Overview

Ryan Witthans joined Finestone Hayes LLP as an associate in 2018. From 2014 to 2018, Ryan was a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Stephen L. Johnson of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Ryan graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2014. While in law school, Ryan received awards for his writing, oral advocacy, and negotiation skills, including First Place in the 2013 Lewis & Clark Western Regional Environmental Law Negotiation Competition. He received Witkin Awards in Academic Excellence and CALI Excellence for the Future Awards in the courses of Mediation, International Business Negotiation, and Intellectual Property Concentration Seminar. He served as Director of Professional Development and later as Alumni Advisor to the Hastings Intellectual Property Association and as Senior Article Editor for the Hastings Communication and Entertainment Law Journal, COMM/ENT.

In his free time, Ryan enjoys raising his son Ethan, cycling, motorcycling, and the outdoors.

Admissions

State Bar of California, 2014

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

United States District Court, Northern District of California

United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of California

United States District Court, Central District of California

United States Bankruptcy Court, Central District of California

United States District Court, Eastern District of California

United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California

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Representative Experience

Represented a creditor with a $38 million claim on the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the 2019 Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases of PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Represented a creditor with a $9 million claim on the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors in the 2020 Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases of Neiman Marcus and related debtors.

Represented a prepetition and debtor-in-possession lender providing financing for eight related Chapter 11 debtors operating a nationwide restaurant chain.

Represented a food preparation and delivery company debtor to confirm a Chapter 11 liquidating plan and to sell assets including a real property lease and intellectual property.

Represented a solar company in federal district court to successfully add an alter ego entity to a multi-million-dollar judgment pursuant to Cal. Code Civ. P. § 187 following extensive international discovery and a contested hearing.

Represented a cosmetics company debtor to confirm a Chapter 11 reorganization plan to restructure products liability claims.

Represented a cosmetics company debtor in its successful appeal of a bankruptcy court's allowance of a $1.1 million claim based on a foreign default judgment on the grounds that the foreign court lacked personal jurisdiction over the debtor.

Managed extensive third-party discovery involving subpoenas to approximately forty private, public, and government entities to gather evidence related to claims for fraudulent transfer, alter ego, and breach of fiduciary duty in case arising from a mortgage fraud settlement.

Represented a Chapter 7 trustee to liquidate a debtor's stake in an international cosmetics company.

Represented a Chapter 7 trustee to recover, via favorable settlement, amounts due to the debtor pursuant to promissory notes, credit notes, and licensing and distribution agreements.

Represented a nonprofit that received donations from a corporate debtor against the trustee's fraudulent conveyance action, settling the case for less than the trustee's expected recovery and for less than the anticipated legal fees to defend the case.

Publications, Panels, and Speaking Engagements

Producer, *Big Wipeout: Making the Automatic Stay Work for You*, California Bankruptcy Forum, 33rd Annual Insolvency Conference, May 13, 2021.

Author, *What Restructuring Professionals Need to Know about the California Consumer Privacy Act*, Turnaround Management Association, Journal of Corporate Renewal, Vol. 33, No. 6, July/August 2020.

Contributor, *Recent Developments in Business Bankruptcy 2018 (Part 3)*, California Receiver's Forum, Receivership News, Issue 67, Winter 2019.

Contributor, *Recent Developments in Business Bankruptcy 2018 (Part 2)*, California Receiver's Forum, Receivership News, Issue 66, Summer 2019.

Contributor, *Recent Developments in Business Bankruptcy 2018 (Part 1)*, California Receiver's Forum, Receivership News, Issue 65, Winter/Spring 2019.

Producer, *Recent Developments in Business Bankruptcy* (presented to the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum and the Bar Association of San Francisco), 2017 to 2018.

Professional Organizations

Member of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum, 2020 to the present.

Member of the Education Board of the California Bankruptcy Forum, 2021 to the present.

Former Co-President, Secretary, and Member of the Congressman Don Edwards Inn of Court, 2014 to 2018.

Education

University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2014, Juris Doctor

Illinois Institute of Technology, 2008, Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)