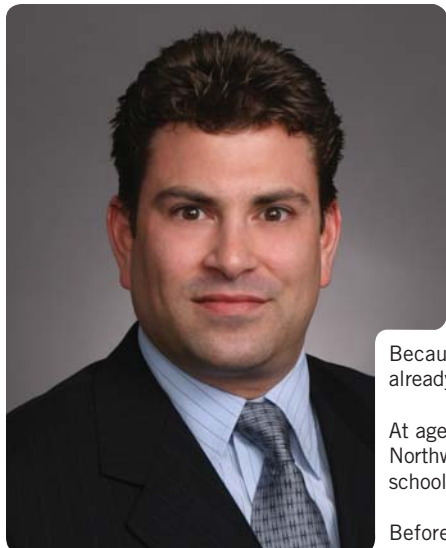


AARON L. HAMMER

AGE **37**



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LAW SCHOOL
Northwestern University
School of Law

SPECIALITY
Bankruptcy and Corporate
Reorganization

Because Aaron L. Hammer, 37, reaches milestones so quickly, few people are surprised he already leads the bankruptcy practice at Freeborn & Peters LLP.

At age 25 while a first-year associate, Hammer began teaching as an adjunct law professor at Northwestern University School of Law. He is reportedly the youngest faculty member in the law school's 160-year history.

Before Hammer turned 30, he led a Mayer Brown legal team representing the debtor in the complex Chapter 11 proceedings of Lason, Inc. in Delaware. The matter concluded with the successful reorganization of a \$200 million annual revenue multi-national business in May 2002. Several months later, Hammer began representing Philip Morris in United Airlines' Chapter 11 proceeding on over \$250 million in leveraged aircraft leases. Following the successful conclusion of this matter for his client, Hammer advised aircraft financiers and purchasers in virtually every major airline restructuring this decade including American, Atlas, ATA and Delta airlines.

At age 33, Hammer accepted Freeborn & Peters' invitation to join its bankruptcy practice as a partner. After helping grow the team to ten full-time professionals, at age 36, Hammer was named practice group leader. "Aaron has achieved many unique and exceptional things in his relatively short 12-year career as a corporate reorganization and bankruptcy attorney," says William N. Howard, Chairman of Freeborn & Peters' Executive Committee. "Not everyone," he says, "leads the bankruptcy practice at a major Chicago law firm, let alone one that is being driven by blue chip clientele and engaged in complex matters around the world."

Hammer's clientele includes domestic and foreign companies such as AT&T, Marsh & McLennan, Deloitte, N.M. Rothschild & Sons and Bank of Montreal. Of equal significance, Hammer has represented clients in some of this country's largest recent bankruptcies including General Motors, Chrysler, Lehman Bros., R.H. Donnelly, Circuit City and Tribune, among many others.

David F.W. Cohen, national leader of the restructuring practice at Gowling Lafleur Henderson in Canada says Hammer is "a world-class practitioner of cross-border workouts and corporate restructurings" who recently "received praise from a federal bankruptcy judge as 'the expert' in Chapter 15 proceedings under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code." Weeks later, INSOL Europe cited Hammer's latest publication on the subject to the U.S. Supreme Court in another cross-border insolvency matter.

Mark S. Melickian of Drinker Biddle says Hammer "has consistently shown outstanding lawyering ability, innate instincts in the bankruptcy arena and a practical approach to resolving his client's issues." Even as a junior associate, says Melickian, Hammer was part of the team that successfully represented Bank of America before the U.S. Supreme Court in 203 N. LaSalle St. Partnership, a seminal bankruptcy case.

"Aaron has a unique ability to combine strict legal advice with business-oriented solutions," says Warren H. Mondschein, the general counsel of software manufacturer CommVault Systems, which entrusts Hammer to solve its customer bankruptcies. Hammer's approach, which is "to cut through the noise to preview a reasonable outcome analysis," makes it far easier for Mondschein to weigh the merits of a case and quickly reach the most efficient solution.

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With his creative solutions and undaunted determination, it is easy to see why nominators describe Hammer as a dealmaker and consensus builder who develops loyalty among colleagues and clients. Not surprisingly, the corporate restructuring community has acknowledged Hammer's early success as well. In May 2009, he was awarded "Large Transaction of the Year" from the Turnaround Management Association's Chicago/Midwest chapter for his role as creditors' committee counsel in the Chapter 11 cases of Trinsic Communications, Inc., in Alabama – a prestigious honor for this emerging industry leader.

Hammer lives in Chicago with his wife Fiona, daughter Ella and their three dogs, Ernie, Olive and Milo. The family is eager to welcome another daughter to their family later this year.



Aaron is the ninth Freeborn & Peters attorney since 2000 to be named to the Law Bulletin's 40 Under Forty list.

NO BORDERS

From Moscow to Montreal, Delaware to D.C., Aaron Hammer has been everywhere, helping companies solve their most challenging problems.

His award-winning work has earned him a reputation across the globe as a trusted corporate advisor and leading expert in the turnaround and restructuring community.

Whether it's in a traditional bankruptcy proceeding, a complex financial restructuring or a cross-border insolvency, Aaron combines innovative thinking and an undaunted spirit to deliver outstanding results for our clients.

Freeborn & Peters LLP

Litigation
Business Law
Real Estate
Bankruptcy
Government and Regulatory Law

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