

Robert Kugler

PARTNER

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Rob's tenacity makes all the difference in achieving results for his clients. His extensive complex commercial litigation experience amplifies his broad skillset as a savvy bankruptcy and creditor's rights advocate.

Rob's clients, whether commercial businesses or individual tort claimants, benefit from his experience litigating insurance issues, fraud, breach of duty and other business torts. Rob works with creditors, shareholders, governance boards, trustees and others in a wide array of bankruptcy proceedings. A member of the firm's Board of Directors and its Executive Committee and former chair of the Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights practice division, Rob provides clients with an array of tools and resources to solve the most complex bankruptcy issues.

Rob represents clients in bankruptcy and other litigation, and fights for the rights of creditors, lenders, lessors, developers, manufacturers and retailers in complex commercial and insurance litigation nationwide. His leadership skills in high-stakes litigation give his clients an edge when every dollar counts.

EXPERIENCE

Rob is a leader in the representation of survivors of sexual abuse in enforcing their claims in bankruptcy. Rob secured the largest ever recovery in a catholic diocese bankruptcy in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis case (\$210 million). Additionally, Rob

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights
Business Litigation
Structured Finance & RMBS Litigation

ADMISSIONS

Minnesota
Wisconsin
U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

EDUCATION

William Mitchell College of Law (Mitchell Hamline School of Law), J.D., 1988
Gustavus Adolphus College, B.A., 1985

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has represented survivor committees in the bankruptcy cases of the Crosier Order, the Diocese of Duluth, the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Diocese of New Ulm, the Diocese of Winona/Rochester and the Archdiocese of Agaña (Guam).

Rob currently serves as lead counsel representing the Committee of Tort Claimants in the Diocese of Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) in a case involving the diocese, 89 Parishes, 5 high schools and 59 survivors. Rob successfully argued and obtained derivative standing on behalf of the Committee opening the door to the pursuit of fraud claims targeting an estimated \$95 million in assets transferred into two trusts.

Rob successfully represented multiple lenders facing more than \$3 billion in claims in a fraud case.

Rob obtained confirmation of a Chapter 11 plan resolving all claims arising out of the catastrophic collapse of the Copper Lounge building in Sioux Falls, SD. This plan provided for the payment of over \$4M to the survivors and families of those who did not survive the collapse.

Following a multi-day trial, Rob recently successfully represented a Chapter 7 trustee sued for intentional fraud and fraudulent conveyance, defeating the \$5.5 million claim on all counts.

He recently won a \$7.2 million breach of fiduciary duties verdict against the former trustee of a liquidating trust.

RECOGNITIONS

Attorney of the Year – *Minnesota Lawyer* 2018

Selected for inclusion in *Super Lawyers*®

Attorney of the Month, *Attorney at Law Magazine*, June 2013

Minnesota Public Radio contributor on Diocesan and auto industry bankruptcies

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

American Bar Association

Federal Bar Association

American Bankruptcy Institute

Commercial Law League of America

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Equipment Leasing Association

Turnaround Management Association

National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees

Minnesota Supreme Court Board of Legal Certification, Former Chair

Minnesota State Bar Association, Bankruptcy Section

NEWS

Law360 Spotlights Stinson's Survivor Protection Practice Group

04.15.2024

Stinson Launches Survivor Protection Practice

Leverages experience from Catholic Church bankruptcies to ensure survivors' voices have maximum impact,

04.08.2024

Stinson Attorneys Bring Millions into Bankruptcy of Archdiocese of Agaña in Groundbreaking Decision

03.16.2022

Court Finds Catholic Parishes Are Not Separate from Archdiocese in Bankruptcy

07.19.2021

Rob Kugler Discusses Harrisburg Diocese Bankruptcy with Penn. Public Broadcasting

05.26.2021

Rob Kugler Quoted on USA Gymnastics Bankruptcy Case in *USA Today*

03.05.2020

Rob Kugler Quoted on Catholic Diocese Bankruptcy Cases in Bloomberg Businessweek

01.13.2020

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Panelist, "Litigating Under the Child Victim's Act: Sexual Abuse Cases," New York Bar Association, June 28, 2021

"What Not To Put Into a Chapter 11 Plan," Midwestern Bankruptcy Institute, October 4, 2019

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PUBLICATIONS

“Inside the Minds: Representing Creditors in Chapter 9 Municipal Bankruptcy,” *Aspatore Publishing*, 2014

Co-Author, “Bankruptcy Auctions Present Opportunities to Acquire Energy Assets with Limited Risk,” SLS Insight, August 18, 2014

“How to Measure Good Faith?,” *Attorney at Law*, May 2014