



Paul J. Keenan Jr.

Shareholder

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Restructuring & Bankruptcy

Paul Keenan is a shareholder in the Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice. Paul's practice includes the representation of corporate debtors and creditors in bankruptcy cases, receiverships, assignments for the benefit of creditors, loan workouts, asset sales, wind downs and UCC foreclosures. He represents clients in courts across Florida and nationwide, including wide-ranging experience before the bankruptcy courts in Delaware. Paul also provides insolvency-related structuring advice and legal opinions in connection with complex financial transactions. He is a past President of the Bankruptcy Bar Association for the Southern District of Florida.

Paul has substantial experience in cross-border bankruptcies and restructurings. He speaks Spanish and has extensive experience living and working in Latin America and the Caribbean. He is a Fellow of INSOL International for having completed an intensive course in cross-border restructurings. Among other accomplishments in this area, Paul was one of the lead restructuring lawyers for Satélites Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V., whose restructuring of \$420 million of debt was awarded the "Restructuring Deal of the Year Award" by *Latin Lawyer* magazine. Paul was also one of the lead attorneys in obtaining official recognition in Colombia of a U.S. chapter 11 bankruptcy case under the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross-Border Insolvency for a company operating in both the United States and Colombia, which was the first time the courts of Colombia had granted such recognition.

Before attending law school, Paul served as an officer in the United States Navy on active duty for seven years.

Areas of Concentration

- > Domestic and cross-border corporate restructurings
- > Bankruptcy litigation
- > Sales of distressed assets
- > Loan workouts
- > Secured transactions
- > Receiverships

- > Assignments for the benefit of creditors
- > UCC foreclosures
- > Insolvency opinions

Significant Representations

Domestic

- > Represented Liberty Medical, a nationwide provider of medical supplies and equipment, in its Chapter 11 reorganization case filed in Delaware.
- > Represented Satélites Mexicanos, S.A. de C.V., a Mexican satellite company, in its restructuring of more than \$400 million in debt through a prepackaged Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in Delaware.
- > Represented Wickes Furniture, a national retail furniture chain with more than \$400 million in annual revenue, in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in Delaware.
- > Represented the debtor-in-possession lender for HMX, LLC, the manufacturer of men's clothing by Hickey Freeman and Hart Schaffner Marx, in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in the Southern District of New York.
- > Represented a private equity firm in securing the "stalking horse" position in a \$60 million "363" asset sale in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case of Arch Aluminum & Glass filed in Florida.
- > Represented an ad hoc committee of aircraft purchasers in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in Delaware for Eclipse Aviation, a jet aircraft manufacturer.
- > Represented an ad hoc committee of off-track betting facilities in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in Delaware for Magna Entertainment, a national owner and operator of horse racetracks.
- > Represented a national mortgage loan originator and servicer in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy case in Arizona.
- > Represented a Chapter 11 trustee in the bankruptcy case filed in Florida for a regional retail chain with over 60 stores in the southeastern United States.
- > Represented a South Florida automobile dealership in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in California for an automobile manufacturer.
- > Represented the largest creditor in the receivership of a 500-unit condominium association in South Florida.
- > Represented a major cruise line in the negotiation, drafting and bankruptcy court approval of a DIP financing facility to facilitate the restructuring of one of its crucial vendors in Florida.

International

- > Represented a large Caribbean telecommunications company in all aspects of its corporate reorganization and restructuring of \$500 million in debt.
- > Represented a Mexican satellite company in its prepackaged Chapter 11 bankruptcy case filed in Delaware.

- > Represented the largest creditor (\$20 million) in the bankruptcy case of an engineering and design company filed in Germany.
- > Represented creditors in various bankruptcy cases and out-court-restructurings in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Argentina.
- > Represented U.S. investors in the corporate restructuring of an Argentine charter airline.

