

Isaac M. Gabriel

Partner

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Phoenix – 602.735.2702

Southern California



Isaac Gabriel represents businesses, lenders, and landlords through high stakes commercial litigation and Chapter 11 restructurings so they can protect their assets and emerge with their interests intact.

Isaac brings a pragmatic, results-driven approach to some of the most financially distressed and contested situations his clients face. Representing corporate clients, banks, lending institutions, special servicers, and commercial landlords, Isaac advises on all aspects of commercial litigation, bankruptcy and financial restructuring — from commercial disputes, partnership disputes, and complex commercial Chapter 11 reorganizations, to out-of-court workouts to receivership actions, foreclosures, and creditor's rights litigation. His clients rely on him when the stakes are high and the opposition is aggressive.

Isaac's litigation and restructuring practice spans both sides of the table. He has served in lead roles as both plaintiff and defendant, and as lead debtor's counsel in commercial Chapter 11 cases involving healthcare, real estate, and operating companies, guiding clients through contested confirmation proceedings and into confirmed plans of reorganization. He also represents national lenders and special servicers in complex bankruptcy cases throughout the U.S., as well as in pre-bankruptcy loan restructurings and commercial loan enforcement actions involving aggregate loan values exceeding well over \$1 billion.

Beyond restructuring, Isaac is an experienced trial lawyer who has taken cases through jury trials, bench trials, arbitrations, and summary judgment proceedings across a range of commercial disputes — including partnership and ownership disputes, real estate development conflicts, construction defect litigation, defamation, breach of fiduciary duty, and commercial lease enforcement. He has obtained eight-figure settlements, seven-figure trial verdicts, and punitive damages awards on behalf of his clients.

Education

- Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University (J.D., 2002)
 - *magna cum laude*
 - Order of the Coif; Pedrick Scholar; Armstrong Award
 - William C. Canby Appellate Advocacy Competition (Winner)
 - Arizona State National Moot Court Team
 - Arizona State Law Journal (Staff Writer, Fall 2000)
- Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management (Certificate, Leadership Program, 2016)
- University of Arizona (B.A., 1998)
 - *with honors*

Bar Admissions

- Arizona

Isaac also prosecutes and defends preference and fraudulent transfer claims in state and federal courts, and has served as special counsel for bankruptcy trustees. He has acted as trustee in connection with foreclosure and collection actions on large commercial real estate projects.

- California

Isaac is recognized in Best Lawyers in America® for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Bankruptcy Litigation, and in Southwest Super Lawyers® for Bankruptcy: Business.

Isaac is a long-standing pro bono attorney for the Arizona Justice Project, representing individuals in habeas corpus and post-conviction proceedings in potential wrongful conviction cases.

Select Experience

Chapter 11 Restructuring & Debtor Representation

- Served as co-lead debtor's counsel in the successful Chapter 11 reorganization of a healthcare company with more than \$40 million in annual revenue; overruled objections of the primary creditor — a competitor attempting to drive the debtor out of business through litigation — following eight days of contested confirmation proceedings across two separate trials.
- Served as lead counsel for national grocer whose meat and seafood distributor filed for Chapter 11 and ceased paying client's vendors; successfully navigated strategy to pay vendors directly while preserving offset/recoupment rights and defended \$42 million adversary claim, successfully settling matter on eve of trial for nominal amount.
- Served as lead debtor's counsel in multiple commercial Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring cases, including hospitality companies, resulting in confirmed plans of reorganization and successful business turnarounds.
- Prosecuted and defended preference and fraudulent transfer claims on behalf of corporate clients in state and federal courts, and as special counsel for bankruptcy trustees.

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers in America*® Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Bankruptcy Litigation, Phoenix, 2018-2026
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*® Bankruptcy: Business, 2013-2014, 2026; Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights, 2015-2018
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*®, "Rising Stars," 2012

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona

Languages

- Spanish

Professional Affiliations

- Board Member - High Country Adaptive Sports, a non-profit dedicated to providing outdoor physical sport opportunities to the disabled (2022-present)
 - *Pro Bono* Attorney, Arizona Justice Project, handling *habeas corpus* and post-convictions proceedings for potential wrongful convicted prisoners (2007–present)
 - Arizona State University Art Museum, Advisory Board Member (2009 – 2012)
 - Turnaround Management Association (Member)
 - State Bar of Arizona (Member)
 - Capitol Elementary School (Volunteer, 2002–present)
 - Arthritis Foundation's Oscar Night America (Board Member, 2006)
 - Volunteer Lawyers Program (Volunteer Pro-Bono Lawyer)
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Insights

March 14, 2023

Arizona Supreme Court Decision Could Affect Lending Practices