



Bodie B. Colwell

Associate

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Bodie B. Colwell helps banks and businesses recover money owed to them, and represents businesses in financial distress both in and out of court. Bodie recognizes that in restructuring, insolvency, and bankruptcy matters, there are limited resources; she applies practical business insight and keen attention to detail to ensure clients minimize loss and maximize financial recovery.

Bodie represents Chapter 7 trustees of corporate and consumer debtors in the liquidation of assets and litigation matters, buyers of assets in bankruptcy, and distressed health-care businesses in out-of-court workouts and liquidations. Bodie also represents lenders in commercial and consumer matters and creditors in matters involving preference and fraudulent transfer avoidance claims.

Bodie is an emerging leader in bankruptcy and restructuring. She has authored articles for the *American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) Journal* and is actively engaged in committees of the ABI, serving as Education Director for the *ABI Young and New Member Committee Newsletter*. Bodie is a member of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC) and is the first New England-area attorney to be named as a semi-finalist for the IWIRC Rising Star Award.

Admissions

- Maine
- U.S. District Court, District of Maine
- Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

Education

- University of Maine School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2011)
 - Conrad B. Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition Team
 - Co-chair, Women's Law Association
- University of Southern Maine (B.A., 2004)
 - President, USM Political Science Association
 - Member, Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

Services

- [Business Law](#)
- [Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy](#)
- [Health Law](#)

Professional Activities

- American Bankruptcy Institute - Education Director, Young and New Member Committee
 - Former Special Projects Leader and Newsletter Editor, Young and New Member Committee
- International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation – Vice Director, Communications
 - Former Co-Chair New England Network

Honors & Recognition

- *New England Super Lawyers* Rising Star, Bankruptcy: Business – 2018, 2019, 2020
- *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law; Corporate Law – 2021, 2022
- Medal for Excellence in Bankruptcy Studies - The American Bankruptcy Institute
- The National Association of Women Lawyers Recognition Award
- National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Next Generation Class of 2017
- Semi-finalist for the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation Rising Star Award, 2018

Civic and Charitable Activities

- Preti Flaherty Pro Bono Committee

Publications

September 2, 2021

What to do When a Lender Receives a Notice from the Municipality that Mortgaged Property is Going to be Condemned or is in Violation of the Building Code?

March 19, 2021

What Financial Institutions Need to Know about Maine Trustee Process

December 22, 2020

New Eviction Restrictions for Portland, Maine

October 26, 2020

Bankruptcy Alert: Time's Running Out on Higher Debt Limits of the Small Business Reorganization Act

October 23, 2020

Residential Evictions and the Pandemic – Landlords Beware

October 31, 2018

Should You Rely on the BAP? Analyzing the Impact and Authority of Bankruptcy Appellate Panels

August 1, 2017

True Lease or Disguised Financing: What's the Difference, and Why Should You Care?

ABI Journal

July 14, 2016

The Bankruptcy Code's Return Policy: Another Hanging Paragraph Hangs Consumers Out to Dry

American Bankruptcy Institute

Raising the Bar

RAISING THE BAR

Bodie has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* as "One to Watch" in 2020, a designation given to attorneys who, early in their careers, show outstanding professional excellence. Recognition for this honor is completely based upon peer review. We sat down with Bodie to discuss how her practice has evolved since she began her career and what she thinks makes a good attorney.

Q: How has your practice evolved from when you started out?

A: When I started the type of client I worked with was limited. Now I represent a variety of clients, including chapter 7 trustees, banks, businesses who are creditors, businesses purchasing assets from bankruptcy estates, and businesses in financial distress. Over the last couple years, I have worked with health-care businesses in out-of-court workouts and liquidations. Working with those companies has been extremely rewarding.

Q: What skills, talents, or methods do you think help you excel in this field?

A: Being able to see the forest for the trees. In creditors' rights and bankruptcy, there are often limited resources and parties are attempting to maximize their recovery from those resources. Being able to step back and look at a situation from multiple angles helps to prevent going down a path that may be attractive, but will not benefit the client in the long run.

Q: Where are you most active or visible within your practice area? Is there a specific niche you're known for?

A: I'm most visible when I am at hearings. In court, I am usually representing a chapter 7 trustee, or a creditor. I handle all types of cases under the Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy umbrella.

Q: How would your clients describe you?

A: Practical, warm. With a keen attention to detail.

Q: What do you like best about your practice area?

A: Creditors' rights and bankruptcy touches on many other areas of law. One day I could be working on litigation on behalf of a Chapter 7 Trustee based on a landlord-tenant claim; the next day I could be representing a buyer in an asset sale of a company. I enjoy having a special area of focus but the variety keeps me always learning.

Q: How do you start your day?

A: I am usually woken up by my toddler. He starts his day by talking to our cat at around 5:30 am, so I start my day listening to him talking to the cat.

Q: When you're able to sneak in a break during the day, where could you be found?

A: My backyard. We recently moved into a house built in the late 1800s and the backyard garden is my favorite part. There are beautiful old fruit trees, flowering shrubs, and perennials.

Q: When it comes to reviewing your own peers, what criteria are important? What makes an attorney stand out?

A: When I recommend an attorney, that attorney should be able to take a complicated legal process and make it accessible. That's a skill that benefits an attorney in all aspects of practice – from meeting with a client to writing a brief and arguing in front of a judge. If an attorney can take a concept and make it easy to understand, they stand out.

Legal Updates

Legal Updates discusses legal issues, news and developing industry trends impacting the membership of the Maine Bankers Association.

[What Financial Institutions Need to Know about Maine Trustee Process](#)