

Partner, Chicago

Corporate Restructuring



T: 312.407.0549
ron.meisler@skadden.com

Education

J.D., The University of Michigan
Law School, 1999

M.B.A., University of Michigan, 1999

B.A., University of Michigan, 1994

Bar Admissions

Illinois

New York

Associations

Member, American College of
Bankruptcy

Ron Meisler regularly represents companies experiencing financial difficulties, purchasers of and investors in distressed companies, lenders to and creditors of troubled companies and creditors' committees in connection with all stages of complex restructurings around the world. He is a preeminent practitioner with respect to related-party transactions in the context of distress and has represented founders, management and other insiders seeking to buy back their businesses.

Mr. Meisler's major representations include:

Company-side Representations

- **a steel manufacturer and its affiliates** in connection with its out-of-court restructuring and sale transaction
- **Armstrong Flooring, Inc.** in connection with its Chapter 11 cases filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, pursuant to which the company sold substantially all of its assets
- **Atlas Resource Partners, L.P.**, an upstream oil and gas Master Limited Partnership with approximately \$1.5 billion in funded debt obligations, in connection with its 30-day prepackaged Chapter 11
- **Blue Bird Bus Company**, one of the world's leading bus manufacturers, in connection with its restructuring
- **Comdisco, Inc.**, formerly a leading multibillion-dollar leasing and technology company, in connection with its Chapter 11 case
- **Delphi Corporation** in connection with the restructuring of more than \$22 billion in liabilities
- **Eagle Food Centers, Inc.**, formerly a regional grocery store chain with \$600 million in revenues, in connection with its Chapter 11 liquidation
- **Elara Caring**, a leading national provider of skilled home health, hospice, behavioral health, and personal care services, in connection with its \$1.1 billion out-of-court restructuring and sale transaction that drove unanimous consent across six tranches of secured debt
- **Globalstar, Inc.**, a leading satellite telecommunications company, in connection with its out-of-court exchange
- **Hyzon Motors Inc.**, a global developer and supplier of hydrogen fuel cell technology, in connection with its evaluation of strategic alternatives
- **McLeodUSA Incorporated**, a regional multibillion-dollar competitive local exchange carrier, in connection with its Chapter 11 prepack
- **a medical device company** in connection with its contingency planning and ultimate out-of-court rescue
- **Melinta Therapeutics, Inc.** in its Chapter 11 reorganization in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The restructuring included a support agreement under which the lenders under Melinta's senior credit facility would acquire Melinta by exchanging debt under its senior credit facility for 100% of the equity to be issued by the reorganized company

- **Montgomery Ward & Co.**, formerly a multibillion-dollar national retailer, in connection with its Chapter 11 liquidation
- **Mobex, Inc.**, an auto supplier, in connection with its out-of-court debt restructuring
- **New Fortress Energy Inc.** in connection with its (i) late-2024 multibillion-dollar financing transaction, (ii) negotiated waivers and forbearance agreement with certain stakeholders and (iii) 2026 holistic deleveraging, which drove consensus among six tranches of secured debt, reducing leverage from approximately \$6 billion to \$600 million and was supported by over 98% of creditors. The structure was implemented through the UK Restructuring Plan of two of its U.K. affiliates and then recognized through a Chapter 15 proceeding
- **NGL Energy Partners, L.P.** in connection with its approximately \$3 billion refinancing of its revolving loan, secured and unsecured notes
- **Pennfield Corporation**, a regional supplier of animal nutrition and services, in connection with its restructuring
- **a steel manufacturing company** in connection with its contingency planning and ultimate out-of-court rescue
- **Synergy Pharmaceuticals Inc.** in its Chapter 11 cases in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, including its sale of substantially all of its assets to Bausch Health Companies Inc. under Section 363 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code
- **The Singer Company N.V.**, a leading multibillion-dollar global manufacturer of appliances and sewing machines, in connection with its restructuring
- **Tempel Steel**, an industrial manufacturer and auto supplier, in connection with its out-of-court restructuring
- **Titan Energy, LLC** in its out-of-court restructuring
- **Triangle USA Petroleum Corp.**, an upstream oil and gas company focused on the Williston Basin with approximately \$700 million in funded indebtedness, in connection with its Chapter 11 restructuring, which entirely refinanced its reserved based lending facility, equitized approximately \$400 million of unsecured notes and raised approximately \$150 million through a rights offering
- the out-of-court restructurings of **various upstream oil and gas companies**
- **True Value** in connection with its Chapter 11 filing and the sale of substantially all of its assets to Do it Best Corp. pursuant to a Section 363 sale process in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- **WeWork** in an \$8 billion transaction in which SoftBank provided financing to the company and acquired a majority of its outstanding shares through a tender offer

