



Restructuring

DLA Piper's restructuring lawyers have significant experience advising clients on investigation, enforcement, litigation and asset recovery on a multijurisdictional basis. We advise clients on all matters relating to public and private companies in underperforming and distressed situations.

We manage assignments from the mid-market to the largest national and international restructurings and insolvencies. Our experience also extends to any contentious issues arising from restructurings and insolvencies.

DLA Piper serves a diverse client base that includes debtors, lenders, government entities, trustees, shareholders, senior executives, as well as distressed debt and asset buyers and investors.

With dedicated restructuring lawyers across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, we have the knowledge, experience and resources to address our clients' restructuring and insolvency needs on a national and international basis.

CAPABILITIES

We counsel clients on all aspects of restructuring and insolvency/bankruptcy, whether in anticipation of them or in dealing with their consequences.

We advise clients on:

- Debt and asset tracing and recovery
- Disposals, including pre-packaged solutions, distressed M&A and real estate workout
- Distressed debt trading
- Financial restructuring
- Formal insolvency/bankruptcy procedures and creditor committee representation
- Insolvency/bankruptcy-related investigation, litigation and enforcement
- International restructuring strategy and procedures
- Operational restructuring

In a number of European countries our restructuring lawyers take insolvency office holder appointments.

EXPERIENCE

KEY CONTACTS

Tom Califano

Partner
New York
T: +1 212 335 4990
thomas.califano@dlapiper.com

Peter Somekh

Partner
Dubai
T: +971 (0)4 438 6327
peter.somekh@dlapiper.com

RELATED SERVICES

- Corporate
- Finance
- International Corporate Reorganizations

We advise clients across a wide range of industry sectors and have particular strength in energy, financial services, healthcare, hospitality and leisure, real estate, retail, sports, technology and transportation.

Some of the most significant cross-border matters we have recently worked on are set out below:

- Abengoa – Represented Abengoa US Holding LLC and affiliates, the US unit of Spanish renewable energy company Abengoa SA, in its chapter 11 and chapter 15 petitions in the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware in Wilmington. Also represented US Abengoa SA with the approved sale of five ethanol plants in Indiana, Illinois and Nebraska for more than US\$355 million.
- China Fishery Group Limited – Represented Rabobank, Standard Chartered Bank and DBS in connection with the multijurisdictional restructuring and insolvency proceedings of China Fishery Group Limited, one of the world's largest producers of fish oil and fishmeal. DLA Piper successfully sought the appointment of a chapter 11 trustee over one of the key entities in the US bankruptcy proceedings in the Southern District of New York.
- Trident Microsystems – Representing Trident Microsystems, Inc., a chip and software company, in its filing for chapter 11 in the US Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware and the sale of Trident's set-top box business unit to Entropic Communications in exchange for the assumption of obligations and US\$55 million in cash, the sale of Trident's TV business unit to Sigma Designs in exchange for the assumption of obligations and for US\$30 million, and the winding-up of Trident's 16 foreign subsidiaries located in 11 different countries. The 2013 M&A Advisor International Awards honoured us with the 'Corporate/Strategic Acquisition of the Year' award (over US\$50 million to US\$100 million) for the sale of Trident Microsystems.
- Dawnay Day – Advising Norwich Union (now Aviva), the largest senior lender, and BDO Stoy Hayward as administrators on the restructuring of Dawnay Day, a global real estate and financial services conglomerate with assets of £1 billion.
- Nortel Networks Canadian Creditors Committee – Engaged as US and cross-border counsel to the Nortel Networks Canadian Creditors Committee in the multi-nation insolvency proceedings of Nortel's Canadian parent and its US and EMEA affiliates, including their dispute over how \$7.3 billion in global asset sale proceeds should be allocated among them.
- Lexi Holdings – Advising a syndicate of UK banks and KPMG as administrators in the restructuring/insolvency of Lexi Holdings. The company was defrauded of approximately £50-70 million. We obtained judgments against 18 parties, committed the main director behind the fraud to prison, and recovered approximately £40 million in real estate worldwide.
- Ineas – Advising on the administration of Ineas, a pan-European online car insurance company. This was one of the largest insolvencies of an insurance company in Europe in recent history. We worked closely with the Dutch Central Bank and the Dutch Financial Supervision Authority with regard to the treatment of insurance policies, continuation and/or transfer of activities and the application of guarantee funds.
- Solar Enertech Corp – Advising on the restructuring of Solar Enertech Corp, a US-headquartered solar product manufacturer with Asian operations in Hong Kong and Shanghai. We were appointed, in conjunction with FTI Consulting, to restructure both the parent company and its subsidiaries.
- Velti plc - Representing Velti plc's US subsidiaries in connection with its chapter 11 case in Wilmington, Delaware and the section 363 sale of its US, UK and India mobile marketing businesses and certain of its US-based advertising businesses to GSO Capital Partners, the credit division of Blackstone. The 2014 M&A Advisor International Awards honored us with the 'Restructuring Deal of the Year' award (under \$1 billion) for the chapter 11 Restructuring of Velti plc's US subsidiaries.
- Lehman Waterfall Application - Advising the administrators of Lehman Brothers Limited (LBL) over the last 18 months on the high profile Lehman Waterfall Application, which is set to, amongst other things: determine how realisations in LBL's estate (expected to comprise of approximately £300 million) will be distributed; determine how claims for interest rank within the insolvency waterfall; and have a substantial impact on the value of LBIE debt of which there is currently a very active market.
- Project Dawn - Working with IBRC and the Special Liquidators on the various Phases of the IBRC loan book sale. Leading various workstreams including 1) undertaking reviews of the c. 40 connections that DLA were initially in relation to, 2) creating a data room for the DLA connections, 3) reviewing all loan and security documents for transferability, 4) responding to Q&A sessions from bidders.
- Scottish Resources Group - Advising the Bank of Scotland plc on the restructuring and the subsequent liquidation of Scottish Coal Company Limited (SCCL) and the various environmental risks to the Bank following liquidation. SRG was the largest surface mining producer in the UK operating 7 open-cast mines and had a turnover exceeding £200m and a land-bank of some 25,000 acres. This matter attracted significant press in Scotland given its strategic importance and the fact that it employed around 800 employees.
- Viaduct Capital Limited - Advised receivers on priority issues relating to security sharing arrangements between company subject to receivership and Mutual Finance Limited (In Receivership).

