

Caroline Djang

Orange County, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Insolvency & Financial Law Group; Litigation; Sports Industry Law



Caroline Djang is a member of Buchalter's Insolvency and Financial Law practice group in the Firm's Orange County office. Ms. Djang practices in the areas of insolvency, bankruptcy, and litigation. She has vast experience representing various creditors, trustees, debtors, and committees in bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings. Ms. Djang is a Chapter 11 Subchapter V Trustee for the Central District of California. She counsels her clients on the best strategies for pursuing and collecting debts and realistically advises them on their prospects for recovery. She also helps her clients in financial distress to understand their options. Ms. Djang is a frequent speaker on the Small Business Reorganization Act.

Ms. Djang is a certified mediator and is serving by appointment to the Bankruptcy Mediation Program Panel for the U.S. Central District of California Bankruptcy Court. She is President of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Bar Association. Prior to entering into private practice, Ms. Djang was a judicial law clerk at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for seven years, clerking for U.S. Bankruptcy Judges Ellen Carroll, Vincent P. Zurzolo, Sheri Bluebond and Richard M. Neiter.

Ms. Djang's honors and recognitions include:

- Leaders of Influence: Women in Law, *Orange County Business Journal* 2023
- Banking and Finance Visionary, *Los Angeles Times*, 2021
- *Southern California Super Lawyers*, Bankruptcy, 2017-2024
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* Orange County Top 50, 2021-2024
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* Top 50 Women Attorneys, 2022 -2024
- *Southern California Super Lawyers* Top 100, 2022-2024
- The Best Lawyers in America®, Litigation – Bankruptcy and Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and Litigation, 2020-2024
- Litigation – Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year in Irvine, Best Lawyers®, 2020
- Up-and-Coming 25: 2015 Orange County Rising Stars
- Up-and-Coming 50: 2015 Women Southern California Rising Stars
- Up-and-Coming 100: 2015 Southern California Rising Stars
- *Southern California Super Lawyers Rising Stars*, Bankruptcy, 2011-2012, 2014-2015
- Top Attorneys, 2014, 2015 (10.0 Avvo ranking) OC Metro Magazine Orange County Register's
- Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Hot List (Western Region), 2013

Prior Affiliations

- Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP
- Rutan & Tucker LLP
- Best Best & Krieger LLP

Representative Matters

- Represent several Chapter 7 trustees as both general and special litigation counsel in various bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings.
- Represent several prominent landlords in California with respect to landlords' and creditors' rights and claims in bankruptcy.
- Represent an internationally-known luxury brand with respect to creditors' rights.
- Represent numerous cities and municipalities with respect to creditors' rights and claims in bankruptcy.
- Serve as local California bankruptcy counsel to a major national bank.
- Represented one of the largest creditors in the chapter 11 case of a recycling company.
- Represented an issuer of bonds in connection with the chapter 11 case of a HERO loan servicer.
- Represented a secured creditor in a plan confirmation trial that resulted in a consensual confirmed Chapter 11 plan.
- Represented the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of a music-sharing website. Prosecuted avoidance actions, resulting in substantial recovery to the Chapter 11 estate.
- Represented the debtor, a construction company located in Central California, in its Chapter 11 case. Unsecured creditors were paid in full, and the secured lender obtained a substantial recovery.
- Prevailed on appeal on behalf of a counterparty to an executory contract, which was rejected by a state court receiver.
- Represented a prepetition secured lender in a Chapter 11 case in the District of Delaware, which resulted in payment in full to the lender through a section 363 sale of assets.
- Represented more than 40 similarly situated defendants in fraudulent transfer litigation, which resulted in dismissal with prejudice of the actions and allowed claims for each defendant. Defeated Chapter 11 plan confirmation of a single asset real estate debtor and obtained relief from the automatic stay on behalf of a secured lender.
- Represented a major title company in settling a potential multi-million dollar claim by a Chapter 7 trustee.
- Represented the Chapter 11 trustee in a high-profile Ponzi scheme case in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.
- Represented a San Diego-based bottled water company in its Chapter 11 case. Confirmed a Chapter 11 plan and settled contentious litigation.
- Represented the Chapter 11 trustee in a large real estate case in Santa Barbara.
- Confirmed a Chapter 11 liquidating plan for a ramen company in Orange County.
- Settled and obtained dismissals in numerous avoidance actions on behalf of defendants.
- Represented numerous creditors, including landlords and holders of reclamation and section 503(b)(9) claims, in several major bankruptcy cases, such as Sears, Hertz, 24 Hour Fitness, PG&E, Circuit City, Lehman Brothers and Radio Shack.
- Represented one of the largest food service companies in Orange County.