Purchasers in Opportunistic M&A

- **APTIM** in connection with a contested credit bid acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Juniper Specialty Products in the Chapter 11 and 7 proceedings before the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas
- **Black Diamond Capital Management, L.L.C.** in multiple transactions, including:
 - as lender to and potential purchaser of SpeedCast International Ltd. in its Chapter 11 cases in the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas. Following a hotly contested plan process, the court halted the confirmation hearing and reopened the auction to provide Black Diamond with an opportunity to bid, ultimately resulting in a favorable settlement for Black Diamond
 - securing approval from the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York of the sale of Empire Generating to an entity controlled by Black Diamond and confirmation of a related “no impairment” plan of reorganization over the objection of certain minority lenders
 - its acquisition of the assets of White Birch Paper Company as part of White Birch’s cross-border restructuring
 - its acquisition of the assets of GST AutoLeather, Inc.
- affiliates of **Blackstone Capital Partners** in connection with a proposed acquisition of a power company
- **Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services Ltd.** in the structure and formation of a joint venture for the \$125 million acquisition of a portfolio of multifamily properties in the southeastern U.S.
- **Hermitage Management LLC** and **PPM America, Inc.** in the acquisition of Spanish Trail Country Club Inc. via a credit bid, as part of Spanish Trail’s Chapter 11 case
- **JAB Insurance**, the global insurance business of JAB Holding Co. S.à r.l., in connection with its acquisition of Columbian Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Illinois-based subsidiary Columbian Life Insurance Co. through a state court-supervised process pursuant to a proposed plan of rehabilitation
- **Key Safety Systems, Inc. (KSS)** in connection with its \$1.6 billion cross-border acquisition of substantially all of the global assets (other than assets related to phase-stabilized ammonium nitrate (PSAN) airbag inflators) and operations of Japan-based Takata Corporation through a complex series of cross-border M&A and restructuring transactions, including Chapter 11 proceedings, a civil rehabilitation bankruptcy proceeding in Japan, and recognition proceedings in the U.S. and Canada. KSS was granted the protection of a channeling injunction to shield KSS from tort claims arising on account of Takata’s manufacturing and sale of PSAN airbag inflators. Following the transaction, KSS emerged as the world’s second-largest airbag manufacturer

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- **Lucid Group, Inc.** in its acquisition of select assets and manufacturing facilities in Arizona from Nikola Corporation through a Chapter 11 sale process
 - **a multibillion-dollar fund** in connection with its proposed acquisition of Akorn, Inc. in connection with Akorn's Chapter 11 cases
 - **a multibillion-dollar fund** in connection with its bid for substantially all the assets of Proterra Inc. pursuant to the electric vehicle battery manufacturer's Chapter 11 cases filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
 - **Norwest Equity Partners** in connection with its acquisition of certain affiliates of Clover Technologies Group, LLC
 - **a private company** in connection with its pursuit and proposed acquisition of certain of Akorn Inc.'s assets as part of its Chapter 7 liquidation
 - **second-lien lenders and certain third-lien lenders** in connection with the acquisition of a power plan pursuant to the Chapter 11 prepackaged restructuring of Entegra Power Group, LLC
 - **Zell Credit Opportunities Master Fund, L.P.** in the debt-for-equity swap in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of Delta Petroleum Corporation