- Dominion Finance Group Limited - Advised the receivers of Dominion Finance Group Limited on all aspects of the receivership.

INSIGHTS

Publications

The Finnish government proposes measures to limit the commercial impact of coronavirus

31 March 2020

On Friday 20 March 2020, the Finnish government has agreed on a comprehensive package to safeguard jobs and livelihoods and ease the economic pressure on businesses. According to the government's estimate, the overall scale of the measures will be approximately EUR15 billion.

Coronavirus - Mitigating supply chain and customer insolvency risk

31 March 2020

The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak could have a significant impact on your global supply and customer chains. We can assist in responding to such risks in the various jurisdictions in which you operate, source materials and/or supply products and services.

Coronavirus: How European governments are providing support through funding and refreshed insolvency laws

30 March 2020

In response to the coronavirus outbreak, a number of government and central bank measures are available to businesses in Europe. Additionally, insolvency laws have been updated. Our guidance outlines what this means to businesses in 14 countries.

Coronavirus: room for manoeuvre for directors of UK companies

30 March 2020

The UK government has announced that, to ease the pressure on UK directors, wrongful trading measures will be suspended for three months from 1 March 2020.

Economic relief for Calgary business owners impacted by COVID-19 (Canada)

27 MAR 2020

Canadian governments have implemented numerous measures to assist business owners economically affected by COVID-19. This article outlines the measures for business focused relief available to Calgary business owners from the federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

COVID-19: The benefits of US chapter 11 relief in a time of economic crisis

19 March 2020

Highlighting some of the most significant benefits of US chapter 11 for companies facing severe challenges under the current circumstances.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Business interruptions and resulting effects in the global economy (Global)

16 March 2020

While the overall scope and duration of the economic impacts are difficult to forecast, there will undoubtedly be a significant increase in workouts, restructurings, rescue financings, forbearances, and other similar activities over the coming months.

