



Edward Arnold

Shareholder

New Orleans | 504.566.5204 | harnold@bakerdonelson.com

Edward H. "Hank" Arnold III concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial transactions and bankruptcy.

Mr. Arnold has extensive experience in commercial transactions, including commercial finance, marine and energy finance and real property acquisitions and leases. He has regularly represented secured creditors in connection with the enforcement of security interest in state and federal courts.

Mr. Arnold has represented creditors, bankruptcy trustees and official committees in routine and complex matters before bankruptcy courts in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Mississippi. He also is experienced in representing owners, shipyards and lenders in connection with the construction, financing and operation of documented vessels. Mr. Arnold has also represented oilfield service companies, transportation companies and exploration and production companies in a wide variety of financial and operational issues.

Representative Matters

- Represented lead banks in leveraged lease financing of fractional interest in \$320 million offshore drilling platform.
- Louisiana counsel in numerous financing transactions, including a Nevada gaming corporation in its \$2 billion credit facility.
- Closed \$60 million in senior secured financing for energy industry client, refinancing a \$45 million loan previously closed by Baker Donelson. The loan proceeds were used by the client to refinance existing debt and fund the drilling of additional wells in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Represented energy industry client, closing \$45 million in senior secured financing on its behalf in order to refinance existing debt, fund the acquisition of additional offshore mineral leases, and fund the acquisition of a plugging and abandonment company. The loan follows a failed \$100 million bond offering that closed but did not fund in the wake of the collapse of the high-yield bond market in 2014.
- Closed a \$10 million bankruptcy acquisition of a bio-diesel plant for an international client, who plans for a future \$100 million conversion to an ammonia plant.
- Closed a complicated marine financing transaction for a major national bank. The bank issued letters of credit in excess of \$50 million to support the construction of two 271-foot Offshore Supply Vessels for its shipyard customer. The transaction also included an escrow of the full purchase price of the vessels by the shipyard's customer. The letters of credit serve in some respects as a performance bond and required complicated draw and collateral provisions.
- Obtained 14th judgment in favor of a home buyer in a Louisiana redhibition/fraud case after winning eight full appeals following a damages award in Bankruptcy Court. The defendants disputed the home buyer's request for additional attorneys' fees in connection with the continued appeals. The District Court ruled that the home buyer was entitled to all fees incurred to date, as well as additional fees incurred in the event of a third appeal to the Fifth Circuit.
- Represented an energy company as main counsel in its bankruptcy proceeding, which involved \$54 million in senior secured debt and approximately \$50 million in remaining debt. Also represented the company and related entities in connection with financial and operational issue prior to the bankruptcy filing.

- Secured a favorable verdict on behalf of a seller in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, in a lawsuit involving an asset purchase sale in which the buyer committed a number of defaults under a promissory note and loan documents.
- Successfully forced increased interest rates and a reduction in term in connection with a complex, contested Chapter 11 proceeding on behalf of a lending institution. The bankruptcy involved dueling appraisals, feasibility experts, cram-down interest rate issues and the 1111(b) election.
- Represented the first lien lender in a \$46 million multi-bank debt restructuring for a distressed vessel company.
- Defended a vessel fleet company in the maritime arrest of one of its vessels. Pursued collection from the offshore marine company that hired the vessel.
- Prevailed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which upheld a district court's ruling in favor of our banking client regarding a claim brought under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act related to the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Board Member – Turnaround Management Association, Louisiana Chapter
- Proctor Member – Maritime Law Association of the United States (MLAUS)
 - Chair, Marine Financing committee
- Member – American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member – Louisiana Bankers Association
- Secretary – Marine Finance Committee
- Member – Louisiana State, American and Federal Bar Associations
- Counsel Committee Member – Louisiana Bankers Association
- Listed in *Chambers USA* as a leading lawyer in Louisiana in the areas of Marine Finance (since 2005); Bankruptcy/Restructuring (2019 – 2025); Banking and Finance (2023 – 2025)
- Listed since 2006 in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Equipment Finance Law (since 2009); Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation - Bankruptcy (since 2011); Gaming Law (2011 – 2017), Commercial Transactions/UCC Law (since 2012)
- Named the Best Lawyers® 2020 and 2014 Equipment Finance Law "Lawyer of the Year" in New Orleans
- Named the Best Lawyers® 2018 Commercial Transactions/UCC "Lawyer of the Year" in New Orleans
- Selected to Louisiana Super Lawyers in Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Law (2013, 2014); Transportation/Maritime Law (2015 – 2025)
- Listed as among the top 50 attorneys in New Orleans by Louisiana Super Lawyers (2025)
- AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Named to "Leadership in Law," *New Orleans CityBusiness* (2011)
- Listed in *New Orleans Magazine* as a top lawyer in New Orleans (2006, 2010, 2012, 2015 – 2025)



Publications

- "Cautionary Tales Provide Lessons From Lack of Bankruptcy Planning" (April 2022)
- Co-chair – "Force Majeure Clause May Excuse Debtor's Payment of Postpetition Rent in Bankruptcy" (July 6, 2020)
- "How to Minimize the Risks of Receiving a PPP Loan and Seek Forgiveness," *CityBusiness* (April 16, 2020)
- Co-author – "Forgive and Forget? Receiving a PPP Loan and Seeking Forgiveness," *CityBusiness* (April 15, 2020)
- Co-author – "New Laws, Regulations Complicate Energy Company Chapter 11s," *Journal of Corporate Renewal* (September 2015)



Speaking Engagements

- Panelist – "The Art of the Shipbuilding Contract," Admiralty Law Institute, Tulane University (March 2020)
- "The Interplay of Bankruptcy and Oil and Gas Law," New Orleans Bar Association Seminar (October 2015)
- Moderator – "Peak Oil 2015?," The Louisiana Chapter of TMA (March 2015)
- "Dashing to Dation - Things to Consider When Negotiating a Dation En Paiement," New Orleans Bar Association, Real Property Committee meeting (February 2012)



Webinars

- TMA Lower-Middle Market Update Webinar (June 2020)



Education

- Loyola University School of Law, J.D., 1988
- Louisiana State University, B.S., 1983



Admissions

- Louisiana, 1988
- Louisiana State and Federal Courts
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals