

Michaela C. Crocker

Partner

Restructuring

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Michaela Crocker helps clients navigate through the most complex Chapter 11 cases, both traditional and pre-negotiated. Over her career, she has managed plan negotiations, asset sales, debtor-in-possession financing, leases and executory contracts, preference and fraudulent transfer matters, and bankruptcy appeals.

Sophisticated counsel rooted in the ability to see the big picture

Clients from across the country rely on Michaela's deep experience and business-oriented approach. She regularly represents debtors, creditors, and Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 trustees with insolvency matters that range in complexity. Michaela is well versed in the unique needs of clients in the retail, telecommunications, manufacturing and energy sectors.

Michaela served as a law clerk to the Honorable Barbara J. Houser of the US Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas, allowing her to work closely with bankruptcy judges in Texas and beyond. While in law school, she served as articles editor of *SMU Law Review*.

Representative Experience

- Represented manufacturer of precision machinery and equipment in the global restructuring, refinancing, and sale of its manufacturing operations located in the United States, China, the European Union, and other countries across the globe.
- Routinely represents midstream oil and gas companies in multiple Chapter 11 and potential Chapter 11 filings throughout the United States.
- Represented more than 100 affiliated debtors in a pre-negotiated Chapter 11 case based on a debt-for equity exchange that was confirmed within 75 days of case filing.*
- Represented debtors in the liquidation of one of the largest retail furniture chains in Texas.*
- Represented the Chapter 11 trustee of a holding company that owed non-debtor operating subsidiaries engaged in

Practices

- Distressed and Special Situations Investing
- Real Estate
- Restructuring

Industries

- Energy
- Manufacturing and Industrials Private Equity

Education

- JD, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, *Order of the Coif*
- BBA, New Mexico State University, *Regent's Scholar*

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Court Admissions

- US Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- US District Court, Northern District of Texas
- US District Court, Western District of Texas
- US District Court, Eastern District of Texas

Professional & Community Involvement

- Attorneys Serving the Community
- State Bar of Texas, Bankruptcy Law Section
- International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation

telecommunications and media businesses in the United States, Virgin Islands, Martinique and Guadeloupe.*

- Represented multiple debtors subject to mass tort liability seeking to establish asbestos trusts under Section 524(g) of the Bankruptcy Code.*

*Experience prior to Katten

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
  - Bankruptcy/Restructuring, 2025-2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2021–2022, 2026

News

- Katten Earns Top Rankings in the Legal 500 US 2026 Guide (June 10, 2026)
- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Represents Real Estate Investment Trust in Chapter 11 Filing (April 10, 2024)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- *Global Restructuring Review* Profiles Katten's US and UK Insolvency and Restructuring Practice (December 3, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- Michaela Crocker Featured in *Reuters*, *Law360* (October 1, 2020)
- Katten's Busy Bankruptcy Practice Continues to Draw Top Talent (September 21, 2020)

Presentations and Events

- 13th Anniversary Bankruptcy Bench Bar Conference | State Bar of Texas, Bankruptcy Law Section (April 19, 2019) | *Panelist* | *Judges and Law Clerks Panel*

- Turnaround Management Association
- National Association of Women Lawyers

Michaela C. Crocker

Partner

- Bankruptcy Workshop | Federal Bar Association (November 2013) | *Presenter*
- Southern District of Texas Houston/Galveston Bench Bar Conference (June 21–22, 2012) | *Presenter* | *Bankruptcy Case Law Review*
- Fifth Circuit Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Conference (February 22–24, 2012) | *Presenter* | *Best Practices – First Day Motions and Hearings*
- *American College of Bankruptcy Circuit Review* (2011–2012) | *Contributor*
- *Shifting Sands: Claims Transfer Focus* (2003) | *Co-author* | *University of Texas Advanced Business Bankruptcy Seminar*
- *Sarbanes-Oxley—Key Bankruptcy Related Issues* (2002) | *Co-author* | *Dallas Bar Association, Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Section*