

Emily K. Steele

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Emily Steele is a partner in the firm's Finance practice. She focuses her practice on the representation of secured and unsecured creditors in restructuring and insolvency matters. Emily represents clients in a variety of contexts in bankruptcy proceedings, including litigation involving the automatic stay, adequate protection, use of cash collateral, assumptions and rejections of executory contracts and unexpired leases, negotiation of trade agreements for critical vendor treatment, chapter 11 plan confirmation and interpretation, section 363 asset sales, and fraudulent conveyance and preference litigation. Emily also advises creditors as to their rights and remedies both in and out of court. As a member of the firm's finance practice group, Emily also works on corporate finance, commercial lending, private equity and mezzanine financing transactions. Emily regularly represents institutional investors, banks, private equity sponsors, and other public and private corporations as lenders or borrowers in a broad range of middle market debt finance transactions, as well as loan workouts, modifications, restructurings and debtor-in-possession financings.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining K&L Gates, Emily served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Stephani W. Humrickhouse, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, 2014-2016.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *Business North Carolina* Legal Elite for Bankruptcy, 2024
- Recognized in *Business North Carolina* Legal Elite “Young Guns,” 2023
- Selected for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges “NextGen” Program, 2023

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- North Carolina Bar Association, Member
- Wake County Bar Association, Member

- American Bankruptcy Institute, Member
- Turnaround Management Association, Member
- International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation, Member

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Fourth Circuit and Supreme Court Bankruptcy Case Update," Eastern Bankruptcy Institute, June 2015, May 2016

EDUCATION

- J.D., Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, 2014 *(summa cum laude; Editor-in-Chief, Campbell Law Review)*
- B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2011

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of North Carolina
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
- United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
- United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 7 May 2020, COVID-19: PPP Eligibility of Debtors in Bankruptcy
- 13 April 2020, COVID-19: Impact of the CARES Act on Subchapter V Reorganizations under the Bankruptcy Code
- 30 March 2020, COVID-19: How the CARES Act Will Impact Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 Consumer Bankruptcies

NEWS & EVENTS

- 25 August 2026, K&L Gates Advises Compass Group Equity Partners on Acquisition of Koma Precision
- 25 June 2026, K&L Gates Recognized by ABI for Innovation and Technology Sale of the Year
- 22 May 2025, K&L Gates Advises Akoustis Technologies in its Sale of Assets to SpaceX
- 6 January 2025, K&L Gates Names Nearly 35 New Partners, Of Counsel, and Policy Professionals Across Firm
- 10 February 2023, K&L Gates Successfully Recovers Breakup Fee for Italian Pharmaceutical Company in Delaware Chapter 11 Case
- 22 December 2022, K&L Gates Co-Publishes Bankruptcy Guide for Advocates Representing Trafficking Survivors

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Restructuring and Insolvency
- Financial Institutions and Services Litigation
- Payments, Banking Regulation, and Consumer Financial Services