



# Bankruptcy & Insolvency

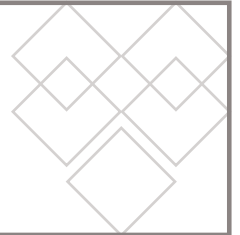
## 2025



PROFILED:

**MATT BARR**

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP





## Bankruptcy & Insolvency



### MATT BARR

Partner

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### PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

**Matt Barr** is co-chair of Weil's restructuring department and a member of the firm's management committee. He has extensive experience advising debtors, secured and unsecured creditors, bondholders, ad hoc groups, private equity funds, acquirers of assets and other institutions acquiring controlling positions in financially distressed companies in Chapter 11 reorganisation cases and out of court restructurings globally. His engagements range across industries, including retail, telecommunication, chemical, pharmaceutical, textile, energy, oil and gas, automotive, apparel, manufacturing, project finance and shipping. He has drawn upon his broad experience to advise clients on practical solutions and build the consensus required to implement them.

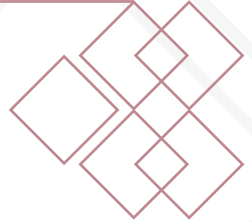
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## Q&amp;A WITH MATT BARR

**Could you describe your approach to tackling complex legal challenges?  
What principles or philosophies guide your work?**

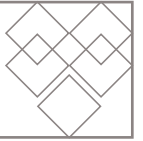
◆ Our approach is first to fully understand our clients' goals and what they are trying to accomplish. We then ask how we can achieve those goals in the most efficient way. We think outside the box and learn from prior experiences. Our principal philosophy is that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to a restructuring. As advisers, we need to strategise and challenge each other so that we can offer the best ways of reaching the client's goal. We help clients make informed business decisions by addressing, not just legally what the answer is, but practically, what it means for their business, their position or their stake in the particular restructure. We do not use a preconceived playbook. Firms that do often end up frustrating their clients because they are so focused on what they did before that they lose sight of the challenge in front of them.

**How do you mentor and inspire younger colleagues within your firm? Can you share a success story of someone you have guided?**

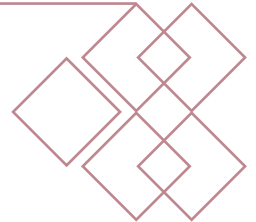
◆ I mentor by being approachable and creating a space where colleagues feel comfortable sharing both successes and challenges. I emphasise teamwork and ownership – when people feel invested, they strive for excellence. I check in often, offer clarity and help junior lawyers navigate competing priorities, which is essential to their growth. One associate once told me she remembered how, early in her career, I invited her to sit at the table when no one else had. That moment of inclusion stuck with her – and reminded me how simple acts matter. Another associate was talented, but passive about his career. I encouraged him to express his aspirations, reminding him that silence might stall progress. He followed through,

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became counsel, and now a partner. Mentorship is about partnership – just like with clients. We succeed when we communicate openly, build trust and commit fully to one another’s growth and goals.



**Could you discuss a particularly rewarding project or case you have worked on? What made it stand out for you?**

◆ One of my most rewarding engagements was guiding EP Energy, a large publicly traded oil and gas company, through Chapter 11 in the Southern District of Texas. We confirmed a plan after contentious litigation involving junior stakeholders and the reinstatement of over \$1bn in senior debt – just days before COVID-19 disrupted everything. Suddenly, the confirmed plan was no longer viable due to crashing oil prices and economic uncertainty. We had to pivot quickly. Within days, we renegotiated a new deal with senior creditors, preserving the company and saving thousands of jobs. What stood out was the speed and clarity required under pressure. We had just won a major trial, but the world changed. The key lesson: no matter how hard-won a plan is, you must adapt when circumstances demand it. Success is not about clinging to a win – it is about doing what is best for the business and its stakeholders. ■

**“THE KEY LESSON: NO MATTER HOW HARD-WON A PLAN IS, YOU MUST ADAPT WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND IT. SUCCESS IS NOT ABOUT CLINGING TO A WIN – IT IS ABOUT DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR THE BUSINESS AND ITS STAKEHOLDERS.”**

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## REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Advised Thomas H. Lee Partners and Bain Capital, as debt holder and financial sponsors of iHeart Media, in connection with iHeart's Chapter 11 case.
- ◆ Advised the official committee of unsecured creditors in the Chapter 11 cases of solar power company SunEdison, Inc.; listing assets of \$20.7bn and liabilities of \$16.1bn – 2016's largest bankruptcy.
- ◆ Advised Talen Energy Supply, LLC, a power generation and infrastructure company in North America, in its \$5bn Chapter 11 cases.
- ◆ Advised Fieldwood Energy in connection with its second, \$1.8bn Chapter 11 cases.
- ◆ Advised CEC Entertainment, Inc. and affiliated debtors, an American franchisee with iconic brands Chuck E. Cheese and Peter Piper Pizza, in their Chapter 11 cases.
- ◆ Advised Syncreon Group Holdings B.V., and affiliated debtors, in its groundbreaking, cross-border \$1.1bn restructuring.
- ◆ Advised the official committee of unsecured creditors in the Chapter 11 cases of Enron Corporation – one of the largest Chapter 11 cases in US history.

