

Shawn M. Christianson

San Francisco, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Insolvency & Financial Law Group; Litigation; Class Actions;
Fiduciaries, Receivers & Trustees; Technology; Agribusiness



Shawn M. Christianson focuses her practice on insolvency, receiverships, and complex litigation with an emphasis on technology related issues. She represents financial institutions, secured and unsecured creditors, technology companies, receivers, and bankruptcy trustees. Her practice spans the state, federal and bankruptcy courts, as well as out of court proceedings and mediation. She argued, at every level from the trial court through the Ninth Circuit, a seminal case on the topic of perfection of security interests in unregistered copyrights, *In re: World Auxiliary Power*.

Ms. Christianson is a former member of Buchalter's Board of Directors, as well as the former Managing Shareholder of the Firm's San Francisco office. Ms. Christianson was elected to and served two terms on the Board of Directors as a Director-At-Large of the International Women's Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation and is a former Co-Chair of the Northern California Network of IWIRC. She was appointed to a three-year term as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and served on the Northern District of California's Local Rules Committee which addressed both the District and Bankruptcy Court's Local Rules. She is a trained mediator and has acted as a Resolution Advocate on the Bankruptcy Dispute Resolution Panel in the Northern District of California since that Panel's creation. She is a frequent lecturer and author, and has been profiled in the *Receivership News*.

Ms. Christianson served two terms as the Mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, California, including leading the city through the first year of the pandemic. She has been an active participant in numerous community and civic organizations. She was elected in November 2005 to the Hillsborough City School District's Board of Trustees, became President of that Board in 2009, and served on the Hillsborough City Council from 2012-2020, during which time she was both Vice Mayor and Mayor.

Ms. Christianson, who is AV Preeminent rated, has been selected as *Super Lawyers* Top Rated Lawyer in Northern California since 2005 and as one of *Super Lawyers* Top Women Attorneys Northern California, an honor she has received since 2016, and to *Martindale-Hubbell's* Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers. She has been recognized as a *Best Lawyer in America* in the areas of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights and Insolvency and Reorganization Law, an honor she has received since 2016. Additionally, in 2016, Ms. Christianson was selected by the Cal Alumni Association Board of Directors and the UC Berkeley Foundation Board of Trustees to receive the *Spirit of 1868 Volunteer Award*, which acknowledges alumni and friends who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer leadership and accomplishments in support of the university's philanthropic and outreach efforts. Most recently, Ms. Christianson was recognized as 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 leading U.S. Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers, an honor she has received since 2020.

Publications

- What Every Technology Company Needs to Know About Assumption, Assumption and Assignment, Or Rejection Of Its Contracts In Bankruptcy, *Buchalter Nemer Technology Industry Newsletter*, October 8,

2015

- Insolvency: What Every Technology Company Needs to Know About Claims Against Bankrupt Customers And Business Partners, *Buchalter Nemer Tech Industry Bulletin*, April 16, 2015
- Female Powerbrokers Q&A: Buchalter's Shawn Christianson, *Law360*, February 27, 2014
- Introduction to California Receivership Law, *California Business Law Practitioner*, