



Rob Lyons

Senior Associate

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Rob Lyons practices in both contentious and non-contentious restructuring, including contentious corporate insolvency recoveries and investigations, and non-contentious restructuring, asset disposals and turnaround and the various UK formal insolvency regimes, as well as distressed finance.

His clients include banks, asset based lenders, insolvency practitioners, directors, shareholders and other stakeholders in relation to financially distressed and insolvent situations. Rob also provides strategic advice to UK and international commercial clients on operational and legal enhancements to achieve supply / customer chain resilience.

- Restructuring
- Consumer Goods, Food and Retail
- Industrials

- Acting for Duff & Phelps as administrators of the British Home Stores (BHS) group of companies, dealing with the closure of stores, surrender and assignment of leases and provision of general advice on trading issues including essential supplies. BHS represents one of the largest retail insolvencies of the last decade with the group employing 11,000 people at 164 stores across the UK.
- Advising the directors of Conviviality Plc (an AIM listed supplier to drink industry servicing more than 23,000 outlets) in relation to insolvency risks during the period of uncertainty for the business following the discovery of financial issues resulting in the suspension of trading. Rob led the appointment of administrators over a number of companies within the Conviviality group, subsequently acting for PwC as administrators of the group. Rob acted on the sale of the retail business to the grocery wholesaler Bestway, a transaction which saved approximately 1,700 jobs. Rob also advised on the sale of Conviviality's wholesale divisions to the C&C Group, a transaction that saved nearly 2,000 jobs.
- Acting for Duff & Phelps as administrators of Calvetron Brands Limited – a leading concession based retailer of ladies clothing and accessories. The company operated out of 350+ locations (including over 60 located outside the UK and Ireland) and employed circa 1,500 employees.
- Acting for Ernst & Young as administrators of one of the largest independent plant hire business in the UK. Rob advised the administrators on the multi-million pound disposal of certain business and assets of the group and the sale of a significant number of plant assets at auction, trading and retention of title issues and advice regarding the group's security and invoice finance facilities.
- Acting for a number of creditors of a construction and facilities management group, including Government entities and a key IT services supplier, advising creditors on their rights in the liquidation and supporting the businesses throughout the trading liquidation.

- Working as part of the team advising Alvarez and Marsal following their appointment as joint administrators of NMC Health PLC, a former FTSE 100 healthcare company in administration that has been the subject of a multi-billion USD fraud, with outstanding creditor liabilities in excess of USD6.5 billion. NMC Health Plc is the holding company of the largest healthcare group in the Middle East with 200 hospitals, clinics and other sites in 19 countries.
- Advising PwC as administrators of certain of the Caparo Industries group, comprising UK steel and associated engineering businesses, as part of the global Caparo network of businesses. Rob acted for PwC in relation to the successful disposal of the Caparo Wire business out of administration. The Caparo Wire business specialised in the manufacture of galvanised and engineering steel wire.
- Acting for Ernst & Young LLP as administrators of a number of companies within the AIM listed Outsourcery group. The group provided cloud-based IT, infrastructure and business communications solutions to a range of corporate customers.
- Advising an asset based lender in relation to the restructuring and refinancing of a recruitment business with an annual turnover of GBP1.2 billion, which saw over 45,000 jobs protected.
- Advising a major UK bank in connection with a multi-jurisdictional, EUR90 million refinance, delivering an enhanced security package across several European jurisdictions, and thereafter advising the syndicate of lenders on the EUR115 million disposal of the customer.

CREDENTIALS

Professional Qualifications

- Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales

Recognitions

- Key Individual - Asset Based Lending, Legal 500 2020, 2021
- Rising Star - TRI Awards 2018
- Finalist in Pro-Manchester Lawyer of the Year

Education

- College of Law, Manchester, Legal Practice Course
- The University of Leeds, LLB, Hons Law Degree

INSIGHTS

Publications

Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill

12 November 2021

The Government has published its draft legislation with the aim of tackling accrued rent arrears for businesses who were forced to close during the pandemic. The Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Bill provides for the ringfencing of rent debt built up by businesses who have been forced to close during the pandemic and establishes a binding arbitration process which can determine what happens to that ringfenced debt.

Energy Suppliers in Crisis – The Legal Issues

27 September 2021

The current energy crisis is well-publicised, with Suppliers of Last Resort (SoLR) being appointed in respect of six energy suppliers within the last 21 days, and Bulb Energy (supplier to over 1.7 million consumers) reported to be “racing to secure its future” and exploring new sources of funding.

A shop window of opportunity: Act now to recover

6 August 2021

Law à la Mode

Challenges in bricks-and-mortar retail are not new. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated many key consumer trends away from the high street, forcing acute (and potentially permanent) reductions in footfall as well as widespread store closures.

Impact of COVID-19 on the sports sector

15 April 2020

Sporting events around the world are being postponed or cancelled by governing bodies in a bid to prevent the spread of coronavirus. A range of sports have taken action, with the Football Association suspending the 2019-2020 professional football season, UEFA delaying Euro 2020 until the summer of 2021 and Formula 1 postponing a number of races with a view to announcing new race dates later on in the 2020 season.

Events

Previous

COVID-19: Funding considerations for stakeholders in the sports sector

27 April 2020

Webinar
