



### Jamila Justine Willis

Partner

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Jamila Justine Willis focuses her practice in the area of financial and corporate restructuring and has extensive experience in complex restructurings across industries.

Jamila represents debtors, distressed investors, sponsors, purchasers of distress assets and other interested parties in a wide range of restructuring and insolvency matters, including cases under chapters 11 and 15 of the US Bankruptcy Code and cross-border insolvency proceedings.

In addition, Jamila represents debtors, secured creditors, acquirers and distressed investors in distressed asset sales and acquisitions, including Uniform Commercial Code Article 9 foreclosure sales and Bankruptcy Code Section 363 sales.

Jamila also advises firm clients in liquidations, corporate wind-downs, bankruptcy litigation and other bankruptcy-related matters.

#### RELATED SERVICES

- Finance
- Restructuring

#### EXPERIENCE

Jamila's recent in-court engagements include:

##### *Debtor Representations*

- Counsel to debtors **Abengoa, S.A.**, **Abengoa Bioenergy US Holding, LLC** and **Abeinsa Holding Inc.** and certain of their affiliates in connection with their multijurisdictional restructuring, focusing specifically on the US-based chapter 11 and chapter 15 cases before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and the sale of certain US assets through a chapter 11 case before the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri
- Counsel to debtors **Appvion, Inc.** and its certain of its affiliates in connection with their chapter 11 cases *In re Appvion, Inc.*, *et. al.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- Counsel to Daniel Francis Butters and Ian Colin Wormleighton, as joint foreign representatives (the "Foreign Representatives") of **Arcadia Global (USA) Limited** (in administration), the London-based operator of TopShop/TopMan retail stores, in connection with the chapter 15 case *In re Arcadia Global (USA) Limited* in before United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York
- Counsel to debtors **Celadon Group, Inc.** and certain of its subsidiaries in connection with their chapter 11 cases *In re Celadon Group, Inc.*, *et al.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware

- Counsel to debtor **Comcar Industries, Inc.** and certain of its subsidiaries in connection with their chapter 11 cases *In re Comcar Industries, Inc., et al.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- Counsel to debtor **L.K. Bennett U.S.A, Inc.**, the New York-based U.S. retail arm of British clothing retailer L.K. Bennett, Ltd., in connection with its chapter 11 case *In re L.K. Bennett U.S.A, Inc.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware.
- Counsel to debtor **REVA Medical, Inc.** in connection with its “pre-packaged” chapter 11 case *In re REVA Medical, Inc.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- Counsel to debtors **Xtera Communications, Inc.** and its subsidiaries in connection with their chapter 11 cases *In re Xtera Communications, Inc. et al.* in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware

#### *Distressed M&A and Sell-Side Representations*

- Counsel to stalking horse purchaser, **ABG-Barneys, LLC**, affiliate of Authentic Brands Group, LLC, in connection with its acquisition of all intellectual property of luxury retailer, Barney’s New York and its debtor affiliates in *In re Barneys New York, Inc. et al.*
- Co-counsel to stalking horse purchaser **General Wireless, Inc.**, affiliate of Standard General L.P., in connection with its acquisition of certain of the assets of RadioShack Corporation and its affiliated debtors, including more than 1700 stores and substantially all of the intellectual property, in *In re RadioShack Corporation et al.*
- Counsel to stalking horse purchaser, **Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc.**, in connection with its acquisition of substantially all assets of Proteus Digital Health, Inc. in *In re Proteus Digital Health, Inc.*
- Counsel to stalking horse purchaser, **Pfizer, Inc.**, in connection with its acquisition of substantially all assets of BIND Therapeutics, Inc. in *In re BIND Therapeutics, Inc. et al.*
- Counsel to stalking horse purchaser, **RBS Salon Holdings, Inc.**, affiliate of Tacit Capital LLC, in connection with its bid to acquire of substantially all assets of Rudy’s Barbershop Holdings, LLC and its affiliated debtors in *In re Rudy’s Barbershop Holdings, LLC, et al.*
- Counsel to stalking horse purchaser, **HC Salon Holdings, Inc.**, affiliate of Tacit Capital LLC, in connection with its acquisition of substantially all assets of Creative Hairdressers, Inc. and Ratner Companies, L.C. in *In re Creative Hairdressers, Inc., et al.*
- Counsel to real estate investment firm in connection with the potential acquisition of a portfolio of thirty-five hotels and resorts
- Counsel to brand development and entertainment company in connection with the potential acquisition of a portfolio of thirty-four retail stores
- Counsel to private equity firm in connection with the potential acquisition of a fast casual restaurant chain and franchisor