Commercial bankruptcy practice in the US today: Chapters 11 and 15

29 January 2020

The current legal framework in the US for companies seeking to reorganize and restructure their business operations and debt.

Global Insight - Issue 31, December 2019

20 December 2019

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

News, views and analysis from DLA Piper's Global Restructuring Group on the UNCITRAL Model Law on cross border insolvency, a new restructuring tool known as WHOA or the Dutch scheme to be implemented in the Netherlands, and an examination of a proposal to elevate the UK tax department in the order of priority on insolvency.

Global Insight - Issue 30, October 2019

7 October 2019

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

News, views and analysis from DLA Piper's Global Restructuring Group.

Secured creditors and Colombia's insolvency proceedings

7 October 2019

The Colombian Secured Interest Law, which came into effect in 2014, has substantially affected the legal scope of creditors' rights in the context of insolvency proceedings, potentially creating a new type of creditor; the secured creditor. Is this new type of creditor compatible with the current hierarchy system, and what are the specific rights of that new creditor in arrangement proceedings?

Understanding DIFC's new insolvency law: What impact will it have?

7 October 2019

Peter Somekh analyses whether the new insolvency law recently adopted by the Dubai International Finance Centre can effectively promote the rehabilitation of viable businesses whilst ensuring fairness and preservation of stakeholder rights and value.

Getting insolvency proceedings recognized in the UK: Have you thought about section 426?

7 October 2019

Many distressed situations involve a cross-border element. Section 426 of the Insolvency Act 1986 is a unique tool that can be used where insolvencies taking place in a designated jurisdiction require recognition or assistance in the UK. Here we outline how

this tool can be used, its scope and the advantages for cross-border situations.

Supreme Court Corner

24 July 2019

The Court clarifies a circuit split over copyright in *Fourth Estate* and, in *Mission Product Holdings*, says a licensee's rights survive the licensor's bankruptcy.

Global Insight - Issue 29, June 2019

28 June 2019

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

News, views and analysis from DLA Piper's Global Restructuring Group.

Creditors' schemes of arrangement in Australia

26 June 2019

The use of creditors' schemes of arrangement is on the rise in Australia (as we discussed in our previous article - Update on Creditors Schemes of Arrangement in Australia). Along the way the Australian courts have made valuable contributions to international scheme jurisprudence. In this article we look at some of these contributions and then explore how Australian law might be further developed to remain a leading jurisdiction for creditors' schemes.

Goods vehicle operators' licenses in an insolvency context

25 June 2019

When dealing with a goods vehicle operator in an insolvency context: early engagement with the Traffic Commissioner is crucial; directors should be proactive in informing the Traffic Commissioner of a material change in circumstances (e.g. a change in the company's financial standing, which extends to launching a company voluntary arrangement (CVA)); and insolvency practitioners should engage as early as possible with the Traffic Commissioner and build such engagement into their contingency planning.

Debt restructuring in the UK and Spain

4 June 2019

Since the turn of the century, many foreign companies - including large Spanish groups - have resorted to the English scheme of arrangement procedure under part 26 of the UK Companies Act in order to restructure their debt. Between 2009 and 2015, EUR11 billion of Spanish debt has been restructured in English courts.

[Read the full article.](#)

Global Insight - Issue 28, April 2019

2 April 2019

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

Brexit Update: What next for cross-border restructuring?

2 April 2019

Immediately following the results of the UK referendum on exiting the EU in June 2016, we wrote about the potential impact of Brexit on cross-border restructuring and insolvency work. As we identified then, the key issue in this area is the potentially significant implications of losing the reciprocal effect of the EU Regulation on insolvency proceedings and the Brussels Regulation (recast). In this article we focus on the impact of the loss of recognition under the Insolvency Regulation.

Down but not out (of the money)

26 March 2019

It is a common scenario: a fully encumbered asset is sold, with junior lienholders out of the money. Until recently, it was widely accepted that an out of the money junior lien was worthless and not entitled to any of the proceeds from a sale free and clear. Not anymore.

Australia: 2018 in review, and what's in store for 2019?

25 March 2019

In this article, we review developments in the Australian insolvency and restructuring landscape during 2018, with an overview of key judgments and legislative changes, and look at what lies ahead in 2019.

