



COLIN ASHFORD

Partner
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BIOGRAPHY

Colin has over 30 years' experience advising stakeholders in the mid market restructuring and insolvency arena, with a particular focus on contentious issues and investigations.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- A member of the Insolvency Rules Committee for 10 years (to 2016) which considers amendments to the rules arising out of a review of secondary insolvency legislation, giving their recommendations to the Lord Chancellor.
- Licensed Insolvency Practitioner (non appointment taker)

A REGULAR ADVISOR TO THE LEADING INSOLVENCY PRACTITIONERS

Colin has acted on some of the largest insolvencies in the UK across a variety of sectors and particularly in retail, transport, engineering and real estate.

In acting for secured lenders or equity owners, Colin devises enhancement and realisation strategies designed to maximise recoveries whilst ensuring that challenges and risks are minimised.

These skills and experiences are also used to advise corporates and boards on transactions and in distressed situations to ensure that they are properly supported and protected from challenge or criticism.

DIRECTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognised in *The Best Lawyers in the United Kingdom* for work in Insolvency and Restructuring Law (since 2009).
- Ranked in *Chambers UK 2020*, where is he described as “litigator of choice on big cases”.
- Recognised in *Legal 500 UK 2020*, where is described as “extremely knowledgeable and professional – easily one of the very best”.
- Named “Lawyer of the Year” by *The Best Lawyers in the United Kingdom* for Insolvency and Restructuring Law, Leeds (2019).
- Named as an Acritas Star for 2019.

ADMISSIONS

- England and Wales

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Restructuring & Insolvency/Special Situations
- Finance
- Banking Sector

EXPERIENCE

In recent years, Colin has worked on the following matters:

- Acting for a global shoe manufacturer in relation to a £100 million private equity investment and company voluntary arrangement involving c.350 UK and ROI stores.
- Leading an international team acting for receivers and administrators following the collapse of a global group. Asset realisations exceeded £650 million from 11 jurisdictions.
- Leading a team of over 50 lawyers dealing with the administration of one of the UK's largest retailers.
- Successfully defending a Big Four firm of accountants against a £65 million claim alleging negligence and conspiracy arising from an administration (noted by The Lawyer as one of the Top 20 cases in 2018).
- Advising a secured lender on claims brought against it in Germany and England arising from the collapse of a department store chain.
- Successfully pursuing a £25 million wrongful trading claim for liquidators, backed by a fully funded litigation insurance package.
- Acting for the administrators of a major drink retailer.
- Advising a retailer on a successful and unchallenged CVA to restructure the business (230 shops) and a financial restructuring of its £40 million facility.
- Advising the liquidators and special managers of a major construction group.
- Advising the nominees/supervisors and administrators of various companies within a major international clothing group.
- Advising the board and/or administrators of numerous high-profile retailers.
- Acting for a global drinks manufacturer on issues arising in five jurisdictions following the insolvency of a critical supplier.
- Advising on various PFI/PPP transactions to "insolvency proof" the proposed structure.
- Dealing with the complex collapse of a major provider of student accommodation.

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "*Practical Tips For Investor Directors*", Brown Rudnick (September 2021)
- Profile, "Power Players: Bankruptcy & Insolvency 2021 – Distinguished Advisers", *Financier Worldwide* (March 2021)
- Co-author, "*Law and Practice*", Chambers 2020 Insolvency Global Practice Guide (19 November 2020)
- Contributes a chapter on voluntary arrangements for *Butterworths Insolvency Law Handbook*

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Regular speaker at internal and external training events

RELATED INSIGHTS

Insights

Mar 22, 2024

European distressed real estate – how will it play out this time?

Insights

Mar 07, 2024

Recent changes to the special administration regime for water companies

The UK government recently introduced legislation implementing changes to the special administration regime for regulated water companies ("WISAR"). The changes are designed to modernise the WISAR and to better align it with the special administration regimes for other systemically important sectors like energy supplies and investment banks. The updates are contained in The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Commencement No. 10) Order 2024, which became effective on 12 January 2024, and The Water Industry Act 1991 (Amendment) Order 2024 and The Water Industry (Special Administration) Regulations 2024, each of which came into effect on 22 February 2024.

Awards

Jun 08, 2023

BCLP lawyers recognized in 'The Best Lawyers in the United Kingdom 2024'

Insights

Mar 07, 2023

Retail and consumer M&A insights: distressed and strategic M&A deals

We have published a leaflet considering some of the key legal and practical considerations to take before gearing up for either a distressed or strategic M&A transaction in the retail and consumer goods sector.

News

Jul 26, 2022

BCLP partners profiled in Global Turnaround

News

Jul 04, 2022

Colin Ashford & Richard Obank join BCLP's Restructuring & Insolvency team

International law firm BCLP has strengthened its global Restructuring & Insolvency practice with the hire of two highly experienced and well-regarded partners, Colin Ashford and Richard Obank. They join BCLP today from law firm Brown Rudnick and are based in BCLP's London office.