Represented non-profit theatre company in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding and going concern disposition of fourth largest live performance theatre in San Diego
- Represented Chapter 11 debtor in successful restructuring of real estate investment debt and confirmation of plan of reorganization
- Represented principals of construction company in out-of-court restructuring and workout negotiations with bank as part of successful Chapter 11 reorganization of real estate company
- Represented 300+ location national cell phone service provider in orderly wind down and Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding
- Represented Chapter 11 debtor-in-possession real estate investment company in restructuring of over \$400 million in noteholder claims

Represented international medical device company in Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding Represented Chapter 11 debtor-in-possession in the reorganization and sale of restaurant franchise business with locations in multiple states Secured Creditor Representations Represented DIP lender in Chapter 11 bankruptcy debtor event of default and relief from stay proceedings with respect to multiple collateral assets Represented senior secured lender in Chapter 11 bankruptcy of single-asset real estate debtor in relief from stay proceedings and ultimate sale of note of junior lienholder Represented Fortune 500 medical diagnostics company in complex financing arrangement to strategic partner in Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization through debtor-in-possession credit and security agreement and amendment and assumption of strategic alliance agreement Represented Fortune 500 government contractor company as secured lender to borrower in Chapter 11 bankruptcy under loan facility for capital project in Guam Represented financial institution as secured lender in connection with collateral included in assets of non-borrower, multi-debtor bankruptcy proceeding ultimately conveyed to secondary lienholder pursuant to lien release option agreement Represented financial institution credit union as secured lender in multiple Chapter 11 bankruptcies of churches and related real estate and business assets Represented second position lienholder in bankruptcy of real estate company Represented financial institution bank as secured lender in full recovery of multi-million secured claim in bankruptcy of gasoline retailer debtor

# Creditors' Committee Representations

Represented unsecured creditors' committee of public company restaurant operator, which included a Section 363 sale of substantially all of company's assets and global settlement negotiations with secured creditor trust and insurance carrier

Represented second position lienholder in bankruptcy of medical device company

Represented largest secured creditor in global settlement of secured claim in bankruptcy of

operating company in international irradiation technology industry

- Represented multiple childhood sexual abuse victim creditors, comprising largest portion of creditors' committee, in Roman Catholic Diocese bankruptcy case resulting in settlement of over \$2 billion in mass tort claims
- Represented unsecured creditors' committee of manufacturer of ephedra dietary supplements resulting in Section 363 sale of substantially all of company's assets and global settlement of over \$2 billion in mass tort claims in multi-district litigation
- Represented unsecured creditors' committee of second largest cell phone service provider franchise business resulting in Section 363 sale of substantially all of company's assets and global settlement with secured creditor

Represented industrial equipment supplier in significant Bankruptcy Code Section 503(b)(9) claim in Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of bioenergy facility company Represented medical software and services company as one of the largest unsecured creditors and member of Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of Federal Qualified Health Center owner/operator of 18 health care clinics Represented ad hoc group of creditors in Chapter 11 Subchapter V bankruptcy case of luxury vacation home rental agency and property management company in Utah Represented ad hoc group of creditors in investigation and Bankruptcy Rule 2004 discovery of financial claims against bankrupt customer's directors, investor, and lender Represented landlord financial institution in its fiduciary agent capacity in Chapter 11 bankruptcy of national grocery store chain including sale of store and assumption and assignment of lease to new buyer Represented three landlords in Chapter 7 bankruptcy of debtor entity with approximately 100 nationwide restaurant locations Represented a top unsecured creditor in bankruptcy proceeding of debtor public company Represented unsecured creditor in evidentiary hearing regarding liquidation of creditor claim involving software development services in tech company bankruptcy Represented international insurance company as creditor in bankruptcy proceeding of party in related state court litigation Represented former executive in bankruptcy of national media company in connection with administrative and unsecured employment claims Equity Representations Represented director and equity holder of debtor company in substantial contribution to Chapter 11 reorganization process involving corporate governance issues Represented equity committee of public holding company of manufacturer of recreational vehicles with respect to consensually negotiated joint plan of reorganization Represented equity committee of public technology company including in dispute with largest creditor resulting in Third Circuit appellate opinion

#### Transactional Representations

- Represented Japan's largest entertainment company in multi-million dollar Section 363 acquisition of substantially all assets of affiliated nationwide operator of retail entertainment and dining complexes in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding
- Represented Japan's largest entertainment company as potential buyer and bidder in multimillion dollar Section 363 auction for substantially all assets of competitor nationwide operator of retail entertainment and dining complexes in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding
- Represented Korea's largest cell phone service provider in out-of-court strategic disposition of financially distressed investment

- Represented principals in bankruptcy of custom manufacturing company and related acquisition of assets in bankruptcy auction
- Represented private equity firm as plan sponsor for multi-location retail establishment debtor

