

Rising Star: Weil's Andriana Georgallas

By Jake Maher

Law360 (June 30, 2023, 1:42 PM EDT) -- Andriana Georgallas of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP played a key role in the trailblazing restructuring of \$1.1 billion in assets for the international logistics company Syncreon, earning her a spot among the bankruptcy law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 Rising Stars.

The biggest restructuring she's worked on:

The biggest case of her career was the restructuring of \$1.1 billion of funded debt for the logistics company Syncreon in 2019, Georgallas said.

The company had a "very complicated" cross-border structure in the U.S. and Canada, according to Georgallas, and a typical Chapter 11 bankruptcy was not a possibility.

"We needed to craft a creative solution to de-lever the company in a way that would work for that global enterprise and be recognized across the globe," she said.



She and her team came up with a plan that marked the first-ever use of an English scheme for restructuring debt issued by a U.S.-based global enterprise, according to Weil.

Georgallas also took the unusual approach of seeking recognition for the restructuring in both the U.S. and Canada through parallel proceedings, a strategy she said may have been the first of its kind as well. The deal was also the first time an English restructuring scheme was recognized in Canada.

"It was a trailblazing case of many firsts, which is really the best part of what we get to do, which is craft creative solutions for our clients and make the impossible possible," Georgallas said.

Why she became a bankruptcy attorney:

Georgallas said she heard of Weil while in law school and saw that



Andriana Georgallas
Weil Gotshal

Age: 36
Home base: New York
Position: Partner
Law school: St. John's University School of Law
First job after law school: Restructuring attorney at Weil

the firm had a renowned bankruptcy practice. She wanted to try that specialty, so she took a creditors' rights course in law school and fell in love with it.

"I thought, 'If practice is anything like this, this is what I'm going to do,'" she said.

What she loves about the practice, Georgallas said, is the constantly changing nature of bankruptcy law, with new and different challenges cropping up every day and demanding creativity to be solved.

"For me, restructuring is very exciting," Georgallas said. "It's dynamic, there are a lot of interests at play. No two issues are the same, no two clients are the same. That means that every day brings a new challenge."

In addition to solving a variety of client problems, Georgallas said, working as a bankruptcy attorney gives her the opportunity to practice a variety of types of law. Bankruptcy attorneys effectively take on the responsibilities of litigators at some points, corporate attorneys at others, keeping the work fresh and interesting, according to Georgallas.

"Restructuring is really the only practice where you can merge all of those interests, be a litigator by day and a deal maker by night, and in essence have it all," she said.

Other notable examples of her work:

In February, Georgallas represented AIG and Prudential as secured shareholders in the \$740 million restructuring of Nautical Solutions, a deepwater drilling rig services provider.

Nautical Solutions launched dual-track consent solicitations, which would have allowed for a deal in or outside of court depending on how much support it received from lenders. At first the deal failed to achieve consensus and Nautical Solutions went ahead with a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, but through negotiations, the parties involved were able to reach a unanimous deal with some modifications to the original plan, according to Weil.

"What was great about that case was we were able to go effective only 46 days after the Chapter 11 cases were commenced," Georgallas said.

What motivates her:

Georgallas said she enjoys the challenges that bankruptcy law poses and the thrill of finding ways to solve them.

"I love being faced with situations that seem impossible and that really pressure-test how you think about an issue and make you think outside the box, so much so that sometimes you need to forge a new path to achieve your client's goals," she said.

The Syncreon case is a good example of that, Georgallas said, in the way it challenged her to devise a novel way of meeting the company's highly specific needs.

"That's the kind of thing that we face here at Weil and keeps me motivated," she said. "It's really rewarding to be able to work through those puzzles and come to a solution."

— *As told to Jake Maher.*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of

Law360 editors selected the 2023 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of May 1, 2023, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.

All Content © 2003-2023, Portfolio Media, Inc.