



William C. Blasses
MEMBER

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Bill focuses his practice on finding pragmatic solutions to issues that may affect the viability and continued operations of a business, such as shareholder, vendor, and customer disputes, liquidity shortfalls, and debt maturity.

Practice Areas

- Bankruptcy and Restructuring
 - Creditors' Rights
 - Litigation and Dispute Resolution
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Bio

Bill focuses his practice in the areas of restructuring, commercial litigation, and fraud investigation and litigation and has substantial experience representing businesses and their owners in commercial disputes, collection and receivership proceedings, state and federal litigation, bankruptcy proceedings, and appeals.

Bill understands that every business has different needs, different revenue sources, and different cost structures. Recognizing that complex problems require comprehensive solutions, Bill tailors his approach to the needs of each client. This often means employing a combination of legal proceedings, administrative remedies, and out of court negotiations to provide a comprehensive and complete solution to existing problems. Bill has represented businesses and their owners in shareholder disputes, collection actions involving customers or vendors, commercial lease disputes, dissolutions, receiverships, asset sales, debt negotiations, loan workouts, and bankruptcy cases. Bill also has experience with issues involving tax liability, construction liens, zoning, and insurance coverage.

Bill also assists clients with matters arising from a complete breakdown of a business relationship. When a business fails, the owners, vendors, and customers are left picking up the pieces. Contracts are breached, and assets are liquidated and transferred. Lawsuits are filed against owners and vendors to recover funds paid out prior to the business' failure. In these cases, Bill advises clients on how to limit liability and pursue outstanding claims while assets still exist to pay them. Bill also represents clients in defense of lawsuits seeking recovery of transfers made by the failed business.

Oftentimes, the failure of a business will result in allegations of misconduct against or among the business' owners and employees. In those cases, business owners and employees can be sued for diversion of corporate assets, breach of fiduciary duties, and fraud. Bill represents clients in the investigation, prosecution, and defense of such actions on behalf of his clients.

Bill's approach is respected throughout the legal community. He has been named to the Michigan "Rising Star" list by Super Lawyers, a division of Thomson Reuters, in bankruptcy practice from 2013-2020, was recognized as a 2018 "Top Lawyer" in commercial litigation by *DBusiness Magazine*, and was named to *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* "Up & Coming Lawyers" in 2017.

Bill is an active thought leader and often presents on bankruptcy and restructuring issues.

Affiliations

- Turnaround Management Association
 - Kiwanis Club of Warren, Former Board Member
 - Detroit Bar Association, Debtor-Creditor Rights Section
 - American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI)
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Bar and Court Admissions

- Michigan
 - Pennsylvania
 - United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
 - United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
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Clerkship

- Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert N. Opel, II, Bankruptcy Judge, Middle District of Pennsylvania
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Education

- Emory University School of Law, J.D.
 - Notes and Comments Editor for the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*
 - Wayne State University, B.A.
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Representative Matters

- Prevailed at trial on a claim of non-dischargeability on behalf of a creditor who was owed over \$370,000. Following a four-day trial in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan the court issued a landmark 71-page opinion and judgment concluding that Kerr Russell had proven that the

bankruptcy debtor made false statements under oath with actual fraudulent intent.

- Represented one of the largest construction lien claimants in a receivership proceeding concerning a failed construction project valued at around \$60-70 million. Following significant litigation involving the receiver, the construction lender, and the developer, including a bankruptcy case filed by the developer, the client was able to recover seventy-three (73%) of the value of their lien and obtain a release of all counterclaims that could be asserted against it.
- Represented a multinational corporation in pursuing collection of a civil judgment against former employees that had misappropriated corporate assets and then declared bankruptcy to avoid repaying their former employer. Bill was able to assist the client in excluding the judgment from the former employees' bankruptcy discharges and recovering more than \$375,000.00 from the employees.
- Represented a business owner and his business entities with respect to more than \$1.5 million in claims for fraud, unauthorized transfers, conversion, successor liability, substantive consolidation, and shareholder oppression, asserted by a chapter 7 trustee. Following vigorous litigation, the bankruptcy court approved a settlement releasing the claims for \$50,000.00.