Insiders Seeking to Buy Back Businesses

- **a family office and private investment firm** in connection with a potential plan sponsorship of certain funds that filed for Chapter 11 in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- **the founder of a chain of more than 400 primary care and urgent care clinics** nationwide in connection with both his board and executive role and his bid to buy back his business
- **LAS Capital LLC** in connection with its acquisition of the assets of electric vehicle manufacturer Lordstown Motor Corp. pursuant to its Chapter 11 cases filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- **Lynn Tilton** in connection with the DIP financing and proposed acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Dura Automotive LLC as part of Dura's Chapter 11 restructuring
- **Mr. Jeffrey A. Leerink and the management team** with respect to their Section 363 acquisition of Leerink Partners from Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) in connection with SVB's Chapter 11 case
- **TTAM** in its \$305 million acquisition of 23andMe Holding Co. under Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code
- **The Washington Group** in connection with its DIP loan and proposed acquisition of substantially all the assets of Dominion Diamond through a CCAA (Canadian bankruptcy)

Distressed Investors and Creditors

- **the unsecured creditors' committee of AMR Corporation**, the parent company of American Airlines, in the company's Chapter 11 case
- **Black Diamond Capital Management, L.L.C.** its secured loan to HGIM Holdings, LLC, a marine transportation company specializing in offshore supply and vessel support for deepwater operations
- **Callidus Capital Corporation** in connection with the restructuring of its secured loan to global automotive supplier JD Norman Industries, Inc.
- **Clear Blue Specialty Insurance Company and its affiliates** in connection with the Chapter 11 cases of Vesttoo Ltd. filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- **Del Monte Pacific Limited** in connection with a liability management transaction that facilitated a new "super-priority" financing arrangement that provided approximately \$240 million of new money to a newly formed U.S. subsidiary of Del Monte Foods Inc.
- **an affiliate of EF Capital Management** in connection with its investment in Mobex Global International, Inc., a multinational automotive supplier specializing in the design, engineering and manufacturing of lightweight, precision-cast and machined aluminum components
- **Equity Group Investments LLC** in connection with subordinated financings to a subsidiary of Emmis Communications Corporation and in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of MiddleBrook Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- **Health Evolution Partners and affiliates** in connection with the Chapter 11 of its portfolio company MacKeyser Holdings, LLC, including with respect to originating a DIP loan
- **Iconical Investments II LP** in connection with its secured loan, DIP loan and the \$75 million disposition of Rdio, Inc., to Pandora Media, Inc.
- **JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.** in connection with the modification of a \$1.195 billion senior secured loan and \$475 million mezzanine loan originated for the development of the American Dream mall in New Jersey
- **Silver Point Capital, L.P.** in connection with multiple matters, including its secured loan to and proposed acquisition of the Standard Register Company and its secured loan to and divestiture of Nautic Global Group, Inc.
- **the U.K. Pension Trustee** in connection with each of the Reader's Digest and Visteon's Chapter 11 cases
- **Volta Trucks** in connection with the Proterra Inc. Chapter 11 cases filed in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- **Ziff Brothers Investments** in connection with the Weinstein Company out-of-court restructuring

Ron E. Meisler

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Mr. Meisler also has extensive experience regarding the intersection of U.K. pension law and U.S. bankruptcy law, and in that regard has advised a *Fortune* 500 company regarding mitigation of U.K. pension regulatory risk. In addition, Mr. Meisler has extensive experience with respect to U.S.-defined benefit pension plans and has solved complex issues and negotiated resolutions with the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation in connection with numerous pension plans (both large and small). His experience also includes advising executives and boards in connection with troubled companies, including the representation of **Antonio Perez**, the former CEO of Kodak, in connection with Kodak's Chapter 11 case.

Mr. Meisler has been repeatedly selected for inclusion in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* and *The Best Lawyers in America*, which named him its 2027 Chicago Corporate Law Lawyer of the Year for his distressed M&A representations and its 2022 Chicago Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law Lawyer of the Year. He has also been recognized as Highly Regarded by *IFLR1000* and named one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Global Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers and 500 Leading Lawyers in America, as well as honored by *Turnarounds & Workouts* magazine as one of its Outstanding Restructuring Lawyers and twice as one of its Outstanding Young Restructuring Lawyers. Additionally, in 2020, Mr. Meisler was named as a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy. He is a frequent guest lecturer on topics of distressed transactions and bankruptcy law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, the Wharton School of Business and the University of Michigan Law School, where he is also an adjunct professor.