Global Insight - Issue 27, December 2018

17 DEC 2018

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

As we send this final edition of Global Insight for 2018, Rick and I would like to thank you for your continued support of our multi-award-winning Global Restructuring Group.

Martial law is introduced in Ukraine starting from 26 November 2018

28 NOV 2018

On 26 November 2018, the Parliament of Ukraine imposed temporary martial law in some regions of Ukraine approving respective Decree of the President of Ukraine. The martial law is introduced in response to escalation of Russian aggression in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The Law will come into force only after it is officially published.

Restructuring Global Insight - News, views and analysis from DLA Piper's Global Restructuring Group

3 OCT 2018

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

Welcome to our 26th edition of Global Insight with another selection of restructuring items from our colleagues around the World.

Positive signs for issuers and the marketplace: Argentina economic briefing

7 SEP 2018

The financial press continues to portray Argentina as another merging-market casualty but, to the contrary, there are a number of positive financial signs, for investors, the country and the marketplace, in today's Argentine economy.

Amendments to Saudi Arabia Companies Law enhances corporate governance and minority protection

9 MAY 2018

Amendments to the KSA Companies Law came into effect on 17 April 2018. Our team of Saudi Arabia based Corporate lawyers offer a comparative analysis of the Companies Law prior to and following the issuance of the amendments.

Restructuring Global Insight - Canada's steel industry, credit default swaps, schemes, and more

9 MAY 2018

[RESTRUCTURING - GLOBAL INSIGHT](#)

Welcome to our 24th edition of Global Insight with another selection of restructuring items from our colleagues around the World.

[Events](#)

[Previous](#)

TechLaw

5 March 2020

TechLaw Event Series

Sydney

TechLaw

3 March 2020

TechLaw Event Series

Melbourne

IPEM 2020

28-30 January 2020

Paris

2019 Insolvency and Restructuring Forum — Edmonton

9 MAY 2019

TechLaw Event - "M&A for the New Digital Economy"

7 MAR 2019
TechLaw Event Series
Amsterdam

TechLaw Event - Online platforms - beyond playing innocence?

17 JAN 2019
TechLaw Event Series
Amsterdam

TechLaw London 2018

5 DEC 2018
TechLaw Event Series
London

SmithNovak NPL IBERIA November 2018

27-28 NOV 2018
Madrid

TechLaw Event - Virtual Competition

22 NOV 2018
TechLaw Event Series
Amsterdam

Middle East Tech Summit 2018: The Digital Imperative

5 NOV 2018
TechLaw Event Series
Dubai

2018: The year of the CVA - lessons learnt so far

6 SEP 2018
London

TechLaw in Germany

14 JUN 2018
TechLaw Event Series
Munich

INSOL Helsinki one day seminar

13 JUN 2018
Helsinki

NEWS

DLA Piper advises Heidelberger Druckmaschinen on package of measures to increase profitability

20 March 2020

DLA Piper has advised Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG on the comprehensive package of measures to increase its profitability which has been announced by the company. The aim is to reduce structural costs at short notice and to sustainably improve the company's profitability. This will significantly improve Heidelberg's financial stability.

DLA Piper lawyers named Acritas Stars

10 March 2020

Acritas has named over 200 DLA Piper lawyers as 2020 Acritas Stars. Now in its fourth year, Acritas Stars highlights the stand-out lawyers in private practice as nominated by clients around the world. More than 3,000 senior in-house counsel feed into the nomination process to give a comprehensive view of highly recommended lawyers across the globe.

DLA Piper named among the top 10 firms globally for Restructuring

18 June 2019

Global Restructuring Review (GRR) has unveiled its annual ranking of the world's leading restructuring law firms, with DLA Piper ranked #7 in the GRR 30, up three places from the previous year.

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.

DLA Piper advises on the sale of Synseal Group in job-saving deal

12 MAR 2019

DLA Piper has advised KPMG administrators, Chris Pole and Mark Orton, in connection with the sale of Synseal Group, to Aperture Trading, saving more than 1,000 jobs.

