

Mark A. Castillo

PARTNER

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After decades of practice at both a global law firm and my own boutique firm, I appreciate that no matter the size of the issue, my clients care deeply about their companies and their cases. From billion-dollar restructurings to six-figure lawsuits, my clients know I am 100% invested in their success and will pursue their best interests with indefatigable determination.

Mark Castillo has developed a diverse practice with significant experience in all areas of bankruptcy law, litigation, and corporate matters. Through representation of numerous Chapter 11 debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, official committees, and Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 trustees, Mr. Castillo has developed a broad knowledge of the law and the Bankruptcy Code, including pre-bankruptcy planning and prepackaged acquisitions, pre-negotiated reorganizations, bankruptcy liquidation and non-bankruptcy dissolution, assumption, assignment, and rejection of leases and contracts, utility and reclamation issues, claims objections, avoidance and recovery actions, disclosure-statement and plan drafting and negotiation, and various confirmation and post-confirmation issues. Mr. Castillo has tried suits involving millions of dollars in bankruptcy-related claims, including claims of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, turnover, conversion, and contract claims, and has litigated or settled millions more in preference and fraudulent-transfer claims for both plaintiffs and defendants. Mr. Castillo represents numerous clients in all areas of corporate formation and management, collection of difficult receivables, and handling of various operational matters.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Bankruptcy
- Litigation, Disputes, Appeals

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Representative Bankruptcy Engagements

- Successfully reorganized construction company with operations in California, Nevada, and Texas, and helped litigate and settle over \$200 million in alleged tort and fraudulent transfer claims.

- Successfully reorganized restaurant services company with operations in New York and New Jersey, and helped settle over \$13 million in alleged tort claims.
- Obtained writ of mandamus from appeals court holding that trial court abused discretion in denying various pre-trial motions. *Flightline Escrow, LLC v. Leavelle*, 720 S.W.3d 415 (Tex.App.—El Paso 2025).
- Obtained final judgment from Fort Worth District Court denying entirety of over \$3 million in conspiracy and fraud claims against client.
- Obtained discharge of nearly \$1,000,000 in client's alleged nondischargeable debts and attorney fees under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523(a)(6)). *VL Wallace Invs., LLC v. Hartman (In re Hartman)*, 2021 Bankr. LEXIS 3154*, 2021 WL 5343923 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 15, 2021).
- Obtained discharge of client's debts creditor alleged to be nondischargeable under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523(a)(2), (a)(4), and (a)(6)). *In re Fritz*, AP 16-3030, 2017 WL 1229706, at *1 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Apr. 3, 2017).
- Prevented creditors' efforts to obtain client's homestead and annuity payments and proceeds to pay prior judgment. *Hollis v. Hollis*, 2016 WL 7985269 (E.D. Tex. June 6, 2016), aff'd 2017 WL 359659 (5th Cir. January 24, 2017).
- Representation of defendant client resulting in the court of appeals affirming the trial court's striking of all opposing evidence and granting firm's motion for final summary judgment in favor of client on over half million dollar guarantee suit. *LSREF2 Apex (TX) II, LLC v. Blomquist*, 05-14-00851-CV, 2015 WL 4554522 (Tex. App.—Dallas July 29, 2015, n. pet. h.).
- Defense of individual and corporate clients resulting in bankruptcy court approval of the settlement of multiple claims against the clients, the balance of which claims were later dismissed in their entirety through final summary judgment obtained by the firm from the underlying trial court. *In re Margaux City Lights Partners, Ltd.*, N. 12-35828-BJH, 2014 WL 6674922 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2014).
- Representation of investor clients in contested claims litigation (i) obtaining allowance of over \$7 million in claims for clients; (ii) prosecuting clients' claim objection resulting in the bankruptcy court's reduction of competing \$1.5 million claim by over \$1.2 million; and (iii) subsequently defending the appeal of the bankruptcy court's decision, resulting in the appellate court's complete affirmance of the bankruptcy court's reduction of the claim. *In re Margaux City Lights Partners, Ltd.*, N. 12-35828-BJH, 2014 WL 6668982 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 20, 2014), aff'd July 16, 2015.
- Representation of several clients in purchase of two downtown Dallas properties for \$5.25 million and in the restructuring of a Dallas real estate partnership in contentious Dallas reorganization case.
- Representation of publicly traded real estate company with over 4,000 commercial properties in 50 states and territories in connection with reorganization of tenant companies operating in 23 states.
- Representation of equity holder and creditor in reorganization case of local home builder.
- Debtor representation in Chapter 11 reorganization cases. Recent corporate reorganization clients include:
 - Skilled nursing facilities in DFW metroplex;
 - Skilled nursing home in East Texas;
 - Dallas and Plano hotels;
 - Full-service real estate and brokerage firm;
 - Real estate holding companies;
 - National metal manufacturers and providers;
 - Nationwide trucking and logistics companies;
 - National energy company specializing in drilling and snubbing oil and gas wells in addition towning significant interests in gas plays in the Barnett Shale;

