

Grant E. Buerstetta | Partner
Finance

1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
+1.212.885.5454
gbuerstetta@blankrome.com



CO-CHAIR, FINANCE, RESTRUCTURING, AND BANKRUPTCY PRACTICE GROUP

CO-CHAIR, BLANK ROME BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL CURRENCIES GROUP

Grant Buerstetta is a securities lawyer who represents financial institutions, asset managers, issuers, and investment funds focused on debt and structured securities and serves clients in areas such as:

- complex structured and asset-backed securities and securitization transactions
- alternative investment fund formation and operation
- securities issuances in domestic and international capital markets
- blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies

Grant has significant experience in analyzing and structuring, revising and unwinding asset-backed securities, including private offerings and SEC-registered transactions. He has represented collateral managers, originators, rating agencies, hedge counterparties and major financial institutions in collateralized debt obligations (“CDOs”), collateralized loan obligations (“CLOs”) and other securitization transactions. His experience includes numerous transactions backed by portfolios of financial instruments and real estate-related assets, such as CDOs backed by commercial and residential mortgage-backed securities, mortgage loans and other commercial real estate assets.

He has extensive experience negotiating and documenting interest rate swaps and

credit default swaps (including pay-as-go swaps and super senior swaps) on behalf of special purpose vehicles/issuers and financial institutions in structured finance transactions.

He has been involved in the analysis, assessment, restructuring and liquidation of numerous distressed transactions. In that context, he has advised parties on the interpretation of their rights under transaction documents and on the innovative restructuring of transactions.

Grant has formed and advises numerous alternative investment funds. These clients have adapted hedge fund and private equity fund elements into hybrid structures to accomplish their investment objectives. These funds benefit from Grant's experience with and knowledge of various structured credit products and securities law exemptions. In addition, based on his background in structured capital markets, Grant advises these funds in crafting sophisticated provisions relating to investor rights and cashflow allocations. These representations draw on his broader corporate and securities skills as well as in-depth knowledge of complex transaction structuring. Grant advises clients involved in a range of industries, including clients focused on the digital currency and blockchain technology space.

Grant has a broad background in domestic and international securities offerings, having worked for more than three years in the Hong Kong office of a major international law firm, where he represented issuers, underwriters and other clients throughout Asia in international securities transactions. His current securities law practice emphasizes private placements and Investment Company Act exemptions. He also has significant public accounting experience.

Grant has been recognized by *Chambers USA* and *Chambers Global* as a leading capital markets securitization lawyer. *Chambers USA* notes that he "receives widespread praise from his clients and is described as 'creative and practical,' with one remarking that he offers 'a great mix of razor-sharp business sense and zealous representation.'"

Grant co-authored *The CLO Manager's Handbook*.

Grant is a member of the Structured Finance Committee of the New York City Bar Association and a member of the Board of the Lehigh Lawyers Association.

While attending law school, Grant was editor-in-chief of Boston University School of Law's *Annual Review of Banking Law*.

Select Engagements

Structured Finance

- Asset managers, SPE issuers, and hedge counterparties, in new-issue collateralized loan obligations (CLO 2.0)
- A loan originator, in establishing, restructuring, and syndicating bespoke,

rated CLO facility

- Issuers and financial institutions, in assessing and restructuring distressed structured transactions (including CDOs and SIVs)
- Collateral managers of CDOs and CLOs, in analyzing issues arising as a result of the credit crisis and addressing various ongoing operational issues
- An institutional equity investor, in directing the liquidation of CDOs
- Financial institutions, in coordinating and documenting auction for unwind of CLO warehouse
- A major bank, in analyzing swap transactions (including analysis of rights and remedies) in distressed structured finance transactions
- Special purpose vehicles/issuers, in conjunction with termination of swap transactions following events of default under swap documents
- A major bank, in novation of interest rate swaps (including complex credit intermediation transactions) following downgrades of existing hedge counterparties

Alternative Investment Funds

- Investment managers, in formation and ongoing offering of interests in alternative investment funds focused on investments in debt securities, loans and complex financial instruments
- Investment advisers, in analyzing obligations in complying with SEC regulations
- A general partner, in reorganization of operations and extension of credit facility as part of overall shift in control of fund operations
- Joint venture partners, in creating unique structure to permit dynamic investment program for commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) and commercial real estate assets

Distributed Ledger, Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies

- Asset managers and investors on the legal and regulatory issues related to investment in or adoption of blockchain technology into their businesses
- Businesses on legal, regulatory, and risk management issues surrounding coin/token offerings and digital securities offerings
- Technology companies on the formation and regulation of platforms and exchanges to trade digital/cryptocurrencies
- Various clients on federal (FinCen) and state money transmission regulatory issues
- Asset managers in formation of fund structures focused on emerging technologies, including distributive ledger technologies, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and digital currencies

Admissions

- New Jersey
- New York

Memberships

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- Lehigh Lawyers Association
- New York City Bar Association

Education

- Lehigh University, BS
- Boston University School of Law, JD, cum laude

Recognitions

- 2018–2019, Capital Markets: Securitisation, listed in *Chambers Global*
- 2016–2019, Capital Markets: Securitisation, listed in *Chambers USA*
- 2012–2013, “Leading banking and finance lawyer,” listed in *Chambers USA* and *Chambers Global*