

FREDERICK J. PETERSEN



Frederick J. Petersen is a commercial lawyer with a practice focused in commercial bankruptcy, commercial transactions, business restructures, commercial litigation and real estate transactions.

Fred joined Mesch Clark Rothschild in 1998 as a law clerk while attending the University of Arizona College of Law. He became an associate in 1999 and a shareholder in 2005. Fred was the firm's managing shareholder from 2011 to 2017 and returned to that role from 2019 to present. Fred received a Bachelor of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, in history and political science from Gonzaga University in Spokane Washington.

Since graduating from law school, Fred has provided business and financial legal counsel to a variety of businesses including farmers, dairies, agricultural businesses, hospitals, restaurants, golf courses, retail stores, grocery chains, real estate ventures, construction companies, and religious organizations, as well as serving as counsel to bankruptcy debtors, creditors, Chapter 11 Trustees, creditor committees, and state court receivers.

He takes pride in his drive to find creative solutions to problems. His "results oriented" approach often leads to quicker and less expensive solutions than a litigation first preference. Fred understands, however, that sometimes litigation is required to reach a solution.

Fred is the chair of the Arizona State Bar Bankruptcy Section, an Executive Vice-President for Scouting America Catalina Council, a member of the Arizona State Bar Bankruptcy Advisory Commission, a Master in the Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, and a member of the Breakfast Club of Tucson. He is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute and the American Bar Association, Law Practice Management Section. Fred is AV Rated by Martindale and listed in Best Lawyers and as a Southwest Super Lawyer.

Fred grew up in Blackfoot, Idaho, a small town in eastern Idaho. When not working or serving his community, he enjoys watching football, is a welder and blacksmith, is a Boy Scout leader, and loves going hiking, camping, backpacking, and scuba diving.

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Practice Areas

- Commercial Bankruptcy
- Commercial Transactions
- Business Restructures
- Commercial Litigation
- Real Estate Transactions and Litigation

Admissions

- State Bar of Arizona, 1999
- U.S. District Court in Arizona, 1999
- United State Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit, 1999

Professional

- Mesch Clark Rothschild, Tucson AZ, 1999 - present
- Managing Shareholder, 2011 - 2017, 2019 - present

Education

- University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson AZ
Juris Doctor, 1999
- Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington
Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, Major in History and Political Science, 1996

Recognitions

- Martindale AV Rated
- Best Lawyers, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2014 - Present
- Best Lawyers, Lawyer of the Year, Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, 2019, 2021
- Southwest Super Lawyers, 2015 – Present, Southwest Super Lawyers “Rising Star”, 2012 - 2014
- Arizona Supreme Court 2023 Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service
- Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, 2022 Hon. Daniel P. Collins Mentorship Award
- AZ State Bankruptcy Bar, Hon. Eileen W. Hollowell Pro Bono Award, 2022

- Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education “Top Pro Bono Attorneys of Arizona Award”, 2004, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Lowell E. Rothschild Volunteer of the Year Award, 2021
- “Up and Comer”- Inside Tucson Business, 2012
- Tucson Business Edge “40 Under 40” Award Winner, 2006
- 2003 Volunteer Lawyer’s Program “Bankruptcy Attorney of the Year” Award

Organizations

- Scouting America Catalina Council, Executive VP, 2023-Present
- Bankruptcy Bar Advisory Commission, 2011 - Present
- Arizona Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, Master, 2011 - 2016; 2019 - Present
- American Bar Association, Law Practice Management Section, Current Member
- Southern Arizona Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Program, Volunteer, 1999 - Present
- Breakfast Club of Tucson, current member, President 2019-2020
- American Bankruptcy Institute, Member
- Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Board of Directors, 2011-2022, President, 2 terms
- Bankruptcy MMM Expansion Committee, 2022
- Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, 2015 - 2019, District Chair from 2016 - 2017
- Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, Conference Advisory Committee, 2016 - 2017
- Local Bankruptcy Rules Commission, 2013 - 2016
- Member of Financial Executives and Affiliates of Tucson, 2011 - 2014
- Greater Tucson Leadership, Inc., Board of Directors, 2004 - 2007
- Handi-Dogs, Inc. - Board of Directors, 2001 - 2005, Board President, 2003 - 2005
- 2004 Graduate of Greater Tucson Leadership, Adult Leadership Class
- Co-Chair of Arizona State Bar Convention, Bankruptcy Program, 2004, 2005, 2023, 2024
- Tucson Volunteer Center, Community Connection Crew, 2000-2003
- Lawyers for Literacy, Volunteer, 1999 – 2003
- Cub Scout and Boy Scout Leader, 2013-Present

Writings

- Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law, Note Editor 1998 - 1999
- Author: "The Facade of Humanitarian Intervention for Human Rights in a Community of Sovereign Nations" 15 Ariz. J. Int'l & Comp. L. 871 (1998)
- Various Caveat Articles located at www.mcrazlaw.com