



Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen

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Liz Von Eitzen calls herself an “unapologetic” advocate. “I’m honest with the client, well-versed in the law, purposeful in my preparation and tenacious in court,” she says. As a member of the firm’s Litigation and Restructuring & Insolvency Law Practice Groups, she specializes in creditors’ rights cases, bankruptcy matters, real estate litigation and employment litigation.

Representative Experience

- ▶ Represents financial institutions, including Chemical Bank, GreenStone Farm Credit Services and Fifth Third Bank in negotiating and drafting loan documents, forbearance agreements, loan restructurings, enforcing loan agreements through litigation and foreclosure proceedings and post-judgment collection efforts
- ▶ Defends financial institutions in lender liability and contested foreclosure claims
- ▶ Assists creditors in commercial and consumer bankruptcy proceedings under Chapters 7, 11, 12 and 13, including obtaining lifts of stay or reaffirmation agreements, prosecuting and defending fraudulent transfer, preference, and other avoidance actions, advising on 363 sales, securing adequate protection, and representing creditors in adversary proceedings
- ▶ Represents trustees in commercial and consumer bankruptcy proceedings under Chapter 7
- ▶ Real estate litigation experience includes judicial foreclosure actions, title policy claims, litigating cases involving fraudulent transfers, landlord-tenant matters, and receiverships (including representing receivers as well as assisting creditors in obtaining the appointment of commercial and residential receivers)
- ▶ Counsel for Moore Sales Corporation obtaining summary judgment on employee’s breach of contract claim for lost bonuses, reported at 2013 WL 6511862 (E.D. Mich. December 12, 2013)
- ▶ Won summary disposition for banking institution on an employee’s claim for unpaid commissions
- ▶ Represented Fifth Third Bank to obtain summary disposition in defense of a breach of fiduciary duties case
- ▶ As co-counsel for DSM Pharma Chemical North America, Inc., obtained a no-cause jury verdict in breach of contract case, affirmed 452 Fed. Appx. 677 (6th Cir. 2011)

Industries

- ▶ Financial Services
- ▶ Real Estate Development

Practices

- ▶ Banking Law
- ▶ Restructuring and Insolvency Law
- ▶ Labor and Employment
- ▶ Employment Litigation
- ▶ Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- ▶ Real Estate Services
- ▶ Real Property Litigation

Honors and Awards

- ▶ Named as a Michigan Super Lawyer Rising Star, 2013-Present
- ▶ Graduated with Honors from Hope College, 2003
- ▶ Graduated with Honors from Wayne State University Law School, 2006
- ▶ Order of the Coif, Wayne State University Law School
- ▶ National Team Moot Court Member, Wayne State University Law School

Education

- ▶ Wayne State University J.D. 2006 cum laude
- ▶ Hope College B.B.A. 2003 magna cum laude

Admitted

- ▶ 2006, Michigan

- ▶ Co-counsel for receiver to obtain jury verdict in excess of \$1 million for Uniform Commercial Code breach of contract case

Publications

- ▶ Proof of Claim on Stale Debt Does Not Violate Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 5/22/2017
- ▶ Author, Bankruptcy Chapter, *Handling the Collection Case in Michigan* (Michigan Institute for Continuing Legal Education), 6/1/2016
- ▶ *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*: The New Standard in Federal Pleadings, 12/1/2009
- ▶ You Don't Really Want To Call Me, Do You?, 7/24/2009

Professional Affiliations

- ▶ Turnaround Management Association, West Michigan Chapter Programming Committee, Chair (2016-Present); West Michigan Chapter Board, Member (2015-Present)
- ▶ NextGen Committee, Chair (2016)
- ▶ Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Section (Western District of Michigan), Steering Committee Member
- ▶ Inforum - A Professional Women's Alliance

Community Affiliations

- ▶ YWCA Member
YWCA representative, Women's Education Coalition Advisory Committee
- ▶ Grand Rapids City High School
Co-teach Mock Trial Course (2010-11)
- ▶ Grand Rapids Central High School
Coach, Mock Trial Team (2006-07)

Bar Associations

- ▶ American Bar Association
- ▶ Federal Bar Association
Bankruptcy Section (Western District of Michigan), Steering Committee Member
- ▶ State Bar of Michigan
- ▶ Grand Rapids Bar Association
- ▶ Kalamazoo Bar Association

Speaking Engagements

- ▶ Labor & Benefits Executive Panel, Warner Norcross Seminar, September 30, 2015, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- ▶ "Special Chapter 7 Asset Issues," 27th Annual FBA (Western District of Michigan) Bankruptcy Section Seminar, July 31, 2015
- ▶ "Life Cycle of a Loan," on-line webinar for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, July 27, 2015
- ▶ "Overhaul on Michigan's New Garnishment Statute," Employers Association of West Michigan, June 23, 2015
- ▶ "EEO Cracking Down on Discrimination," Warner Norcross Human Resources Seminar, April 20, 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- ▶ Labor and Employment Panel, Labor and Benefits Executive Panel-Government Enforcement Initiatives, October 23, 2014, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- ▶ "Where are the Directions? Federal Rules of Procedure/Bankruptcy Specific," 26th Annual FBA (Western District of Michigan) Bankruptcy Section Seminar, August 1, 2014
- ▶ "Advanced Problems with the FLSA," Warner Norcross Human Resources Seminar, March 25, 2011, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- ▶ "Top Ten Things Employers Should Know About Union Organizing," Warner Norcross Human Resources Seminar, May 10, 2007, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Courts

- ▶ U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana
- ▶ U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana