

Eric Walker

Partner



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Business Restructuring

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Chicago

Eric maintains a national practice focused on financial restructuring, bankruptcy and litigation. He has represented virtually every major stakeholder in bankruptcy proceedings throughout the US. While Eric has a range of restructuring experience spanning multiple sectors, he has a particular understanding of high growth, technology driven businesses, including in the healthcare, life sciences, energy, finance, education and agriculture industries. Eric also has deep experience restructuring for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in the healthcare and senior living industries.

Eric is recognized as a leading bankruptcy practitioner by Chambers USA, Lawdragon, M&A Advisor, the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Clients describe Eric as “a brilliant restructuring lawyer” who “outmaneuvers the opposition every time.” Eric is a former member of the board of directors for the ABI and serves on the advisory board of the annual ABI Health Care Program. Eric is a thought leader and frequent writer and speaker on bankruptcy and corporate governance issues, including as a guest lecturer for the Startups and the Law class at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Eric’s representative matters include:

- Serving as counsel to an alternative energy company in out-of-court workout
- Serving as counsel to the Board of Directors of a public agtech business on fund raising and corporate governance issues
- Serving as counsel to a fintech business in out-of-court workout
- Acting as counsel for private equity sponsors in various distressed healthcare investments, such as:
 - An out-of-court restructuring for a behavioral health business*
 - A converted Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding involving a medical supply distribution business*
 - A Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act class action and breach of fiduciary duty adversary proceedings (as defense counsel) involving regional ambulance businesses*
- Serving as counsel to the official committee of unsecured creditors in senior living Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings across the US, such as:
 - Lutheran Life Communities – Two continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) and one skilled nursing facility (SNF) in Illinois and one CCRC in Indiana (Bankr. N.D. Ill.)
 - Clare Oaks – CCRC in Bartlett, Illinois (Bankr. N.D. Ill.)*

- Henry Ford Village – CCRC in Dearborn, Michigan (Bankr. E.D. Mich.)*
- Amsterdam House – CCRC in Port Washington, New York (Bankr. E.D.N.Y)
- California-Nevada Methodist Homes – Two CCRCs in Northern California (Bankr. N.D. Cal.)*
- The Prospect-Woodward Home – CCRC in Keene, New Hampshire (Bankr. D.N.H.)*
- Serving as counsel for several nonprofit senior living owners and operators in both in-court and out-of-court restructurings across the country
 - Lifespace Communities (Dallas, Texas)
 - Friendship Senior Options (Schaumburg, Illinois)
 - SantaFe HealthCare (Gainesville, Florida)
- Acting as counsel to the official committee of unsecured creditors in community hospital Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, such as:
 - Mercy Hospital (Bankr. N.D. Ill.)*
 - Watsonville Community Hospital (Bankr. N.D. Cal.)*
- Acting as counsel for an owner and operator of urgent care clinics in out-of-court restructuring and divestment strategies
- Acting as counsel for a private credit fund in workout negotiations for an owner and operator of urgent care clinics
- Acting as counsel to an investment group in negotiating a stalking horse bid, debtor-in-possession financing and plan sponsorship for a publicly traded healthcare company in Chapter 11*
- Serving as special litigation counsel for a medical diagnostic lab company in a Chapter 11 proceeding, and then successfully obtaining a preliminary injunction requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to pay more than \$5 million in Medicare reimbursements post-petition, notwithstanding a prepetition fraud suspension*
- Serving as counsel to a successful stalking horse bidder in *In re Health Diagnostic Laboratory*, which was named the 2016 Restructuring Deal of the Year (Under \$100M) by M&A Advisor*

* Representation handled prior to joining Cooley

Education

University of Connecticut School of Law JD, Connecticut Law Review, 2006

Miami University BSBA, Finance, 2000

Admissions & Credentials

Illinois

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Bankruptcy/Restructuring – Illinois (2021 – 2026)

Lawdragon: 500 Leading US Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers (2022 – 2025)

The Legal 500 US: Restructuring (Including Bankruptcy): Corporate (2025)

American Bankruptcy Institute: 40 Under 40 (2017)

Memberships & Affiliations

American Bankruptcy Institute, member

