



Joseph J. Bellissimo

Partner

Contact Information

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Office

Toronto

Expertise

- Restructuring & Insolvency
- Banking & Specialty Finance
- Private Equity

Biography

Joseph (Joe) Bellissimo* is a partner in the Restructuring & Insolvency Group at Cassels. Joe's practice includes representing debtor companies, creditors, court-appointed monitors, and receivers and purchasers of distressed assets in restructuring matters. He offers experience across a broad range of industries, including mining, natural resources, energy, aviation, steel, transportation, manufacturing, retail, sports and entertainment industries. He has appeared on behalf of clients before all levels of court in restructuring and insolvency matters, including the Supreme Court of Canada. Joe serves on the Board of Directors of the Turnaround Management Association – Toronto Chapter and he has written and co-written various articles and papers in the field of restructuring and insolvency.

A few of Joe's recent and public representations include acting for:

- The senior secured lenders and plan sponsors in connection with the CCAA proceedings of Delphi Energy Corp
- Connacher Oil and Gas Limited in its CCAA proceedings
- Deloitte Restructuring Inc. the trustee in bankruptcy of Maple Financial Group Inc. and court-appointed receiver of Maple Futures Corp.
- Ernst & Young in connection with the receivership of St. Mary's Paper Corp.
- The ad hoc group of Senior Secured Bonds in the CCAA proceedings of Great Western Minerals Group
- Certain secured lenders in the CCAA proceedings of the Canadian subsidiaries of Cliffs Natural Resources
- A secured lender in Jaguar Mining's recapitalization through CCAA proceedings

**denotes Professional Corporation*

Achievements

- *Best Lawyers in Canada* (Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law)
- *IFLR1000* (Restructuring and Insolvency)
- *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory* (Insolvency & Financial)

Restructuring: Insolvency Litigation)

Recent Representative Work

- Cassels Successfully Defends \$77 Million Breach of Trust/Constructive Trust Claim Against Receivership Assets
- Cassels Acts For Second City in Sale to ZMC

Insights

- Changes to the Treatment of Intellectual Property in Insolvency Proceedings
- Lessons Learned – Lesson Five: Insolvency & Leasing – True Lease vs. Finance Lease Remains an Important Distinction

Education / Bar Admissions

- LL.B. (with Distinction), Western University, 2001
- B.A., York University, 1998
- Ontario, 2002
- Alberta, 2017

Associations

- American Bankruptcy Institute
- Canadian Bar Association
- INSOL International
- Ontario Bar Association, Member of the Executive, Insolvency Law Section
- Turnaround Management Association (TMA)