

L. Katie Mason

Partner

Katie Mason advises manufacturers, trade creditors, landlords, and financial institutions in business litigation, commercial litigation, and all aspects of bankruptcy proceedings, receiverships and workouts. She has extensive experience litigating contested matters and adversary proceedings in bankruptcy court, including contested Chapter 11 plan confirmation, use of cash collateral, claims litigation, fee disputes, preference avoidance, fraudulent transfer actions, non-dischargeability, and issues arising in "free and clear" sales under the Bankruptcy Code. Katie regularly represents clients in the sale and purchase of distressed assets under Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, Chapter 128 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Representative Experience:

- Successfully prevented unwanted assignment of patent licensor's patent license agreement as part of a bankruptcy sale.
- Obtained bankruptcy court order finding that purportedly "free and clear" bankruptcy sale of debtor's assets did not operate to extinguish real estate owner's recorded right of first refusal due to lack of due process.
- Argued key landlord administrative claim issue in *In re Specialty Retail Shops Holding Corp.*, resulting in court order requiring debtor to make immediate payment of certain lease obligations to landlords.
- Successfully defended and obtained dismissal after trial of lawsuit filed by bankruptcy debtor against financial institution, wherein debtor sought to prevent client's foreclosure of properties owned by entities in which debtor held an ownership interest.
- Successfully defended hundreds of preference and fraudulent transfer actions arising under bankruptcy and state law.
- Representation of landlords, trade creditors and other parties in interest in some of the largest recent retail bankruptcy cases in the United States, including:
 - *In re Specialty Retail Shops Holding Corp.*
 - *In re Sears Holdings Corporation*
 - *In re Gander Mountain Company*
 - *In re Gibson Brands, Inc.*
 - *In re Central Grocers, Inc.*
 - *In re Sports Authority Holdings, Inc.*
 - *In re Advanced Sports Enterprises, Inc.*



katie.mason@quarles.com

Milwaukee Office

Tel: (414) 277-3018

Fax: (414) 978-8929

Legal Services

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- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
 - Bankruptcy, Restructuring, and Creditor's Rights
 - Financial Institutions Litigation

Education and Honors

- University of Wisconsin Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2006)
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (*summa cum laude*, 2003)

Bar Admissions

- Wisconsin
- Illinois

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

Professional Recognition

- *Wisconsin Super Lawyers* – Rising Stars, 2012, 2014-present
- Best Lawyers in America (Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Litigation – Bankruptcy), 2016-present
- *Wisconsin Super Lawyers*®, Bankruptcy: Business, 2021