- Texas energy company specializing in deep oil and gas formations in East Texas and surrounding areas;
- Debt-management servicing company;
- Energy company operating in New Mexico;
- Dallas area restaurants;
- Telecom;
- Radio broadcast station.
- Representation of Official Committees of Unsecured Creditors in Chapter 11 reorganizations of mortgage lenders and trade-show services.
- Representation of secured and unsecured creditors in significant bankruptcy cases in Dallas, Fort Worth, Plan, Corpus Christi, Tyler, Houston and San Antonio. Recent clients include nationally recognized oil and gas exploration and development company, global engineering and consulting firm, fuel and convenience-store operator, plastics manufacturer, packaging and bottling companies, telecommunications provider, computer-equipment supplier, healthcare provider, and national energy and construction companies.
- Representation of Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 Trustees in the Northern and Eastern Districts of Texas in liquidations of companies within various industries.
- Defense of numerous creditors, including a factoring company, law firm, and individuals and companies involved in various other industries, against millions of dollars in preference and fraudulent-transfer demands and lawsuits.
- Successful resolution or recovery on behalf of debtors and trustees of millions of dollars in avoidance and recovery demands and lawsuits related to preferences and fraudulent transfers.
- Representation in solicitation of votes on multi-billion dollar prepackaged plan of reorganization for various subsidiaries of one of nation's largest energy companies.
- Debtor representation in pre-negotiated Chapter 11 reorganization cases in Delaware.
- Counsel in claims-resolution process following confirmation of liquidation plan of debtors.
- Acquisition of a majority stake in large corporation through a prepackaged Chapter 11 reorganization in the Northern District of Texas.
- Debtor's counsel in Chapter 11 bankruptcy of real estate owner and landlord.
- Debtors' counsel in successful Chapter 11 reorganization in the Northern District of Texas for twelve corporate debtors comprising the nation's largest consolidator of antique malls with locations in Texas, California, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, and Ohio.
- Debtor's counsel in successful Chapter 11 reorganization of Dallas retailer and wholesaler of specialty frozen custard and other items.
- Debtors' counsel in successful Chapter 11 reorganization in the Eastern District of Texas of one of the State's largest general construction companies.
- Represented unsecured creditors' committees during Chapter 11 proceedings, including the formation, oversight, and governance of the committee, investigation of the underlying debtor's assets and the pre-petition activities of officers and directors, and the evaluation of actions proposed to be taken by the debtor during the course of the Chapter 11 proceeding.

Representative Non-Bankruptcy Engagements

- Representation of numerous governmental entities and taxing authorities throughout State of Texas, including school districts, boards of trustee, counties, and highway departments. Scope of work includes matters relating to collection, bankruptcy, ad valorem taxation, compliance with Open Meetings Act and

Public Information Act, and board governance and conflicts of interest under Texas Tax Code and Texas Education Code.

