

Michael Howald

Partner

Private Credit

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Michael Howald represents administrative agents, private lending institutions, banks, private equity sponsors and borrowers in a wide range of leverage lending transactions.

Experience provides insights about the marketplace that benefit clients

The middle market lending institutions that make up Michael's client base need competent counsel to help them understand the terms of the loans and find solutions to any impasses that may arise while negotiating terms. Michael understands the needs and priorities of his clients and often raises questions or issues that his clients had not previously considered. His goal is to assure that every deal a client makes accurately reflects their intentions.

In addition, Michael provides a highly informed view of the market because he deals with a large amount of transactions for clients around the world ranging from the lower middle to large cap. He's able to see market trends that may start at one end and filter through the rest of the market over time.

Prior to joining the firm, Michael was a capital markets and bank lending associate at a large New York firm that was consistently ranked by *Bloomberg* as a leading advisor to US high-yield-bond underwriters and lead arrangers in leveraged loans.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Ones to Watch
    - Banking and Finance Law, 2025–2026

News

- Katten's Rising Leaders Named to 2026 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® List (August 21, 2025)

Practices

- Private Credit

Education

- JD, University of Pennsylvania Law School
- BA, University of Missouri-Columbia, *summa cum laude, with honors*

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Illinois

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- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Promotes 10 Attorneys to Partner (August 15, 2023)
- *ABF Journal* Features Financing for Jessica Simpson Collection as One of its Deals of the Year (December 27, 2022)
- Katten Assists Fashion Powerhouse Jessica Simpson in Partnership With Second Avenue Partners (May 19, 2022)