

MOVER OF THE WEEK

Outspoken Attorney Continues Writing, Lecturing As Partner

By Rachel Feintzeig



Scott Stuart likes to be a conversation starter. Whether it's through an article in the American Bankruptcy Institute journal or a lecture at a New York state bar association conference, Stuart jokes he is always looking to share his views with "basically anyone that will listen."

In fact, that's one of the reasons he was attracted to his current position at Donlin Recano.

Stuart, who has been with the claims-management firm for three years and was recently promoted to partner, said his job has given him a

voice in the restructuring community.

"It allowed me to have a platform to write and lecture on timely topics," he said.

Stuart is especially interested in the intersection of the bankruptcy industry with other, more tangential topic areas, such as economics, public policy and finance.

"Although bankruptcy law is a specialty, it's a specialty that crosses into a little bit of everything," he said. "And all of the pieces of the puzzle really need to come together for the reorganization to work."

Stuart has seen the bankruptcy industry from a variety of perspectives throughout his career, from his time leading the insolvency department at the law firm of Rivkin Radler, to the five years he spent as a senior attorney in the U.S. Trustee's office in New York.

The chance to represent his country in the U.S. Trustee's office was extremely rewarding, Stuart said. For once, the prolific writer and lecturer was left speechless.

"That opportunity shaped my career in ways that there are actually no words to describe," he said.

Stuart was also exposed to a completely different side of the restructuring world through his position as general counsel for TruFoods Systems, a company devoted to acquiring distressed fast-food businesses. During his time there, Stuart helped the company purchase chains like Arthur Treachers' Fish and Chips, Wall Street Deli and the now-defunct BurritoVille.

He found the industry fascinating, and he has been keeping a close watch on the restaurant world as it struggles to stay competitive in the face of a credit crunch and decreased consumer spending.

"I think we're going to see a huge amount of consolidation in that sector," he said. "Brands that don't live on that top shelf constantly struggle to find their place."

Though Stuart spends much of his days immersed in the turnaround world, he still finds time for his hobbies. And the poet, violinist and wind-surfer is about to add one more label to his resume: blogger. Stuart wants to create another forum to share his views and spark dialogue on the Internet. He isn't yet sure of the form the blog will take, but he's confident it will never suffer from a shortage of topics or opinions. *DBR*

NETWORKING

A selected listing of recent appointments and announcements in U.S. bankruptcy law practice, compiled by Dow Jones' Daily Bankruptcy Review Small-Cap staff.

Mark Chertok has been appointed senior managing director at **FTI Consulting Inc.'s** real estate practice, The Shonbraun McCann Group. Chertok, who was mostly recently an independent financial consultant, will lead the group's financial outsourcing division. He previously worked with companies including Petra Capital, Ruben Companies and Ladder Capital Finance. He has also served as chief financial officer for El-Ad Group and NorthStar Realty Finance.

Dennis B. Ellman has been tapped to chair **Greenberg Glusker's** new real estate restructuring and loan workout group. The group will focus on addressing economic factors specific to the real estate industry and will be comprised of attorneys from several groups within the firm, including the real estate, land use, tax, bankruptcy and litigation groups. Members will work with developers, lenders, landlords and investors to address matters related to the acquisition, disposition and restructuring of distressed real estate assets.

Patrick C. Lagrange has been elected president of the **Turnaround Management Association** for 2009. Lagrange is a managing director with **Carl Mark Advisory Group LLC** in New York. **Arthur T. Perkins Jr.** will serve as the organization's chairman. He is a director with **Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP** in San Francisco. The outgoing chairman is William E.J. Skelly, a partner with Heenan Blaikie LLP in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Daily Bankruptcy Review Small-Cap's NETWORKING column welcomes news releases from those working in the corporate bankruptcy industry. The column will appear each Friday. Items for NETWORKING may be faxed to 202-862-8873.