#### Litigation Representations

- Represented third party trust administrator defendant in multi-defendant lawsuit brought by bankruptcy trustee challenging validity of trust provisions and successfully obtained dismissal of lawsuit with prejudice and without liability per settlement with co-defendant
- Represented multiple defendants and obtained favorable resolutions on their behalf in numerous trustee and receiver "claw back" lawsuits seeking recovery of alleged preferential and fraudulent transfers
- Represented defendant in multi-jurisdictional adversary proceedings brought by the Office of the U.S. Trustee for violations of various Bankruptcy Code provisions
- Represented liquidating trustee in out-of-district ancillary proceeding to adversary case
- Represented hedge fund sued for avoidance action claims for securities transactions alleged to be part of a massive Ponzi scheme
- Represented Swiss financial institution sued for avoidance action claims for offshore securities transactions alleged to be part of a massive Ponzi scheme
- Represented insurance company creditor in \$400 million Ponzi scheme bankruptcy case involving massive lease pool rights fraud

#### Trustee Representations

- Represented Chapter 11 trustee of mortgage brokerage firm in bankruptcy precipitated by SEC and criminal investigations revealing a massive Ponzi scheme, which included analyzing and litigating multiple claims and recovering misappropriated assets
- Represented Chapter 7 trustee in \$400 million Ponzi scheme bankruptcy involving massive secondary market mortgage fraud, including analysis, litigation, and recovery of numerous claims and assets, successful conversion to Chapter 11 case, confirmation of plan of liquidation, and creation of liquidation trust
- Represented Chapter 7 trustee in cross-border investigation, recovery, and liquidation of multi-million dollar machinery assets converted by affiliated entities of former principal of debtor criminally convicted of fraud

## **AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS**

"Super Lawyer" San Diego Super Lawyer, Thomson Reuters, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2024
Baker & McKenzie LLP Pro Bono and Community Service Volunteer Award, 2008
American Bankruptcy Institute, Member 2004-Present, national/regional conference attendee
Boston College Law School Alumni Association

California Bankruptcy Forum, Director 2009-2012; Conference Educational Co-Chair 2011; Program Producer 2015, 2017, and 2022; Program Contestant 2019

Holy Cross Lawyers Association

International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), former Director of San Diego Chapter

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, conference attendee

San Diego Bankruptcy Forum, Director 2007-2010

San Diego County Bar Association, Bankruptcy Section

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of California, Committee on Individual Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure Statement, 2012-2013

Women's Insolvency Network of San Diego, Officer and Director 2003-2007

#### IN THE PRESS

"They Handed San Diego Luxury Retailer Pirch Their Money and Their Trust. Now They Want a Refund," San Diego Union-Tribune, April 1, 2024

"Giving Some Struggling Borrowers a Break," San Diego Union-Tribune, June 4, 2023

"San Diego Too Expensive? Experts Share DIY Tips to Save More of Your Paycheck," San Diego Union-Tribune, Sep. 9, 2022

"Jensen's Gets Point Loma Grocery Store," San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 17, 2016

"Jensen's Makes Play for Point Loma Grocery Store," San Diego Union-Tribune, Mar. 3, 2016

"CVS Now Paying Rent on Contested Point Loma Store," San Diego Union-Tribune, Jan. 15, 2016

"CVS Gets Third Fresh & Easy Store," San Diego Union-Tribune, Dec. 31, 2015

"Haggen Stores Sell, Opens Door to Bristol Farms, Other," San Diego Union-Tribune, Nov. 25, 2015

"Bids Exceed Expectations for Haggen Stores," San Diego Union-Tribune, Nov. 12, 2015

"New North Park Theater Owner Plans Big," San Diego Union-Tribune, Oct. 29, 2013

"Your SDCBA: Success is Evident," San Diego County Bar Association Bar Report, Nov. 24, 2010

"SDCBA Member Profile: Christine Baur," San Diego County Bar Association Bar Report, Dec. 23, 2009

"Making a Difference for Many: Bankruptcy Professionals Band Together to Offer Help to Each Other and to Clients," *San Diego Lawyer*, May/June 2009

#### **INSIGHTS**

Speaker, "Connect with Counsel – Financial Distress Featuring Christine Baur, Esq." San Diego County Bar Association, LRIS Program, San Diego, CA, Mar. 14, 2024

Speaker and Author, "Bankruptcy Litigation 101" and "Claims Litigation," National Business Institute, San Diego, CA, Aug. 21, 2014

Speaker, "Ask-A-Lawyer," Pro Bono Law Week, San Diego County Bar Association, NBC 7 San Diego evening news, Apr. 29, 2014

Speaker, "Overview of Bankruptcy Law," San Diego Women Attorney Networking Group, June 14, 2012

Speaker and Author, "Protecting Creditor's Rights During Bankruptcy," National Business Institute, San Diego, CA, Jan. 31, 2011

Author, "The Unsuspecting Creditor: Fraud and Ponzi Schemes," *Inside The Minds: Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Client Strategies*, Aspatore Books, 2008

Presenter, "Opportunistic Acquisitions: Acquiring Distressed Assets In and Out of Bankruptcy," Baker & McKenzie North American Corporate and Securities Meeting, May 3, 2008

Author, "Protecting Your Company Against Preferential Transfers in Insolvency Proceedings," *For the Record*, Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP, 2003

#### **EDUCATION**

# Boston College Law School, Newton, MA

Juris Doctorate, 1996, top third of class

# College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, cum laude, 1993, Phi Beta Kappa, Psi Chi Honor Society

#### **ADMISSIONS**

Massachusetts, 1996

California, 2000

United States Supreme Court, 2005

U.S. Courts of Appeals: Third Circuit, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Courts: Southern, Central, Northern, and Eastern Districts of California

#### **LANGUAGES**

French

German