



Bankruptcy & Insolvency

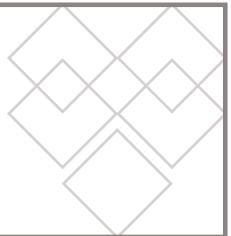
2023



PROFILED:

GED BARNES

Addleshaw Goddard LLP



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Bankruptcy & Insolvency



GED BARNES

Head of Restructuring

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Ged Barnes leads the restructuring team at Addleshaw Goddard LLP. With over 25 years' experience, he advises financial institutions (FIs), directors and insolvency practitioners on all legal matters arising from corporate insolvencies with a particular emphasis on non-contentious aspects. He has considerable experience advising FIs and distressed companies in corporate restructurings and turnarounds where formal insolvency procedures can be avoided. He also acts for corporates on acquisitions of distressed businesses either through accelerated M&A or solvent sales. A Tier 1 ranked leading individual in legal directories, his team is highly regarded in all jurisdictions in which they operate.

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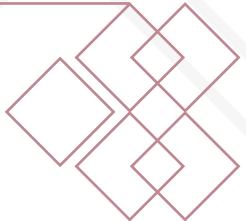


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Q&A WITH GED BARNES



Could you provide an insight into how you approach your work? What drives and motivates you?

◆ I always approach work with a positive attitude and with the client's interest as paramount, always trying to make their legal experience as smooth and user friendly as possible. I am driven by a desire to help clients commercially as well as legally. I do not just focus on the legal implications, like many lawyers, but always approach things from the client's perspective. Understanding the client's business needs is essential. My motivation comes from a desire to be the best and be recognised by peers and clients as being the best. Our commerciality and focus on client experience is key to achieving that goal.

What strengths and characteristics do you, your team and your firm strive to demonstrate to clients?

◆ On a personal level my strengths lie in the commerciality of advice, being solutions driven and 'client shaped'. The world of restructuring is incredibly fast-paced and thinking on one's feet and being decisive are key. Responsiveness plays a huge part. I try and instil these traits within the restructuring team at Addleshaw Goddard using the breadth of our in-depth specialist teams to provide a dynamic and innovative approach to a wide range of mandates. As a firm we all focus on being 'client shaped' and delivering legal answers with the best client experience from start to finish.



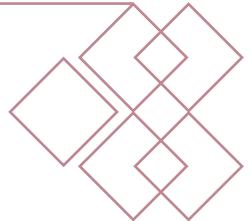
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Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?

◆ I believe there is an inevitability that the economic downturn will deepen, and while it may not end up as a technical recession, the restructuring market is set to thrive with the opportunities that any downturn provides. We will see an increase in 'special sits' scenarios leading to more innovative approaches to lending and turnarounds. 'Loan to own' schemes will increase but we will need more flexibility in government coronavirus (COVID-19) lending schemes if we, as a profession, are to fully support the rescue culture. ■



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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- ◆ Advising Kroll Advisory on the administrations of Converse Pharma Group.
- ◆ Complex property-related restructures such as acting for CBRE (alongside a specialist distressed property sales team) as fixed charge receivers appointed over a converted waterside Victorian print works.
- ◆ Acting for Kroll Advisory as former administrators and current liquidators of 25 companies in the Northern Powerhouse Developments Group.
- ◆ Ongoing litigation for the Viscount of Jersey in his capacity as administrator of the en desastre (bankruptcy) estates of Orb a.r.l. and Dr Gail Cochrane.
- ◆ Advising numerous boards of directors (each confidential in nature) during periods of financial distress regarding their duties as directors and supporting on restructuring options and contingency planning.
- ◆ Advising distressed private equity investor The HLD Group Limited on a range of acquisition mandates ranging from 'vanilla' corporate transactions to 'warranty lite' solvent deals, to insolvency pre-pack acquisitions.