#### *Other In-Court Representations*

- Counsel to debtor **ALCO Stores, Inc.** in connection with the adversary proceeding *Blackhawk Network, Inc. and Blackhawk Network California, Inc. v. ALCO Stores, Inc.*
- Counsel to creditor **Leucadia National Corp.** and its subsidiaries in connection with the adversary proceeding *The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Vivaro Corporation v. Leucadia National Corporation et al.*

Jamila’s recent out-of-court matters include:

- Represented a global alternative asset manager in connection with the foreclosure sale of an electrochemical technology company
- Represented a debt capital firm in connection with the foreclosure sale of a cyber and intelligence technology company
- Represented an international financial services group in connection with the out-of-court restructuring of bonds of an independent living facility.
- Advised a global alternative asset manager with respect to the sale of its interest in distressed assets
- Advised a Madrid-based international bank with respect to the sale of its interest in distressed US-based assets
- Advised a Puerto Rico-based international bank in connection with a potential foreclosure sale of a grocery store chain

- Advised an investment firm in connection with a potential foreclosure sale of a wireless communications design and development company

## CREDENTIALS

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### Admissions

- Connecticut
- New York

### Recognitions

- Named to *Crain's New York Business* 2020 Notable Women in Law list (2019)
- Recipient of *M&A Advisor's* Emerging Leaders Award (2019)
- *New York Law Journal*, New York Rising Star (2019)
- Named to *M&A Advisor*, 10th annual list of Emerging Leaders (2019)
- Recipient of the *National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges* Honorable Cornelius Blackshear Presidential Fellowship (2017)

### Education

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law
- B.A., Communications, Economics, University of Pennsylvania

### Courts

- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

## INSIGHTS

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### Publications

#### **COVID-19: Critical due diligence considerations for M&A, financing and strategic corporate transactions in the retail industry**

29 April 2020

Parties to retail-related transactions must consider unprecedented issues.

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#### **Cross-border liability management strategies for Latin American issuers with New York law-governed debt securities**

20 April 2020

The main types of so-called liability management transactions available to Latin American issuers seeking to reprofile or restructure their New York law-governed debt securities.

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- "Lessons Learned from the 'Retail Apocalypse': Where Fashion Goes from Here," *New York Law Journal*, August 28, 2020

## Events

## Previous

### Negotiating Sourcing Arrangements Following COVID-19

1 July 2020

Webinar

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## NEWS

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### DLA Piper advises Otsuka America Pharmaceutical in its purchase of the assets of Proteus Digital Health

26 August 2020

DLA Piper represented Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc. in connection with its stalking horse bid to purchase substantially all of the assets of Proteus Digital Health, Inc., including its ingestible and wearable sensor technology.

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### DLA Piper's Jamila Justine Willis named to *Crain's New York Business* 2020 Notable Women in Law list

19 December 2019

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Jamila Justine Willis has been named to the *Crain's New York Business* 2020 Notable Women in Law list.

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### DLA Piper's Jamila Justine Willis named a 2019 Rising Star by the *New York Law Journal*

4 November 2019

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Jamila Justine Willis has been named a 2019 Rising Star by the *New York Law Journal* as part of their annual Professional Excellence Awards.

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### DLA Piper advises Authentic Brands Group in its acquisition of iconic Barneys New York

1 November 2019

DLA Piper represented Authentic Brands Group, LLC (ABG) in their purchase of the intellectual property of legendary luxury retailer, Barneys New York.

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### Jamila Justine Willis named to the *M&A Advisor's* list of Emerging Leaders

10 June 2019

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Jamila Justine Willis, a Restructuring partner based in the New York office, was named to the *M&A Advisor's* 10th annual list of Emerging Leaders.

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## DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

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## MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Trends in Restructuring and Debt Markets," *DLA Piper*, April 9, 2020
- "Medical Device Co.'s Ch. 11 Plan OK'd After Resolving Issues," *Law 360*, February 18, 2020
- "Barneys \$271M Chapter 11 Sale Approved in New York," *Law 360*, October 31, 2019

## PRO BONO

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Before starting her career as a restructuring attorney, Jamila worked as a human rights attorney at an organization dedicated to ending criminal investigatory torture by building legal aid systems in developing nations. Jamila now focuses much of her pro bono work on human rights and the development of legal systems throughout the world.

Recent matters demonstrating Jamila's commitment to pro bono include:

- Drafted a criminal law defense manual and criminal litigation training materials for **International Bridges to Justice's** Rwanda country program.
- Drafted portions of a memorandum on post-conflict restorative justice mechanisms for a **UNICEF** sponsored transitional justice program in the Gambia.
- Conducted research regarding international judicial ethics principles and relevant ethical rules and jurisprudence for **International Association of Women Jurists**.
- Represented **Sunrise Cooperative Inc.**, a cooperative of mechanics displaced from their workplaces following the approval of a city redevelopment plan, as pro bono counsel in connection with their chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and multi-party negotiations to restructure their debt.