



**William L. Siegel**  
Shareholder

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**Practice Areas**

- Banking and Credit Transactions
- Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate and Business
- Hospitality and Lodging



**Practice Emphasis**

William L. (Bill) Siegel is a Shareholder and Section Head of the Cowles and Thompson Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group as well as a member of the Corporate and Business Practice Group. His experience includes representing individuals and business entities in their corporate and transactional affairs, including drafting and negotiating agreements of all types, and representing individuals and business entities in disputes that may arise in litigation in State and Federal Courts. He also represents debtors, creditors, Trustees, and Committees in bankruptcy matters in Chapter 7 liquidations and Chapter 11 reorganizations. His clients include small and medium-sized businesses, start-up technology companies, and partnerships.

**Example Recent Matters**

- Successful creative solution to breach of an arbitration agreement involving defense of prominent restaurant chain regarding a lease, where the net effect of offsetting judgments meant plaintiff was awarded only 25% of the amount sought. Co-counsel with Casey Erick and Sim Israeloff. 2021 (*See PDF for more info.*)
- Successful pursuit of a defamation, business disparagement, and negligence case that involved a negative Yelp review for our client dentist and his dental practice, November 2019. [Read summary here.](#)

**Business Representation**

- General Counsel representation for numerous businesses, including handling transactional and corporate affairs, lease negotiations, asset and stock sales, employment/non-compete/confidentiality issues, strategic planning, as well as day-to-day issues that arise in the ordinary course of business.
- Representation of numerous businesses in disputes ranging from breach of contract, fraud, deceptive trade practices, and collection.
- Representation of shareholders and partners in minority shareholder/partner oppression disputes/lawsuits.

**Bankruptcy**

- Represents debtors, creditors, and trustees in Chapters 7 and 11 bankruptcy proceedings.
- Assists debtors with informal workouts, focused on the goal of avoiding a bankruptcy filing.

- Represents equipment financing companies in numerous bankruptcies in Texas regarding motions to assume or reject equipment financing leases, and motions to modify the automatic stay to take possession of equipment.
- Represents landlords regarding motions to assume or reject leases, and motions to modify the automatic stay to take possession of the premises.
- Represents creditors and equity interest holders in bankruptcy and workouts.
- Represents creditors in Chapter 5-related bankruptcy adversary proceedings (preference and fraudulent conveyance).

### Publications and Speaking Engagements

Bill Siegel is a sought-after speaker, moderator, and commentator, especially concerning areas related to business formations (from sole-proprietorships to partnerships to corporations); contracts, obligations, and responsibilities of corporate leadership; reorganization; and bankruptcy. He has also led presentations at the National CLE Conference on topics of Bankruptcy Law and the Texas Real Estate Commission, and he is a frequent lecturer before various professional organizations regarding corporate law and bankruptcy.

### Recent Articles

- [“Recent Fifth Circuit Case Gives Lender Green Light to Change Management,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, September 2021
- [“Sales in Bankruptcy – No Stay, No Pay,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, August 2021
- [“The Purpose of Special Purpose Entities,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, July 2021
- [“A Recent Decision Recharacterizing Debt to Equity Under Delaware Law Could Have Far-Reaching Implication,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, May 2021
- [“What Rights and Possible Exposure to Consequences Arise for Tenants When a Real Property Lease is Rejected by a Bankrupt Landlord?,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, May 2021
- [“Temporary Pandemic-Related Bankruptcy Code Provisions,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, April 2021
- [“Retention of Bankruptcy Debtor’s Property After Bankruptcy is Not a Violation of the Automatic Stay,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, March 2021
- [“Bankruptcy Court Rules that Eviction Moratorium for COVID Does Not Apply in Bankruptcy,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, February 2021
- [“Temporary Extension of Time for Debtor-Tenants to Decide Whether to Assume or Reject Certain Leases,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, February 2021
- [“The Effect of the COVID Act on the Bankruptcy Preference Laws,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, January 2021
- [“Commercial Landlord Tenant Issues in Bankruptcy – Especially During the Pandemic,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December 2020
- [“Update: COVID-19, Business Interruption, and Insurance,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, October 2020
- [“Contractual Obligations, Force Majeure, and COVID-19,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, September 2020
- [“The Necessity for Co-Tenancy and Other Related Clauses,”](#) author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, September 2020

