

Gabriel M. Hartsell

Partner

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Gabriel Hartsell defends financial institutions, Fortune 500 companies, and creditors through bankruptcy restructurings, commercial litigation, and creditors' rights enforcement so they can resolve high-stakes disputes efficiently and protect their bottom line.

Gabriel brings a business-minded approach to every engagement, combining deep creditors' rights experience with a litigator's instinct for cost-effective resolution. He advises corporate clients, individuals, financial institutions, creditors, and debt servicers across the full arc of bankruptcy reorganizations, restructurings, workouts, and commercial disputes — always with an eye toward managing exposure and achieving practical outcomes.

On the creditors' rights side, Gabriel structures and pursues pre-suit provisional remedies — including receiverships and replevin — for secured creditors and lessors, enforces commercial leases, and navigates assignments for the benefit of creditors (ABCs) as a bankruptcy alternative. He also guides clients through alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration and mediation, when litigation is not the most efficient path forward.

Gabriel has successfully defended multiple Fortune 500 companies, including several ranked in the top 50, against lawsuits seeking upwards of \$100 million, and has secured multi-million-dollar resolutions in favor of his clients. His appellate work has taken him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, where he has briefed multiple appeals and obtained favorable rulings in every case the Court decided.

His practice extends to the defense of class action claims and consumer financial services matters, reflecting the breadth of disputes that arise in the banking and mortgage banking sectors. Gabriel has also served as general counsel for a chamber of commerce, advising its board and executive committee on public records law, private-public governance structures, and the handling of public funds — experience that

Education

- Florida State University College of Law (J.D., 2010)
 - *magna cum laude*
- Florida State University College of Law (International Law Certificate Program, 2010)
 - *magna cum laude*
- Palm Beach Atlantic University (B.S., Psychology, 2007)
 - *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Arizona
- Florida
- Georgia

sharpens his ability to counsel clients on institutional risk and governance alongside their litigation strategy.

Gabriel is recognized in Best Lawyers in America® for 2023–2027. Within Dorsey & Whitney, he serves on the Arizona Justice Project Case Review Team and manages the pro bono activities for Dorsey’s Phoenix office.

Select Experience

- Successfully represented a large financial institution in recovering outstanding financing obligations from an equipment dealer in bankruptcy. Navigated complex intercreditor agreements, competing lender claims, and potential lien-stripping issues in a Section 363 sale, securing full recovery of all amounts owed, including attorneys’ fees, through a negotiated payoff at closing.
- Successfully represented a medical device consultant in a complex, four-year dispute involving fraud, trade secret misappropriation, defamation, breach of contract, and restrictive covenant claims. Following a ten-day jury trial, secured a unanimous verdict defeating all claims against the client and prevailing on all affirmative claims, including establishing successor liability arising from fraudulent transfers, resulting in a final judgment exceeding \$3 million.
- Successfully represented a national supermarket chain in complex, multi-year insurance coverage litigation involving COVID-19-related claims across hundreds of stores nationwide. Through strategic discovery, motion practice, and expert testimony from epidemiologists and biologists, secured a favorable settlement after successfully challenging the insurer’s denial of coverage.
- Represented a national general contractor in construction and payment disputes involving multiple projects nationwide, including claims related to defective workmanship and payment obligations. Successfully negotiated resolutions with subcontractors and project owners, avoiding millions of dollars in potential delay damages and related claims.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

Professional Affiliations

- National Equipment Finance Association, member, 2021-present
- Phoenix Federal Bar Association, member, 2020-present

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Fiesta Sports Foundation, Yellowjacket Committee Member, 2022-present
- Valley Young Professionals, member, 2021-2023

- ImpactJax Young Professionals, member, 2017 – 2020
- ImpactJax Service and Giving Committee, member, 2019 – 2020

Accolades

- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (Arizona Justice Project Case Review Team), 2025
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2023-2027
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*,® "Rising Stars," 2022-2025
- *Best Lawyers*® *Ones to Watch in America*, 2021, 2022
- *Florida Super Lawyers*,® "Rising Stars," 2018-2021

Legal Writings