- Assisted client investor to sufficiently plead claims and obtain final judgment exceeding \$500,000 against broker and conspirators for violation of the Securities Exchange Act and related causes of action. *Lohr v. Gilman*, 248 F. Supp. 3d 796 (N.D. Tex. 2017).
- Representation of individual and corporate guarantors in millions of defaulted debts.
- Restructuring of over \$36 million of corporate debt and personal guarantees of closely held businesses in the plastic-manufacturing and packaging industry.
- Successful resolution through litigation of over \$600,000 in personal guarantees in closely held medical imaging company.
- Representation of numerous clients on recoveries of thousands of dollars on accounts receivable and breaches of contract.
- Defense of both individuals and corporations against lawsuits alleging fraud, defalcation of duty, breaches of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, tortious interference, and conversion.
- Defense of various individuals against disgorgement judgments previously obtained by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and defense against SEC Receiver actions.
- Defense of national crafts retailer against hundreds of thousands of dollars demanded in copyright-infringement lawsuit.
- Defense of national insurer resulting in a take-nothing judgment and appeal in a \$2.5 million suit related to disputed workers' compensation, disability, and related insurance coverage and demands.

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

- University of Chicago Law School, J.D., 2000
- The University of Texas at Dallas, B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies, *summa cum laude*, 1997

Bar + Court Admissions

- Licensed in Texas
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District, Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District, Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District, Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District, Texas

HONORS & AWARDS

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (BL Rankings), Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation – Bankruptcy, 2026
- Leading Global Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers, *Lawdragon 500*, 2025-2026
- Texas Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, 2015-2026

- Texas Rising Stars, *Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, 2005, 2007-2015
 - Best Lawyers in Dallas, Bankruptcy & Workout, *D Magazine*, 2014, 2020, 2023-2025
 - Minority Business Leader, *Dallas Business Journal*, 2018
 - Master, Honorable John C. Ford American Inn of Court, 2015-2026
 - Barrister, Honorable John C. Ford American Inn of Court, 2012-2014
 - Maintaining Member, The College of the State Bar of Texas, 2010-2026
 - Thomas R. Mulroy Prize for Appellate Advocacy; C-Chair, Moot Court Board, University of Chicago Law School
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PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Pupilage Group Leader, Honorable John C. Ford American Inn of Court, 2019-2025
 - National Semi Finals and Finals Judge, Business Professionals of America, 2023-2024
 - Member, College of the State Bar of Texas
 - Member, Dallas Bar Association
 - Member, State Bar of Texas
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PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, Bankruptcy Fundamentals for Education Creditors: Stays, Claims, Contracts, and Plans, Dallas Bar Association's Education Law Section, May 19, 2026
- Presenter, Lender Liability & Bankruptcy, SW Graduate School of Banking at SMU Cox, April 27, 2026
- Speaker, A Guide to Weighing the Evidence to Reach the Right Verdict on Law School, Law Firm, and Practice Area, The University of Texas at Dallas Pre-Law Advising Center's "Law for All" 2026 Conference, April 24, 2026
- Co-Author, "Keys to an Enforceable Bankruptcy-Blocking Provision," *DBA Headnotes*, April 2026
- Moderator, The Role of Housing Programs in the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Keynote Panel of Housing Authorities of Texas Symposium (HATS), November 13, 2025
- Co-Author, "It's Going To Rain Eventually, So Why Not Plan Now?," *Carrington Coleman Capital Newsletter* 2023, Industrial & Other Real Estate Issue, February 2023
- Speaker, The Work/Life Balance of a Litigation Attorney, The University of Texas at Dallas Law Conference, held in Dr. Anthony Champagne Courtroom, April 8, 2022
- Presenter, A Primer on The Small Business Reorganization Act, 16th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Conference sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, July 2020
- Presenter, A Paralegal's Guide to Bankruptcy, Law Practice CLE, October 2018
- Presenter, Bankruptcy: Top Mistakes Attorneys Make, National Business Institute, September 26, 2018
- Presenter, Unauthored Practice of Law: How Much Can Your Paralegal Do?, 13th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Conference sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, TX, July 21, 2017
- Presenter, Bankruptcy: Critical Changes You Need to Know Now, National Business Institute, June 24, 2016

