



Lacey Rochester

Associate

New Orleans | 504.566.5292 | lrochester@bakerdonelson.com

Lacey Rochester focuses her practice on creditors' rights and regularly represents financial institutions, oil and gas companies, and other secured and unsecured creditors in federal, state and bankruptcy court.

Lacey Rochester is a member of Baker Donelson's Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy group where she helps formulate practical legal solutions to resolve the challenges of distressed business dealings. She regularly counsels companies facing financial challenges and has extensive experience in representing various constituencies, including creditors, debtors, trustees, and interested parties in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. Lacey advises on the full spectrum of bankruptcy and restructuring matters in bankruptcy, federal and state courts. Though Lacey represents clients across a broad array of industries, she has particular experience in energy-related matters and equipment financing. She has also gained valuable experience defending directors and officers in adversary proceedings brought on behalf of the estate. In addition, Lacey focuses a substantial portion of her practice on creditors' rights and has previously advised national and regional banks, financial institutions, real estate finance firms, as well as government-sponsored enterprises in this regard.

Ms. Rochester's prior experience includes serving as a law clerk to the honorable Judge Wendy Hagenau with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Representative Matters

- Represented the unsecured creditors committee in the Knight Energy Holdings bankruptcy proceeding involving more than \$250 million in defaulted debt. Negotiated with the debtor, old equity and the secured lender to secure 2.5 times the initial offer made to the unsecured creditors.
- Represented an oil and gas exploration company, which was also a debtor-in-possession, in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceeding. In under six months, the debtor was able to confirm a consensual plan that converted its debt to equity, and the debtor emerged as an operating entity. The matter represents one of the few instances in which an oil and gas exploration company successfully confirmed a restructuring plan in a tightened economic climate.
- Obtained dismissal, with prejudice, of all claims against an insurance broker in a contentious preference litigation brought by the trustee in a bankruptcy matter.

Professional Honors & Activities

- Named a Best Lawyers in America® "Ones to Watch" in Banking and Finance Law and Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2021)
- Listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers* as a leading Bankruptcy/Restructuring lawyer in Louisiana (2020, 2021)
- Listed in *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star in Creditor Debtor Rights (2019, 2020); Bankruptcy: Business (2021)
- Recipient – Baker Donelson New Orleans Pro Bono Attorney of the Year (2020)
- Recipient – 2019 Rising Star Award by The International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)
- Member – American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member – American Bar Association

- Member – Turnaround Management Association, New Orleans Chapter
- Member – International Women in Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC), New Orleans Chapter
- Board Member – New Orleans Federal Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division
- Board Member – New Orleans Pro Bono Project
- Board Member – New Orleans Chapter of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)
- Next Generation Participant, 2018 National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges
- 2012 American College of Bankruptcy Distinguished Law Student for the Fifth Circuit



Publications

- "Rethink How You Communicate with Outside Directors: Certain Communications May Not Be Protected" (March 2021)
- "Force Majeure Clause May Excuse Debtor's Payment of Postpetition Rent in Bankruptcy " (July 6, 2020)
- "CARES Act Expands the Small Business Reorganization Act – Lenders Beware" (March 30, 2020)
- "Baker's Dozen: Women Leaders We Admire," *Women's Initiative Newsletter* (August 2019)
- "Defending Preference Actions: Understanding Your Rights as a Creditor," *Liskow & Lewis E-News Letter* (July 2014)
- "Stern Does Not Preclude Bankruptcy Court's Resolution of Certain Claims," *Professional Liability Litigation Newsletter*, Vol. 10 No. 2 (Spring 2014)



Speaking Engagements

- Presenter – TMA Webinar Series: Small Business Reorganization Act (July 2020)
- Co-presenter – "The Bankruptcy Code is 40 Years Old and We Are Still Learning!," Louisiana State Bar Association (April 2019)
- Presenter – "Bankruptcy 101," LSBA Young Lawyers Conference (January 2019)
- Panelist – "Oil and Gas Creditor's Issues Update: Issues That May Arise in an Energy Bankruptcy," Liskow & Lewis Energy Law Seminar: Current Texas, Louisiana, and Offshore Oil and Gas Topics for Lawyers and Landmen (November 2015)
- Presenter – "Model Rule 1.13: Ethics and Organizational Representations: A Glimpse of Where We are Heading," Louisiana State Bar Association CLE (December 2014/June 2015)



Education

- Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, J.D., 2012, magna cum laude
- Louisiana State University, B.S., 2009; summa cum laude



Admissions

- Louisiana