Publications

- Five Takeaways for Commercial Landlords When Tenants File Bankruptcy, *BB&K Legal Alerts*, July 8,

2020

- Debunking the Sham Guaranty Defense, *State Bar of California Real Property Section, E-Bulletin*, November 2016
- In Rem Relief from Stay - Affords Relief from Serial Bankruptcies for Real Estate Lenders, *Orange County Business Journal*, November 2015
- Real Estate Lenders Relief From Serial Bankruptcies - aka "In Rem" Relief From Stay, *California Mortgage Finance News*, Spring 2014
- Singled Out - Chapter 11 Provides Only Temporary Respite to an Entity in a Single Asset Real Estate Bankruptcy, *Los Angeles Lawyer*, January 2012
- Stern v. Marshall Bankruptcy Case: Bombshell or Dud? (Part I and II), *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, October 2011
- Volunteer Attorney Program Can Alleviate Bankruptcy Court's Massive Workload, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, February 2011

Presentations

- Moderator, "The Bankruptcy Appellate Panel in the Ninth Circuit: A Historical Perspective," The Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, February 22, 2024
- Panelist, "Caroline Djang, Panelist at the SCCLA Diversity in the Legal Profession MCLE Event," Chapman University, January 31, 2024
- Panelist, "Caroline Djang, Panelist at the 97th Annual National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges," 97th Annual National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, October 11, 2023
- Guest Lecturer, "Business Law Ethics Class," Western State College of Law, September 14, 2023
- Panelist Producer, "Regulating Big Tech," Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, July 30, 2023
- Panelist, "Protecting Your Cards: Data Breaches and eDiscovery Lessons," California Bankruptcy Forum Insolvency Conference, May 17, 2023
- Guest Lecturer, "Caroline Djang, Guest Lecturer at the UC Irvine School of Law," UC Irvine School of Law, April 6, 2023
- Speaker, "Bankruptcy: Strategies and Best Practices for Creditors," OCBA Corporate Counsel Section Meeting, February 8, 2023
- Speaker, "Subchapter V's Greatest Hits," California Bankruptcy Forum Insolvency Conference, June 1, 2022
- Speaker, "Covid Update on Restructuring and Recovery Options," Turnaround Management Association – Southern California and the California Receivers Forum, April 1, 2022
- Speaker, "The New Small Business Reorganization Act (SBRA) – Why Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys Need to Understand Sub-Chapter V," National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, December 1, 2021
- Speaker, "A Chapter 11 Primer," National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, November 1, 2021
- Speaker, "DEI and Judicial Clerkships," Southwestern Law School, October 1, 2021
- Speaker, "First Look at Small Business Reorganization Act Cases," American Bankruptcy Institute Southwest Conference, August 1, 2021
- Speaker, "The Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019," Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Professionals, June 1, 2021
- Speaker, "Walk the Plank: Debates on Hot Topics in Bankruptcy," California Bankruptcy Forum Insolvency Conference 2021, May 1, 2021

- Speaker, "One Year Later: Retrospection on Sub-Chapter V Bankruptcy Practice," California Lawyers Association – Insolvency Law Committee, April 1, 2021
- Speaker, "A Leaky Boat On A Choppy Sea: A Very Timely Bankruptcy Primer For Small Businesses," Los Angeles County Bar Association, March 1, 2021
- Speaker, "One Year Into SBRA: Meet The Subchapter V Trustees," Central District Consumer Bankruptcy Attorney Association, February 1, 2021
- Speaker, "Subchapter V...So Far," Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, September 1, 2020
- Speaker, "How to Reorganize a Small Business Under the Recent Amendments to Chapter 11," Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum, March 1, 2020
- Speaker, "California Lawyers Association Business Law Section Diversity Roadshow," California State University Fullerton, December 1, 2019
- Speaker, "Advanced Civil Procedures," Riverside County Sheriff's Department, February 1, 2018
- Moderator, "Judges' Night," Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, October 1, 2017

Education

Ms. Djang earned her J.D. from Loyola Law School, and her B.A. in English from the University of Pennsylvania.

Bar Admissions

- California

Community

- Orange County Bar Association, Board of Directors
- Orange County Women Lawyers Association, President
- At-Large Member of the Ninth Circuit Conference Executive Committee
- Certified mediator, serving by appointment to the Bankruptcy Mediation Program Panel for the U.S. Central District of California Bankruptcy Court
- Orange County Bar Association: Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Finance Committee; Court Tutorials Video Working Group; former Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Chair
- ABI Battleground West, 2023 Conference Co-Chair; 2020 Advisory Board
- California Bankruptcy Forum Insolvency Conference Co-Chair, 2016-2017; Panelist, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
- The James T. King Bankruptcy Inn of Court, Board Member, 2021-present
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, Advisory Committee Member, 2020-present
- Community Legal Aid of SoCal: Justice Is Served Committee, 2022, 2023
- Orange County Asian American Bar Association, Member, 2011-present
- Orange County Bankruptcy Forum, former Board of Directors and past president
- Central District of California Small Business Reorganization Task Force Member, 2020-2021
- Inland Empire Bankruptcy Forum, Member
- Federal Exploration Day, Attorney Participant, 2018, 2019
- Coro Women in Leadership, Advisory Committee
- Girls, Inc. of OC, Women for Girls