



## Christopher J. Azzara

Partner

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Christopher focuses his practice on commercial finance, real estate, hospitality, and general corporate matters. With nearly two decades of experience, he represents financial institutions, private equity groups, developers, and business owners in structuring complex transactions that drive growth and support long-term success.

His finance practice includes representing lenders and borrowers in a wide range of transactions, from traditional secured and unsecured credit facilities to real estate and construction financing, asset-based lending, mezzanine and subordinated debt, and acquisition financing. He frequently negotiates and prepares credit/loan agreements, guaranties, security agreements, pledge agreements, and inter-creditor arrangements, and is relied upon for his ability to manage sophisticated financing transactions efficiently and effectively.

In his corporate practice, Christopher advises businesses on formation, governance, capital structure, and day-to-day operational issues. He counsels clients through mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, shareholder and operating agreements, and strategic transactions, providing practical, business-oriented guidance at every stage of the company lifecycle. Many clients view Christopher as their outside general counsel, relying on him to guide them through the full range of legal issues their businesses encounter, from routine matters to high-stakes transactions and disputes.

Christopher also maintains a significant real estate and hospitality practice. He represents developers, landlords, tenants, investors, and restaurant groups in acquisitions, sales, leasing, financing, construction, and property management. He has deep experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry, advising clients on site selection, development, expansion, and operational matters. As a licensed title agent in Pennsylvania, he oversees both commercial and residential real estate transactions.

He is recognized for his attention to detail, industry knowledge, and ability to align legal strategy with client objectives. His approach emphasizes efficiency, practical solutions, and long-term client relationships.

Christopher is the author of the "Mechanics' Liens" and "Fraudulent Transfers" chapters in Pennsylvania Commercial Litigation (American Lawyer Media's *The Legal Intelligencer*).

### Services

- Corporate & Transactional
- Commercial Finance
- Mercantile Title Agency, Inc.
- Real Estate
- Financing & Economic Incentives
- Bankruptcy & Restructuring

## **Education**

- Duquesne University School of Law (J.D., 2006)
- Fairfield University (B.A., 2002)

## **Bar Admissions**

- Pennsylvania
- Ohio

## **Court Admissions**

- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

## **Affiliations/Memberships**

- American College of Mortgage Attorneys- Fellow
- Allegheny County Bar Association – Member of the Construction Law, Real Estate, and the Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Sections
- American Bankruptcy Institute
- American Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Vincentian Collaborative Systems, Board of Directors, president
- Traveler's Aid of Pittsburgh, Board of Directors
- North Hills Community Outreach, Legal Consult volunteer

## **Distinctions**

- *Best Lawyers*®
  - Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law (2018-2024)
  - Construction Law (2018-2024)
  - Real Estate Law (2023-2024)
- Pennsylvania *Rising Star*®
  - Creditor Debtor Rights (2016-2018)
- Pennsylvania *Super Lawyers*®
  - Creditor Debtor Rights (2019-2022)
  - Banking (2023)
  - Top 50 Pittsburgh Attorneys (2024)
- Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent in *Martindale-Hubbell*
- Board Certified in creditors' rights law by American Board of Certification

## Publications

May 5, 2023

**The Steel City: How Pittsburgh's Industrial Background Still Affects Real Estate Transactions**