Professional and Community Involvement

- > Board Member, Broward Navy Days, Inc., Board of Directors, 2014-Present
- > Member, American Bankruptcy Institute
 - Membership Relationship Manager, International Committee, 2014-2015
- > Member, American Bar Association
- > Member, INSOL International
 - Chair, Latin America Committee
 - Chair, Model Law Implementation Steering Committee
- > President, Bankruptcy Bar Association, Southern District of Florida, 2009-2010

Awards and Recognition

- > Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2017
- > Listed, *Chambers USA Guide*, 2014-2016
- > Listed, *The Legal 500 United States*, 2011 and 2016
- > Member, Winning Team, M&A Advisor Awards, "Healthcare and Life Sciences Deal of the Year (from \$10mm to \$500mm)" for the Chapter 11 sale of ATLS Acquisition, LLC, dba Liberty Medical Supply, Inc., 2015
- > Member, Winning Team, Global M&A Network's Turnaround Atlas Awards, "Turnaround of the Year - Small Markets" for the restructuring and sale of ATLS Acquisition, LLC (dba Liberty Medical), 2015
- > Member, Winning Team, M&A Advisor's Turnaround Awards, "Restructuring of the Year (Over \$100mm to \$500mm)" and Consumer Services Deal of the Year" for the restructuring and sale of ATLS Acquisition, LLC (dba Liberty Medical), 2015
- > Member, first Next Generation class of the International Insolvency Institute
- > Fellow, INSOL International
- > Member, Winning Team, Global M&A Network's Turnaround Atlas Award, "Chapter 11 Reorganization of the Year (Over \$100 million to \$1 billion)," for the Chapter 11 reorganization of HMX, LLC, 2014

- > Member, Winning Team, *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* "Law Firm of the Year" in Bankruptcy & Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency & Reorganization Law and Litigation – Bankruptcy, 2013
- > Finalist, *Daily Business Review*, "Top Dealmaker of the Year - Corporate (International) Category," 2012
- > Member, Winning Team, *Latin Lawyer's* "Deal of the Year - Restructuring" Award, 2012
- > Member, team selected by *Chambers and Partners*, "Corporate & Finance - Law Firm of the Year (Florida-Based)" Award, Chambers Latin America Awards, 2010
- > Listed, *Super Lawyers* magazine, *Florida Super Lawyers*, "Rising Star," 2009-2010
- > Team Member, "Focus on Latin America - Law Firm of the Year (Florida-Based)," Chambers Latin America Inaugural Awards for Excellence, 2009

Internship

- > Summer Associate, Baker & McKenzie, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1998
 - Responsible for drafting and translating legal documents for numerous transactions, including the privatization of a Central American telephone company.

Military Experience

- > Officer, United States Navy, 1990-1997
 - USS Nassau (LHA-4)
 - Military advisor to Colombian Navy and Coast Guard, U.S. Embassy, Bogota, Colombia

Articles, Publications & Lectures

Articles

- > Co-Author, "A Close Look at the Different Forms of Exit Financing," *Law360*, April 9, 2014
- > Co-Author, "[How To Reduce Or Eliminate The Need For Exit Financing](#)," *Law360*, April 2, 2014
- > Co-Author, "Understanding Exit Financing," *Law360*, March 26, 2014
- > Co-Author, "[Understand Your Options For Exit Financing](#)," *Law360*, May 29, 2013
- > Co-Author, "In Re Vitro - Clarity Pending," *Law360*, June 20, 2012
- > Co-Author, "Restructuring and Insolvency: United States," *PLC Cross-border Restructuring and Insolvency Handbook*, 2011
- > Co-Author, "The Latest in Exit Financing Structures," *Law360*, 2011
- > Co-Author, "Uncertainty for Prepackaged Bankruptcies in Mexico," *Law360*, 2011
- > Co-Author, "Chapter 15: the US cross-border insolvency law," *PLC Cross-border Restructuring and Insolvency Handbook*, 2007-2008

