

Stephen S. LaPlante

SERVICE AREAS

Business

- Automotive
- Bankruptcy, Restructuring + Insolvency
- Finance
 - Restructure, Enforcement, Insolvency + Bankruptcy

EDUCATION

- Wayne State University Law School, J.D.
- University of Michigan, B.B.A.
- Northwestern Michigan College, A.A.S.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Michigan

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals

- Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Courts

- Eastern District of Michigan
- Western District of Michigan



Principal

Detroit

150 West Jefferson
Suite 2500
Detroit, Michigan 48226

T: +1.313.496.8478

F: +1,313.496.8452

laplante@millercanfield.com

Stephen S. LaPlante specializes in troubled automotive supplier workouts and bankruptcies. He also counsels creditors, debtors, and others in commercial bankruptcy and out-of-court workouts including litigation for both automotive and non-automotive manufacturers and suppliers. He has represented one of the Big Three automotive manufacturers and a number of Tier 1 and 2 parts suppliers in troubled automotive supplier bankruptcies and workouts, including several of the largest automotive-related bankruptcies in North America, such as Breed Technologies, Tower Inc., Dura Automotive and Collins & Aikman.

EXPERIENCE

Stephen recently guided one client through the bankruptcy litigation process, recovering over two-thirds of a multi-million dollar claim while eliminating litigation claims against the client of over \$200 million. Usually, his successes are measured not in dollars recovered but rather in avoiding untold millions of dollars of damages that would be suffered in the event automobile assembly lines are halted through the failure of a parts supplier. In every case, he seeks to negotiate a reasonable, cost-effective solution.

Most cases require Stephen to address challenges in funding ongoing operations, fostering cooperation with labor and management, managing vendor and creditor relationships, addressing the concerns of ownership and lenders, dealing with property and tooling issues and the rehabilitation, sale or winding up of the supplier. In all cases, he must rely on his industry experience to find workable solutions.

"There is always a fair solution, but sometimes it takes looking at the problem from a new perspective and developing a previously untried approach, remaining focused on what we really need to



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accomplish to further the client's goals. This means knowing the objectives and motives of the other parties, as well, and that is where experience and an understanding of the automotive industry is invaluable."