In the Middle East

OVERVIEW

Our dedicated restructuring team on-the-ground in the Middle East has many years of local and international experience. Our specialist restructuring expertise and experience enables us to deliver exceptional service and proven commercial results to both our lender and borrower clients.

The team is headed up by Peter Somekh, one of the most experienced restructuring specialists in the region, who has worked extensively in Europe and the Middle East.

We serve a diverse client base encompassing debtors, lenders, government entities, trustees, shareholders, senior executives, and distressed debt and asset buyers and investors. The team is ideally placed to deal with all non-contentious restructuring assignments together with contentious recovery matters for financial institutions and insolvency practitioners.

Our restructuring team in the Middle East is part of our Global Restructuring Group, which is one of the world's leaders. With dedicated restructuring lawyers across the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East, we have the knowledge, experience and resources to address our clients' restructuring and insolvency needs on a national and international basis. Around the world, our specialist restructuring lawyers 'on the ground' have extensive knowledge of local markets and the associated challenges our clients face.

CAPABILITIES

We counsel clients on all aspects of restructuring and insolvency/bankruptcy, whether in anticipation of them or in dealing with their consequences.

We advise clients on:

- Debt and asset tracing and recovery
- Disposals, including pre-packaged solutions, distressed M&A and real estate workout
- Distressed debt trading
- Financial restructuring
- Formal insolvency/bankruptcy procedures and creditor committee representation
- Insolvency/bankruptcy-related investigation, litigation and enforcement
- International restructuring and reorganisation strategy and procedures
- Operational restructuring
- Re-organisation of businesses and group company structures on a non-distressed basis
- Refinancing and fundraising
- Security enhancement

EXPERIENCE

We advise clients across a wide range of industry sectors and have particular strength in energy, financial services, healthcare, hospitality and leisure, real estate, retail, sports, technology and transportation.

Some significant restructuring matters we have recently worked on include:

- A'ayan Leasing and Investment Company – Advising on its complex restructuring, which has led to its acceptance under the Financial Stability Law of Kuwait. This matter involved a number of innovative restructuring techniques, which have been tailored to work within a Kuwaiti legal and regulatory context. Our ability to provide a cross-regional team with all of the Islamic structuring experience required on this deal was a significant commercial benefit to the client.
- Dubai developer – Advising a major Dubai developer on its contractual arrangements in respect of a number of its projects, including: advising on the impact of recent legislative changes in Dubai and, in particular, Law No. 13 of 2008 relating to the

interim real estate register; documenting variations to the existing purchase terms, including varied arrangements in relation to the payout of funds from the escrow account; and advising the client on the impact of proceedings brought in the real estate court in relation to termination of existing contracts.

- Family Business Reorganisation – Acting for a significant Middle Eastern business family in relation to the non-distressed reorganisation of its multiple business group and structure.
- International Investment Group (IIG) – Advising IIG in relation to the restructuring of its Shari'a compliant facilities and capital markets issues. We dealt with a number of bilateral, syndicated and sukuk creditors with differing and competing interests. We advised on innovative ways to restructuring the debt, due to a large number of creditors under a large number of facilities and certificates, in a Shari'a compliant manner and within the constraints imposed by the relevant facilities and sukuk documentation.
- Kuwait Finance House – Our team was mandated by Kuwait Finance House (KFH), one of the world's largest Islamic banks, to work in conjunction with their financial advisors to develop and implement strategies for the restructuring and turnaround of a number of underperforming assets held by KFH. This multijurisdictional instruction involved advising on local litigations, cross-border arbitration, restructuring agreements, debt refinancing and employment and corporate governance issues. In light of the tight Central Bank of Kuwait deadlines for resolving financial issues for licenced investment companies, our team had to take a fast acting and flexible approach to its role.
- Major Private Company Group – Advising the Steering Committee of the largest private group of companies in Qatar in relation to a debt restructuring. This involved creating a structure akin to a debt-for-equity swap, which was the first of its kind in the Middle East.
- Local bank – Reviewing the entire distressed lending portfolio of a local bank. We assisted in restructuring a number of such lends and, where necessary, took appropriate recovery measures.
- International and local banks – Advising international and local banks on their documentation and drafting and providing advice in relation to their loan, security and over-the-counter derivatives documentation.