- > Co-Author, "Trading Claims and Interests," *Bankruptcy Business Acquisitions*, Chapter 30, 2006
- > Co-Author, "Reforming Latin American Insolvency Law," *PLC Cross-border Restructuring and Insolvency Handbook*, Practical Law Company, 2006/2007
- > Author, "Chapter 15: A New Chapter to Meet the Growing Need to Regulate Cross-Border Insolvencies," *Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Vol. 15, No. 2, 2006
- > Author, "The 1998 Argentine Labor Reform Act: The Perpetuation of an Incoherent State?" 54 *U. Miami L. Rev.* 125, 1999
- > Author, "Protection for Foreign Debtors and Creditors," *Latin Lawyer*, Volume 4, Issue 3

Speeches

- > Speaker, "Stressed and Distressed Investment in Latin America," 23rd Annual Distressed Investing Conference, New York, NY, November 28, 2016
- > Speaker, "DIP Financing," INSOL International Mexico City One Day Seminar, Mexico City, Mexico, March 1, 2016
- > Speaker, "Opportunities and Obstacles Under New(er) Insolvency Rules in Latin America," 2015 Cross-Border Insolvency Symposium, American Bankruptcy Institute, New York, NY, June 18, 2015
- > Speaker, "Distressed Investing Strategies," Debtwire's Distressed Debt Investment Strategies: Spotlight Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 21, 2013 and October 15, 2014
- > Moderator, "Life After Vitro: Legal Developments in Both Mexico and The United States," III's 14th Annual International Insolvency Conference, Mexico City, Mexico, June 9, 2014
- > Speaker, "International Distressed Investing – Latin America," M&A Advisor's Distressed Investing Summit, Palm Beach, FL, March 10-11, 2014
- > Speaker, "Investment Opportunities," Brazilian M&A and Private Equity Forum, Debtwire, São Paulo, Brazil, August, 21, 2013
- > Speaker, "Buying and Selling Troubled Companies," International Cross-border Insolvency and Restructuring, INSOL International, São Paulo, Brazil, June 13, 2013
- > Speaker, "Distressed Investing Strategies," Debtwire's Latin American Distressed Debt Investment Strategies, New York, NY, April 11, 2013
- > Speaker, "Pari Passu Teleconference," American Task Force Argentina Teleconference, January 8, 2013
- > Speaker, "Cultural Considerations in Cross-Border Proceedings," Annual Review of Insolvency Law, Montréal, Québec, February 8, 2013
- > Speaker, "Overview of Recent Legal Developments," EMTA's Recent Legal Developments in Argentine Debt, New York, NY, January 7, 2013
- > Speaker, "Future Development of Restructuring Practice in Mexico," American Bankruptcy Institute's US-Mexico Restructuring Symposium, Mexico City, Mexico, November 7, 2012

- > Moderator, "Distressed Debt Investment Strategies: Spotlight Mexico," Debtwire Breakfast Panel, Mexico City, Mexico, September 12, 2012
- > Speaker, "The Impact and Influence of the Government on High Profile Insolvency Cases in Latin America," INSOL Annual Regional Conference, Miami, FL, May 20-22, 2012
- > Speaker, "Turnaround Management: A Key Factor in Key Insolvency Restructurings," INSOL International Buenos Aires One Day Seminar, November 2011
- > Speaker, "The Latest in Exit Financing Structures," New York, New York, June 2011
- > Speaker, "Cooperation Between Courts in Jurisdictions that Adopted the UNCITRAL Model Law," Panel Chair, INSOL International, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 2009
- > Speaker, Cross-Border Restructurings, Latin Lawyer Webinar, April 2009
- > Speaker, Colombia Training Programme on Cross-Border Insolvency Law sponsored by INSOL International, Bogota - Cali - Medellin - Cartagena, August 2007
- > Speaker, Roundtable for the Dominican Republic's Council on Competitiveness, Santo Domingo, DR, January 2006

Education

J.D., *magna cum laude*, University of Miami School of Law, 2000

- > Editor and Contributing Author, *University of Miami Law Review*
- > Foreign Student in Residence at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law

M.M.A., University of Rhode Island, 1996

- > Master of Marine Affairs

B.A., Tufts University, 1990

- > University of Salamanca, Spain, 1989

Languages

- > Spanish

Admitted to Practice

- > Florida
- > U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- > U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida
- > U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- > U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida
- > U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts
- > U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit