



Joseph K. Grekin, Partner
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PRACTICES

Bankruptcy Law
Business Litigation
Commercial Law
Debtor/Creditor Rights

Joseph Grekin is an experienced litigator, negotiator and counselor, with expertise in commercial, bankruptcy and general insolvency issues. Mr. Grekin specializes in representing clients at a tactical or financial disadvantage, using creative and novel methods and arguments to fight tenaciously and professionally to achieve favorable results for his clients.

Mr. Grekin has represented businesses and individuals for nearly twenty years in state, federal, bankruptcy, appellate and administrative courts in several states. He has been a cutting-edge advocate for debtors' rights principles in the litigation context, and has successfully advocated for his clients in several published cases on a wide variety of issues. Mr. Grekin has extensive trial experience on commercial and insolvency issues, which makes him an able negotiator and advisor not just in litigation, but in other commercial and bankruptcy venues as well, from business formation to insolvency counseling.

ADMISSIONS & QUALIFICATIONS

State Bar of Michigan, 1994

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 1996

U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan, 2004

U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1996

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1994

University of Michigan, B.A., with honors and high distinction, 1991

SEMINARS

October 2013, presenter, Schafer and Weiner, PLLC, *What They Don't Tell You – The Secrets to Being a Great Expert Witness*

May, 2010, co-presenter at Mega Conference, The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants, *Helping the Fox Count the Hens – A CPA's Role in Chapter 11*

November, 2009, co-presenter at Mega Conference, The Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants' Financial Planning and Advanced Federal Tax Conference, *Tax Issues with Bankruptcy*

2001-02, guest lecturer, Pennsylvania State University, *The Art of Rhetoric and Argument*

PUBLICATIONS

Chmielewski v Xermac, Inc. 457 Mich 593; 580 NW 2d 817 (1998)

Bartell v Lohiser, 25 F.3d 550 (6th Cir. 2000)

Bradacs v Jacobone, 244 Mich 263; 625 NW 2d 108 (2001)

Guzzo v Thompson, 393 F.3d 652 (6th Cir. 2004)

Stocker v Tri-Mount/Bay Harbor Bldg. Co., Inc., 268 Mich App 194; 706 NW 2d 878 (2005)

Mayco Plastics, Inc. v. TRW Vehicle Safety Sys., Inc. (In re Mayco Plastics, Inc.), 389 B.R. 7 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 2008)

Delta Engineered Plastics, LLC v Autolign Mfg Group, Inc., 286 Mich App 155; 777 NW2d 502 (2009)

Simon v. ASIMCO Techs., Inc. (In re Am. Camshaft Specialties, Inc.), 410 B.R. 765 (2009)

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Obtained jury verdict in excess of \$1.35 million against client's treasurer on the basis of conversion and fraud despite limited documentation due to efforts by treasurer, who controlled the books of the company, to conceal his actions.

Represented business owner in preparing and filing a Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceeding, successfully negotiated settlement with the Chapter 7 trustee in which business owner was able to retain ownership of business, which provided business owner with employment and salary, all while discharging substantial unsecured debts.

Represented single-asset real estate Chapter 11 debtor in proceeding to determine whether the debtor's plan of reorganization was feasible, prevailed in evidentiary hearing despite debtor's inability as of the date of the hearing to make payments to the lender going forward as required by the Bankruptcy Code, and assisted in obtaining subsequent favorable settlement with lender.

Defense of real estate developers in multiple actions by lenders based on guaranties and promissory notes, negotiated settlements reducing debt by over \$10 million without permitting any collection proceedings against clients.

Counsel to a large pension trust fund in the foreclosure of a \$10 million resort development in northern Michigan, successfully defending against counterclaims alleging lender liability and establishing priority of the trust's mortgage over multiple construction liens.

Represented Chapter 7 trustee in various matters related to the liquidation of the assets of a nursing home, including but not limited to the evaluation of and drafting objections to claims, and providing counsel regarding complex adversary proceeding prosecuted by special counsel.

In an action on behalf of a toolmaker which contracted with a now bankrupt tier two automotive supplier to build tools for a tier one supplier, where typical mold builder lien claims were potentially defective, brought action against tier one automotive supplier based on novel agency theory; settled for about 60 cents on the dollar.

Brought adversary proceeding as special counsel to Chapter 7 trustee against corporate parent of bankrupt automotive supplier based on preferences, fraudulent transfers and substantive consolidation which resulted in seven figure settlement and the likely distribution to all unsecured creditors of 100 cents on the dollar for all approved claims.

Defended appraiser in lawsuit seeking over \$1,000,000 in damages in federal court based on allegations of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, conversion and conspiracy; the Court dismissed the case without a trial based on Mr. Grekin's motion.

Defended prominent local businessman in lawsuit brought by lender based on alleged defaults under loan documents, brought counterclaim against lender for conversion of cashier's checks, and negotiated settlement whereby client received payment from lender.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association

State Bar of Michigan

Oakland County Bar Association

OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Chairman, Oakland County Bar Association Debtor/Creditor Committee (2014-2015)

Received the Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review "AV Preeminent" Rating for Ethical Standards and Legal Ability (2014)

Selected for inclusion in *Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit* by D Business (2013, 2011)

Selected for inclusion in the *Michigan Super Lawyers*® list, a peer review survey that selects the top 5% of attorneys (2011, 2014)

Board of Directors, Motor City Brass Band

Former Member, Ferndale Chamber of Commerce

Former Member, Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association

Former Volunteer, Farmington Downtown Development Authority

Volunteer judge for the University of Michigan First Year Moot Court Competition

INTERESTS

Music

Mr. Grekin performed in hundreds of venues as a trombone player for several musical groups, primarily in the Metro Detroit area. Mr. Grekin was honored to participate in the following musical groups, among others:

The Motor City Brass Band

The Klezmaniacs

The Michigan Alumni Pep Band

The Michigan Basketball Band

The Michigan Marching Band

Running and Fitness

Mr. Grekin has competed in and finished three half-marathons and dozens of 10k races in the Metro Detroit area, most recently the 10k at the 40th annual Dexter-Ann Arbor Run. Mr. Grekin has also biked through several European countries, primarily with his gorgeous wife.

Motto

“Let your plans be dark and impenetrable as night, and when you move, fall like a thunderbolt.”

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*