

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL
LEADERS
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2021 HONOREES
& FINALISTS



BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR HONOREE

JEFF BJORK

Partner; Global Vice Chair of the Restructuring & Special Situations Practice
Latham & Watkins

As partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins and global vice chair of the firm's Restructuring and Special Situations Practice, Jeff Bjork is widely recognized as a leading restructuring lawyer. In addition, he is recognized as a leading restructuring lawyer by publications such as, ILFR1000 ("Highly Regarded," Restructuring and Insolvency); The Best Lawyers in America (Bankruptcy/Insolvency); The International Who's Who for

Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers; The Legal 500 (Municipal Bankruptcy); and by the 2020 Lawdragon 500 as one of the top 500 U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers and Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers. Chambers and Partners said his "experience in matters involving any and all industries enables him to quickly assess and understand a situation, and to provide the legal advice that best positions his clients for maximum recovery and success."

Bjork represents public and private companies, creditors, and investors in all aspects of restructuring. With more than 20 years in practice, Bjork has represented clients in all aspects of restructuring, including debtors (public company and privately held), distressed investors, sellers, and purchasers of financially troubled companies, bond insurers, debt syndicates, and bondholder groups.

During the COVID-19 pandemic that caused massive disruption around the world, Bjork, in his leadership role as global vice chair, worked diligently to ensure full-client coverage and maintain continued service throughout to help clients navigate new business challenges and crisis. As a result, the firm's Restructuring Group that Bjork co-leads, had a record year – currently leading some of the largest restructuring matters at Latham.



REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR FINALIST

MEGHAN COCCI

Partner, Global Co-Chair of the Hospitality, Gaming & Leisure Industry Group
Latham & Watkins

Meghan Cocci stands out among top L.A.-based real estate lawyers for her successful stewardship of Latham & Watkins' Global Hospitality, Gaming & Leisure Industry Group through a highly tumultuous time for the industry. Within weeks of her arrival at the firm in January 2020 as vice chair of the group, nearly all client projects shut down due to the pandemic. Cocci quickly pivoted from negotiating high-profile transactions and

introducing herself to Latham colleagues to leading a global effort to stabilize and protect hospitality clients from the ravages brought by COVID-19.

Owners, investors, and operators of many of the world's most high-value properties turned to Cocci and her Latham colleagues to navigate urgent financial restructurings, operational issues relating to public health, implementing and enforcing new guest and events policies, and myriad employment matters. Cocci saw clients through the storm to a successful landing, with many now in robust recovery.