

## Deborah Gregory

Partner

London

### Biography

Deborah has had over 35 years' experience of advising on all aspects of corporate restructuring and insolvency in both domestic and cross-border transactions including refinancings, debt/equity swaps, group reorganisations, debt sales, enforcement strategies, contingency planning, distressed M&A transactions, receivership appointments and all formal insolvency procedures including trading administrations.

Based in London, Deborah has experience of advising all levels in a restructuring transaction – from the senior creditors through to the equity sponsor – and this knowledge of the technical and commercial issues facing stakeholders in any restructuring transaction allows her to advise her clients on the best way of achieving the desired outcome.

Deborah regularly acts for banks and other financial institutions, distressed corporates, directors and insolvency practitioners. She is one of the few practitioners experienced in advising insolvency practitioners not only where insolvency is used as part of a pre-planned restructuring process but also free-fall and trading insolvencies.

Over the years, Deborah has worked on a number of high-profile matters within the restructuring and insolvency industry, advising on matters spanning the real estate, retail, healthcare, insurance, energy and financial institutions sectors. Notable examples of her more recent work are set out below.



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### Languages

English

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### Practices

Business Restructuring and  
Insolvency

Banking and Loan Finance

Real Estate Finance

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### Industries

Automotive

Consumer

Energy and Natural Resources

Financial Institutions

## Representative experience

Advising on the company voluntary arrangement (CVA) and subsequent sale of the company which owns the Gaucho chain of restaurants.

Advising on the restructuring and subsequent pre-packaged administration sales of the Conviviality Group, including Bargain Booze.

Advising a syndicate of lenders in relation to the Arcadia restructuring and the CVAs.

Advising on the trading administration and subsequent sale of the Peacocks and Bon Marche clothing stores, which saved over 6000 jobs.

Advising the senior lenders and subsequently the Administrators on Parabis Law Group which result in 6 pre-packaged sales and complex transitional services arrangements.

Advising lenders to listed, regulated insurance group CCPGroup plc, against the backdrop of proposed scheme to compromise liabilities arising from mis-selling claims.

Advising on complex tax driven restructuring of a property group's corporate structure with over 100 subsidiaries and the transfer of c.130 properties into a new group.

Advising PwC as administrators of Fire Controls, a Jersey LP which owned call centres in England and Wales.

Advising PwC as administrators in relation to the pre-packaged insolvency of the EMI Group.

Advising lenders on the refinancing and restructuring of the European Care Group delivered through the first pre-pack sale to take place in Guernsey.

Advising on the restructuring and subsequent administration of AIM-listed AssetCo, which owned and

Real Estate

Technology & Telecoms

Private Capital

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## Areas of focus

Direct Lending

Creditor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies

Debtor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies

Hospitals and Health Care Providers

Loan Portfolio and Distressed Debt Transactions

Oil and Gas: Pipelines and Midstream Facilities

Retail and Consumer Goods

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## Education and admissions

### Education

LL.B., University of Manchester

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## Memberships

Fellow of R3 (the Association of Business Recovery Professionals);

City of London Solicitors' Company

INSOL International

The Insolvency Lawyers' Association

International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC)

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maintained fire engines for the London Fire Brigade.

Advising FTI as joint administrators of the 2e2 Group.

Advising the senior syndicate in relation to the restructuring of the Pearl Group.

Advising Deloitte as administrators of Landsbanki (Guernsey) Limited, a Guernsey bank, in the first administration in Guernsey under their new law.

Advising the senior syndicate on the restructuring of facilities provided to the PSE Group and the IonBond Group, an international metal coatings group with subsidiaries in 17 jurisdictions.

Advising the lender in relation to the sale of a portfolio of Irish property-backed loans.

Advising PricewaterhouseCoopers as administrators of Fire Controls, a Jersey LP which owned call centres in England and Wales.

Advising PricewaterhouseCoopers as administrators in relation to the pre-packaged insolvency of the EMI Group.

Advising the lenders in relation to the restructuring of facilities provided to listed care homes provider, Southern Cross and other Healthcare Providers.

Advising Deloitte as administrators of Landsbanki (Guernsey) Limited, a Guernsey bank, in the first administration in Guernsey under their new law.

Advising the senior syndicate in relation to the restructuring of facilities provided to the PSE Group and the IonBond Group, an international metal coatings group with subsidiaries in 17 jurisdictions.

Advising senior lenders on the restructuring of the IMO Car Wash Group including the contested schemes of arrangement and subsequent administration asset sales.

Advising the senior lenders and subsequently the

## Accolades

*"Outstanding and excellent adviser"*

Deborah Gregory is *"highly experienced, knows her market extremely well and provides first-rate client service,"* according to sources. She has a broad corporate restructuring and insolvency practice, advising on both domestic and cross-border matters.

*Chambers UK 2019*

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Deborah Gregory is "technically accomplished" and remains a key member of the team..."has recently been highly sought after by clients in the real estate sector".

*Chambers UK*

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A Leading Individual for Restructuring and Insolvency singled out as a "first-rate lawyer" who "understands the difficult technical issues and has an unbelievable work ethic"

*Chambers UK*

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Sources praise her quick thinking and legal acumen, as well as recognizing her valuable contribution in tense negotiations.

*Chambers UK 2017*

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Administrators on Parabis Law Group which result in 6 pre-packaged sales and complex transitional services arrangements.

## Awards and rankings

- 500 Leading Global Restructuring & Insolvency Lawyers, *Lawdragon*, 2020
- Restructuring/Insolvency (UK), *Chambers Global*, 2017 - 2019
- Leading individual for Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency, *Legal 500*, 2013 - 2019

## Latest thinking and events

- Announcements
  - Hogan Lovells provides pro bono support to Kuapa Kokoo in relation to Divine Chocolate
- News
  - Dive, dive, dive! Insolvency Reform in the UK Part II
- Insights
  - The Eagle has Landed - Insolvency Reform in the UK
- News
  - Easing the Burden: helping businesses stay afloat in the pandemic era
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - Impact of Declining Oil Prices – Issue 3: Business Restructuring and Insolvency
- Blog Post
  - Utilities companies denied power to take priority over other creditors in administration

Very strong technical skills and extremely strong work ethic," noting that "she has an excellent presence in large meetings and is very good commercially." She offers expertise on formal insolvency proceedings, distressed M&A and debt sales.

*Chambers 2018*

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