



Elena Paras Ketchum,
SRBP Shareholder

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Elena Paras Ketchum, named by SuperLawyers as one of the top fifty women attorneys in the State of Florida, joined the law firm of Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A. in 2001 and became a shareholder in 2007. Ms. Ketchum is heavily involved in the firm’s insolvency, transactional, and commercial litigation practices.

In the insolvency arena, Ms. Ketchum brings a solid knowledge of bankruptcy law and substantial courtroom experience to her cases. She is chiefly noted for her representation of debtors in possession in Chapter 11 cases – successfully reorganizing debtors involved in industries as diverse as trucking, manufacturing, construction, retail, restaurant, healthcare, printing, and grocery.

On the transactional side, she has represented numerous buyers and sellers in connection with complex stock and asset sales and borrowers and guarantors in commercial loan transactions. Ms. Ketchum has been lead counsel in successful out-of-court workouts of loans totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars and regularly represents clients in negotiating and documenting complicated transactions such as workout and loan modification agreements and agreements related to asset sales.

Ms. Ketchum also heads up the firm’s practice under Chapter 727 of the Florida Statutes dealing with “Assignments for the Benefit of Creditors”. Finally, Ms. Ketchum defends borrowers in state court litigation, bringing with her the courtroom experience she gained as an Assistant State Attorney with the State Attorney’s Office for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Hillsborough County, where she was assigned to the Felony division.

Ms. Ketchum currently serves on the local Rules Lawyers Advisors committee for the Middle District of Florida, has served as President and Chair of the Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association, served as Chair of the District-Wide Steering Committee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida, has lectured on bankruptcy topics, and has served as a guest instructor in advanced bankruptcy classes at the University of Florida College of Law and at the Stetson University College of Law. Ms. Ketchum is a Tampa native.

EDUCATION

- Agnes Scott College, B.A., with high honors
- University of Florida, J.D., 1997, with honors

BAR ADMISSIONS

- The Florida Bar (all State courts)
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS

- Rated "AV Preeminent" in Martindale-Hubbell
- Listed, Chambers & Partners, Bankruptcy/Restructuring Practice in Florida 2012-2022
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law
- Listed among the 500 Leading U.S. Bankruptcy and Restructuring Lawyers in the Inaugural 2020 as well as the 2022 Edition of Lawdragon
- Listed in "Florida Super Lawyers" in the area of bankruptcy/insolvency practice as "Super Lawyer" (2014 – 2022) and "Rising Star," (2009 – 2012)
- Listed, Top 50 Women Lawyers in the State of Florida by "Florida Super Lawyers" (2015 – 2020)
- Listed, Florida's Legal Elite, Florida Trend Magazine (2012 – 2015, 2018)
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Recipient of the 2006 James M. "Red" McEwen Memorial Award presented annually by the Hillsborough County Bar Association to the individual who contributed the most to the HCBA during the year.
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Book Award, Comparative Tort Litigation and Rules of Procedure, UF law school

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Local Rules Lawyers Advisory Committee (2020 – present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Tampa Museum of Art (2019 – present)
- Leadership Tampa, Class of 2019
- President and Member, Sister City Affiliate Group for Heraklion, Crete (Greece)
- President, Daughters of Penelope, Chapter Alcmaeon 167 Tampa (2022-2023)
- Chair, District-Wide Steering Committee for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida (2012 – 2016)
- Member, International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (2010 to date)
- Member, American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member, American Bar Association
- Community Tampa Bay, Board Member (2013 – 2016); Treasurer (2013 – 2014)
- Turnaround Underground – member of organizing group in Tampa (2012)
- Tampa Bay Bankruptcy Bar Association
 - Member, Special Committee on Bylaw Review and Amendments (2018)
 - Chair (2011-2012)
 - President (2010-2011)
 - Vice- President (2009-2010)
 - Treasurer (2008-2009)
 - Chair of the Credit Abuse Resistance Education program (2007-2010)
 - Membership Chair (2006-2007)
- The Florida Bar, Business Law Section, Executive Council (2006-2007)
- Hillsborough County Bar Association, Co-chair of the Community Service Committee (2005-2006)
- Hillsborough County Bar Association, Teen Summit Mock Trial (2005)
- Tampa Theater, Restoration Committee (2005)
- Great American Teach In, Academy of the Holy Names (2004)
- Pupil, American Inns of Court, Justice William Glenn Terrell Inn (2002-2003)
- Reading Mentor, Time to Read Literacy/Mentoring Program (2002-2003)
- Junior League of Tampa (Active Member 1999-2012; Sustainer 2013 to current)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, New Orleans Bar Association Program in New Orleans, Louisiana (July 2018) – “Strategies and Best Practices for §363 Sale: Everything You Need to Know About APA and Bidding Procedures”
- Guest Lecturer, Advanced Bankruptcy Course, University of Florida College of Law (2018)
- Speaker, Orange County Bar Association Conference (April 2016)
- Guest Lecturer, Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Seminar, Stetson University College of Law (Fall Semester 2014)
- Speaker, American Bar Association Business Law Section Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. (April 2013) – “The Anatomy of a Workout”
- Speaker, Central Florida Bankruptcy Law Association Annual Bankruptcy Seminar (September 2012)
- Speaker, American Bankruptcy Institute’s 17th Annual Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop (July 2012) – “Bankruptcy Litigation: A Practical Skills Guide”
- Speaker, Bankruptcy/UCC Session, Florida Bar’s Annual Meeting (June 2012) – “Anatomy of a Workout”
- Attendee, 2011 Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference held April 28 – 30, 2011.
- Guest Lecturer, Advanced Bankruptcy Course, University of Florida College of Law (2011)
- Speaker, Hillsborough County Bar Association (2011) – “Understanding Bankruptcy Issues in Family Law Cases”
- Speaker, Hillsborough County Bar Association (2010) – “HCBA Loan Modification and Workout Town Hall Meeting”