- **“Bankruptcy Usage of Key Employee Retention Plans and Key Employee Incentive Plans,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, July 2020
- **“Get Out of Jail Cards for Leveraged Buyout Fraudulent Transfers,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, June 2020
- **“The Retail Apocalypse Continues,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, June 2020
- **“Mall of America Fails to Pay Its Mortgage – Is This a Sign of Things to Come for Other Malls and Shopping Centers?,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, June 2020
- **“Bankruptcy Courts Allow Business Debtors to Defer Rent in Response to COVID-19,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, May 2020
- **“COVID-19 and the Plight of the American Movie Theatre ,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, May 2020
- **“The Case Study of Neiman Marcus and the Fate of Other Department Stores ,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, April 2020
- **“Business Interruption: Do You Have the Correct Coverage?,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, April 2020
- **“Legal Issues Affecting Your Business Amid the Coronavirus Outbreak,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, April 2020
- **“Revisiting the Need for Force Majeure Clauses,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, March 2020
- **“The Coronavirus and Its Effect on Companies on the Brink,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, February 2020
- **“Filing a Proof of Claim Reserving a Right to a Jury Trial Does Not Prevent a Waiver of Right to Jury Trial, ,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, February 2020
- **“The Treatment and Enforcement of Arbitration Clauses in Bankruptcy Cases,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, January 2020
- **“Subsequent Transferee Liability Re: Fraudulent Conveyance Lawsuits,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December 2019
- **“A Debtor Licensor of a Trademark Cannot Rescind Use of the Trademark License by Rejecting It in Bankruptcy,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December October 2019
- **“State and Federal IRA Exemptions Don’t Always Jive,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December September 2019
- **“No Matter the Circumstances, Student Loans are Increasingly Difficult to Discharge in Bankruptcy,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December August 2019
- **“Theft of Trade Secrets Does Not Always Equate to the Non-Dischargeability of a Debt in Bankruptcy,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December June 2019
- **“The Clash Among Divorce, Bankruptcy, and IRAs/Pensions/Profit-Sharing Plans,”** author, Cowles and Thompson *Business and Legal Update*, December May 2019

#### *Recent Speaking Engagements*

- ACG Dealmakers – Interview with Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan, interviewer, February 2021
- ACG Dealmakers – Interview with Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert Kaplan, interviewer, November 2018
- e2e Forum, moderator, North Dallas Chamber, February 2016
- KRLD-AM 1080, interviewed re: Sports Authority and its financial and restructuring issues, February 2016

- “Real World Tax Advice for the Rest of Us,” moderator, 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday Connections, North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, November 2015
- “Advantages and Disadvantages of Corporations,” presenter, Cowles & Thompson Legal Risk Management Seminar, Frisco Chamber of Commerce, October 2015
- “An Overview of Bankruptcy – It’s a Jungle Out There,” Dallas Bar Association, North Dallas Clinic, December 2014
- KTVT CBS-affiliate and KTXA 21, interviewed re: Texas Rangers’ bankruptcy and action, August 2010
- “Still No Decision on Rangers Sale,” quoted source, *Dallas Business Journal*, June 2010
- KRLD-AM 1080, interviewed re: Texas Rangers’ breakup fee between Greenberg and Ryan, June 2010
- “Greenberg-Ryan Could Get \$10M Breakup Fee,” quoted source, *Dallas Business Journal*, June 2010
- “Bankruptcy Next Step in Texas Rangers Saga as Hicks Tries to Wrap Up Sale,” quoted source, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 2010
- “VarTec Founders Seek End to Suit – Mitchells’ Lavish Lifestyle Remains Key Issue,” quoted source, *Dallas Business Journal*, August 2009
- “Superior Air Parts Action Likely to Focus on Equity,” quoted source, *Dallas Business Journal*, July 2009
- “SBA to Take Control of Fund that Owes Money,” quoted source, *Dallas Business Journal*, May 2009
- “Auto Dealerships Discuss Bailout Possibility,” interviewed by Shaun Rabb, KDFW Fox 4 News, November 2008
- “Bankruptcy,” speaker, 2007 Tax & Accounting Expo, East Texas Chapter, Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, 2007
- “Bankruptcy,” speaker, ABA Business Law Section, semi-annual meeting, San Francisco, CA, 1999
- “Attorney Liability – Is This the New Twilight Zone?,” author, *The University of Memphis Law Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1, 1997
- “Bankruptcy Issues Related to Intellectual Property Licenses – Assumption and Rejection of Executory Contracts,” speaker, ABA Business Law Section, semi-annual meeting, Nashville, TN, 1996
- “Attorney Liability – Is This the New Twilight Zone?,” speaker, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, Memphis Bar Association, San Diego, CA, 1996
- “Treatments of Covenants Not to Compete in Bankruptcy,” ABA Spring Conference, 1993
- KRLD-AM 1080, numerous interviews re: the American Airlines and Hostess bankruptcies

### **Education**

- J.D., University of Toledo College of Law, 1982
- B.S., Miami University - Ohio, 1979

### **Court Admissions**

- Admitted to the State Bar, 1982
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas

### **Memberships**

- State Bar of Texas
- Dallas Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Rotary Club of Park Cities
- North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Board Member, Chair-Elect
- Big Thought, Inc., former Chairman of the Board
- Association of Corporate Growth, Program Committee
- The Real Estate Council, Professional Services Committee

**Honors**

- Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the facilitator of a peer review rating process. Ratings reflect the anonymous opinions of members of the bar and the judiciary
- *Texas Super Lawyers*® by *Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers*®, selected for inclusion 2004-2020
- *Best Lawyers in Dallas, Bankruptcy & Workout*, by *D Magazine*, selected for inclusion 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020