

Michael D. Mezey

Shareholder

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Mike, a Shareholder, joined the Firm in 2000. He practices in our Commercial Lending/Workouts, Real Estate, and Corporate groups, and represents and counsels regional and local lenders; commercial real estate owners, syndicators, and brokers; family business owners; and title insurance underwriters and agencies.

Also a CPA licensed in Michigan, he was general counsel of LandAmerica's Michigan direct operations for several years focusing on commercial lending and restructuring transactions, acquisitions of affiliated businesses, joint ventures with lenders and brokers, and commercial property closings and underwriting.

Mike's current and recent matters include:

Representing lenders in the restructuring of commercial real estate loans and projects; forbearance agreements; structuring and closing sales of bank owned properties and loans; exercise of default remedies, including ALRs and the collection of rents in coordination with property management teams and receivers; and all phases of workouts and sales of bank owned properties.

Mike has represented many lenders and borrowers in all phases of real estate financing and the purchase and sale of commercial real property. His collective experience of representing lenders and borrowers, being a CPA, and in the areas of title insurance, real property, and business acquisitions gives him a problem solving skill set helpful in today's economic climate.

\$100+ million loan restructuring and collateral liquidation of real estate developer group for publicly traded bank

\$14 million sale of aerospace and automotive tool facility company

\$15 million loan workout and liquidation of 250+ apartment facility, involving management transition, default and control of rents, forbearance, and sale of property for publicly traded lender

\$20 million sale of concrete manufacturer, quarry and real estate facilities

\$20 million financing and sale transaction of largest US minority owned automotive floor mat manufacturer

\$80 million title insurance underwriting of one of Michigan's largest privately owned landlords on behalf of Stewart Title and Lehman Brothers

Coordination for lenders of several distressed real estate construction projects involving completion with governmental authorities and construction contractors. Designed protective structures for limited advances by bank and letters of credit which led to higher realization.

Mike represented the United States government and the US Marshal in a quiet title, drug forfeiture, and Patriot Act action involving multiple properties and perpetrators and was successful in the conveyance, turnover, and settlement of several properties and titles in favor of the government.

Mike and his wife Laurie have three children, and he enjoys SCUBA diving, woodworking, playing guitar, and shooting hoops on the driveway. Mike, his son Kevin, and their dog Bailey won the 2007 Michigan Frisbee Toss and Catch competition.

PRACTICE AREAS

- > Banking
 - > Real Estate
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EDUCATION

UNDERGRADUATE

- > Central Michigan University - B.S. 1980
 - > *cum laude*

LAW SCHOOL

- > Michigan State University - J.D. 1984
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ADMISSIONS

BAR ADMISSIONS

- > State Bar of Michigan

COURT ADMISSIONS

- > U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
 - > U.S. Tax Court
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JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Internship with the Honorable Ralph B. Guy in the U.S. District Court and 6th Circuit Court of Appeals; drafted published 6th circuit opinion concerning the admissibility of evidence from a confidential informant.

MEMBERSHIPS/ ASSOCIATIONS

LEGAL

- > State Bar of Michigan (Corporation, Finance and Business Law, Real Property Taxation Sections)
- > American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- > Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants
- > Oakland County Bar Association

- > Lecturer and writer for the Michigan Institute of Legal Education, Michigan Association of CPAs, and Michigan Land Title Association in the areas of commercial real property transactions, construction loan disbursement procedures, real estate lending and restructuring, title disputes and claims, construction liens, and 1031 like kind exchanges.
- > Presenter of in-house seminars to several commercial lenders, brokers, and title insurance companies on those subjects.
- > Publications: "Accounts Receivable Financing Under Article 9 of the UCC," Michigan Business Law Journal, Volume XIV, Issue No. 3, 1992, Co-authored: "Title Law in Michigan," NBI, 1997; "The Corporate Taxpayer Federal Income Tax Compliance Matters," Price Waterhouse Tax Information Planning Series 26.