

William B. Freeman

Partner

Restructuring

Los Angeles Office | +1.310.788.4703

bill.freeman@katten.com

For more than 30 years, William Freeman has acted as a trusted advisor in high-stakes bankruptcies, workouts and distressed capital markets transactions. Bill is among a handful of go-to attorneys for the most complex insolvency and restructuring matters on the West Coast and across the nation. Widely respected in the legal community, he represents lenders, borrowers and fiduciaries, with particular experience advising banks and other financial institutions.

High-stakes counsel for financial institutions, lenders and fiduciaries

Bill represents regional, national and international banks and financial institutions in some of their most high-profile and high-value matters. His work spans workouts, Chapter 11 proceedings, commercial litigation, Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) issues and distressed-asset sales. Bill's effectiveness stems in part from his experience and contacts with special assets departments and in-house counsel at financial institutions, and other key players in the capital markets space.

In addition to lenders and financial institutions, Bill is frequently retained by court-appointed receivers, trustees, assignees for the benefit of creditors and other fiduciaries. Bill helps them satisfy their unique obligations while finding practical and strategic solutions to their legal issues. Corporate borrowers also rely on him in bankruptcies and restructurings.

Bill frequently represents parties buying, selling or investing in distressed assets, whether in or outside of bankruptcy proceedings. He is also a commercial litigator who represents parties to commercial disputes involving creditors' rights.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2016–2027

Practices

- Corporate
- Distressed and Special Situations Investing
- Financial Markets and Funds
- Financial Markets Litigation and Enforcement
- Infrastructure and P3
- Litigation
- Private Credit
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Finance and Lending
- Restructuring

Industries

- Finance and Financial Markets
- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, University of California College of the Law, San Francisco
- BA, University of Michigan

Bar Admissions

- California

Professional & Community Involvement

- Special Assets Management Association, Board of Directors

William B. Freeman

Partner

- *Chambers USA*
  - Bankruptcy/Restructuring, 2008–2026
- Practical Law Company
  - 2011–2012
- *Super Lawyers*
  - Southern California, 2006–2019
- *The Legal 500 United States*
  - Recommended Attorney, 2022, 2024–2025
- Turnaround Atlas Awards
  - Gaming & Hospitality Turnaround of the Year, 2012

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2027 *Best Lawyers* Guide (August 20, 2026)
- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Katten Celebrates 101 Attorneys Honored by *Best Lawyers*® (August 21, 2025)
- Katten Receives High Marks in the Legal 500 US 2025 Guide (June 11, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)
- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide 2023* (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Katten Ranked Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2022 (June 1, 2022)

William B. Freeman

Partner

- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA* 2021 (May 20, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Rated Top Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2020 (April 23, 2020)
- Katten Lauded Top Ranked Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2019 (April 25, 2019)
- Super Lawyers List Recognized 13 Katten Attorneys in Southern California (January 30, 2019)
- Katten Rated as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2018 (May 3, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys in Southern California Honored on Super Lawyers List (February 16, 2018)
- Katten Recognized as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2017 (May 30, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (March 9, 2017)
- 79 Katten Attorneys Selected for *Best Lawyers in America*® 2017 (August 15, 2016)
- *Chambers USA* 2016 Distinguishes 22 Katten Practices and 50 Attorneys (May 27, 2016)
- Nineteen Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2016 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 20, 2016)
- 91 Katten Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2016 (August 17, 2015)
- Katten Attains 22 Practice and 58 Attorney Rankings by *Chambers USA* 2015 (May 20, 2015)
- Twenty-One Katten Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys in Southern California (January 21, 2015)
- *Chambers USA* 2014 Distinguishes 24 Katten Practices and 54 Attorneys (May 23, 2014)
- Twenty-One Katten Attorneys Recognized on Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (February 10, 2014)

- *Chambers USA* 2013 Recognizes 24 Katten Practices and 49 Attorneys (May 24, 2013)
- Twenty-Two Katten Attorneys Included on 2013 Southern California *Super Lawyers* List (January 21, 2013)
- Katten Team Wins Turnaround Atlas Award for Golden Gaming Restructuring (July 2, 2012)
- Katten Adds Premier Team of Restructuring, Finance Attorneys (June 11, 2012)

Publications

- District Court Denies Distressed Funds the Right to Vote on Bankruptcy Plan (May 5, 2014)
- Municipal Bankruptcies: An Overview and Recent History of Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code (July 23, 2013)
- Ninth Circuit Holds That Debt Can Be Recharacterized as Equity (June 5, 2013)
- Promises to Keep—Lender Beware: California Supreme Court Expands Parol Evidence Fraud Exception (February 20, 2013)
- Ninth Circuit Prohibits Bankruptcy Courts from Entering Judgments on Fraudulent Conveyance Claims Against Non-Claimants (December 13, 2012)

Presentations and Events

- IMN's Bank Special Assets West (July 14–15, 2026)