PUBLICATIONS

- Contributor of “Relevant Bankruptcy. Sections from Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021” for Business Bankruptcy Legal Update and Unmasking Some Great Consumer Cases from 2020 and 2021, presentations 45th Annual Memorial Alexander L. Paskay Bankruptcy Seminar, March 26, 2021.
- “The Value of a Secured Creditor’s Collateral is Established by Third-Party Winning Bid, Not Credit Bid”, American Bankruptcy Institute Journal, Vol. XL, No. 3, March 2021
- “SBRA: So Many Choices, So Little Time – Electing to Proceed under Subchapter V” – assisted in drafting PowerPoint for presentation by panel at Insolvency 2020 Virtual Summit hosted by American Bankruptcy Institute
- “Economic Buoys for Businesses Affected by COVID-19”, April 3, 2020.

REPRESENTATION

In addition to being lead counsel in numerous out-of-court workouts for loans involving hundreds of millions of dollars, Elena Paras Ketchum has headed up or had significant involvement in the firm's representation of numerous matters, including:

- Optimized Leasing, Inc.
- RGR Watkins, LLC
- Cypress Health Systems, Inc., d/b/a Tri County Hospital-Williston
- Teltronics, Inc.
- American Environmental Container Corp., Aqua Environmental Container Corp., Arizona Environmental Container Corp., JOKI Leasing, LLC, KITO Leasing, LLC, STKI Leasing, LLC, and TOKI Leasing, L.C.
- Royal Floors Inc.
- Valco Enterprises, Ltd., Shutter Enterprises Group, Inc., Roll-a-Way, Inc. and Valco Group, Inc.
- Nature's Harvest Market & Deli, Inc.
- Taylor Brothers, LLC
- Performance Line Hardware, LLC
- Target Graphics, Inc.
- Apollo Construction & Engineering Services, Inc.
- Dunkin Diamonds, Inc. (closing of exit financing transaction)
- Sun Coast Hospital, Inc.
- Linc.net, Inc.
- Accentia Biopharmaceuticals, Inc.
- Lee Wetherington Development, LLC (ABC)
- Immersion Digital (ABC)

Numerous other ABC cases, including GKK Hisland, Ltd., MSM Orange Avenue, Ltd, OFP Titusville, Ltd, PDG Titusville, LLC, South Orange, Ltd, WIN Estero, Ltd, WIN Ocoee, Ltd, and WIN Suncoast, Ltd., Wilmington Retail, Ltd., ENG Gadgets, Inc., Transition Sportswear, LLC, and representing Assignee in Security Compliance Associates, LLC, MUDD Construction, Inc. and HFS-USA, Inc. and eight related entities.

LOCATIONS

TAMPA

110 E. Madison St., Suite 200,
Tampa, FL 33602-4700
(813) 229-0144

FORT MYERS

1533 Hendry St., Suite 300,
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 939-5518

PENSACOLA

41 N. Jefferson St., Suite 111,
Pensacola, FL 32502-5642
(850) 637-1836

DESTIN

4475 Legendary Dr., Suite 40,
Destin, FL 32541-9306
(850) 637-1836