



Michael A. Sweet

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Chair of the firm's nationwide Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy Department, Michael is an experienced litigator and bankruptcy attorney who achieves results for his clients by combining collaborative negotiating skills with a hard-hitting, take-no-prisoners approach to dispute resolution and litigation.

In practice for more than 25 years, he has developed a reputation for efficiency and his ability to find creative solutions to seemingly intractable disputes.

Michael is among California's most experienced Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy attorneys. He has been quoted on the subject by national news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *CNBC*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Bloomberg News*, among others. Michael is on the Executive Board of the California Bankruptcy Forum, a Member of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. He is past-President of the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum.

In addition, Michael's diverse practice includes advising companies on cross-border transactions and assisting American companies pursuing investments abroad.

Litigation

Michael is an accomplished litigator who represents plaintiffs and defendants in commercial and employment disputes, receivership cases, probate litigation, creditors' rights issues and class actions. He has brought multiple jury trials to verdict. His clients include technology companies, trustees, receivers and other fiduciaries, financial institutions, small businesses, developers and companies in the hospitality industry.

Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring

In the bankruptcy arena, Michael represents debtors, creditors, creditors' committees and trustees in bankruptcy disputes throughout the state of California and nationally. He takes a creative approach to dispute resolution with the goal of maximizing recovery for clients inside and outside the courtroom. Michael has extensive experience litigating preferences, fraudulent conveyances, claims objections and plan confirmation, and he frequently advises clients in financial distress on bankruptcy avoidance. He has secured multimillion-dollar recoveries for clients in preferential transfer and avoidance action proceedings.

Michael is an appointed Resolution Advocate on the Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution Panel for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Public Entities

Michael represents public entities, including local and state governments and agencies, in disputes in bankruptcy court as well as other courts throughout California. He has assisted multiple government bodies and public agencies in Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy proceedings, and in restructuring their finances to avoid Chapter 9 proceedings. He has also represented a number of public entities in state court receivership matters as well as in the bankruptcy cases of the owners of blighted properties.

Services

- Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy
- Litigation
- International
- Cannabis Law
- Municipal Insolvency
- Government Relations
- Public Finance
- Bankruptcy Trustee
- Israel
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Before Fox Rothschild

Michael has practiced at various bankruptcy and litigation firms throughout California. Prior to his arrival at Fox, he served as chair of the municipal debt restructuring and bankruptcy practice group at a California law firm.

He is a former judicial extern for The Hon. Lisa Hill Fenning of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

Michael has spoken and written extensively on bankruptcy topics, particularly in the arena of government issues related to potential Chapter 9 bankruptcy filings.

Specifically, Michael was approached by national publications to provide commentary following the ruling that declared the City of Stockton, California, eligible for Chapter 9 bankruptcy, as well as following Detroit's bankruptcy filing. He appeared in a variety of news outlets including:

- "[Braced to Remake Itself, Detroit First Awaits Challenges to Bankruptcy Eligibility](#)," - *The New York Times*
- "[Detroit Files for Bankruptcy](#)," - *CNBC*
- "[Judge Orders Detroit to Withdraw Bankruptcy Filing](#)," and "[Detroit Files for Bankruptcy](#)," *CNN Money*
- "[Pension Funds Wary as Bankrupt City Goes to Trial](#)" - *The New York Times*
- "[In Bankruptcy, Stockton Must Decide Pension Issue](#)" - *NPR's Morning Edition*
- "[Judge to Rule on Whether Stockton, CA Can Enter Bankruptcy Protection](#)" - *Fox News*
- "As Reality of Bankruptcy Hits, Stockton Grapples with Hard Decisions" - *Which Way, LA? KCRW Radio*

Bar Admissions

- California
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

Education

- University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law (J.D., 1996)
- Brandeis University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1991)

Memberships

- Bar Association of San Francisco
- Bench-Bar Liaison Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California, Co-Chair
- California Political Attorneys' Association
- California State Democratic Central Committee

Board of Directors

- Commissioner, San Francisco Human Rights Commission (Chair 2011-2014; Vice Chair 2009-2011 and 2016-2020)
- Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum (President, 2019-2020)
- California Bankruptcy Forum, Vice President (Board Member, Past Secretary 2021; Treasurer 2020; Conference Co-Chair, 2020-2021)
- The College Preparatory School, Trustee (Oakland, CA)

Honors & Awards

- Recognized in the *Chambers USA* Guide for Bankruptcy/Restructuring in California (2022)
- Named a "Small Turnaround of the Year" honoree by TMA Chicago/Midwest Chapter (2022)
- Named to the list of "Top 100 Restructuring Professionals: Distinction in Dealmaking" by the *Global M&A Network* (2022)
- Listed as a "Recognized Practitioner" (2021) and "Notable Practitioner" (2020, 2022) in the Legally Israel 100 by *Israel Desks*
- Named a Trailblazer in the West by *The American Lawyer* (2022)
- Selected to a list of the Top 100 Restructuring Professionals by *Global M&A Network*. (2022)