- Presenter, A Paralegal's Guide to Bankruptcy, National Business Institute, October 8, 2015
- Presenter, Direct and Cross Examination of Witnesses and How to Get in Tax Returns, Schedules, Appraisals, and Other Key Documents, 11th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Conference sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, Texas, July 23-24, 2015
- Presenter, The Means Test from Start to Finish" National Business Institute, April 1, 2015
- Author, "Bankruptcy Quick Tips," National Business Institute, January 2015
- Presenter, Small/Individual Chapter 11's and Big 13's and Preparing for Hearings, 10th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice Conference sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, Texas, July 24-25, 2014
- Presenter, Creditor's Rights in Repossession, National Business Institute, May 6, 2014
- Presenter, Adversary Proceedings Nuts and Bolts from Filing through Appeal, 9th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, Texas, August 8-9, 2013
- Panel Member, What Every Young Lawyer Needs to Know about HOAs, DAYL Lunch & Learn CLE Event, May 8, 2013
- Presenter, A Paralegal's Guide to Bankruptcy, National Business Institute and Institute for Paralegal Education, April 30, 2013
- Presenter, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA): Brief Overview, Identifying Fraudulent Conveyances, and Averting Potential Ethical Problems in Collections, National Business Institute, Fort Worth, Texas, September 18, 2012
- Presenter, Bankruptcy Issues in Collection: A Paralegal's Guide, National Business Institute and Institute for Paralegal Education, June 15, 2012
- Presenter, Dischargeability Actions, Preferences, and Fraudulent Transfers, National Business Institute, Dallas, Texas, April 17, 2012
- Chapter Author, Aspatore Thought Leadership: "Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Law 2012, Market Effects on Real Estate Negotiations, and Case Law Impact on Preservation of Claims for the Estate," January 2012
- Presenter, Bankruptcy During Collections and Ethical Considerations During the Collection Process, National Business Institute, Dallas, Texas, November 3, 2011
- Presenter, Case Evaluation and Claims and Distributions, National Business Institute Seminar, March 24, 2011
- Author, "Inside the Minds: Trends in Commercial Bankruptcy Filings," Thomson Reuters / Aspatore, Liquidating Chapter 11s: New Developments and Strategies, September 2010
- Presenter, Individual and Small Business Bankruptcies under Chapter 11, 6th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, Texas, August 12 – 13, 2010
- Panel Member, Impact of United Operating and Recent Decisions on Preservation of Claims and Defending Claims Post-Confirmation, Dallas-Fort Worth Bankruptcy Court Presentation, June 8, 2010
- Author, "Today's Economic Realities: Planning Ahead for a Bankruptcy Filing...To Potentially Avoid One," *Dallas Business Journal*, September 11, 2009
- Presenter, Small Business Bankruptcies, 5th Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Practice sponsored by The University of Texas School of Law, Galveston, Texas, August 13 – 14, 2009
- Co-Author, "Trustee Resources for Maximization of Estate Recoveries," Tarrant County Bankruptcy Bar,

September 2006

- Panel Member, Nuts & Bolts of Business Bankruptcy, State Bar of Texas, Austin, Texas, May 10, 2006
- Co-Author, "Commencing the Case – The Petition, Creditor Lists, Schedules and Statements, Retention Applications," State Bar of Texas, May 2006
- Author, "Getting the Debtor out of Bankruptcy – The Plan and Disclosure Statement, Plan Solicitation, Confirmation and Implementation," State Bar of Texas, May 2006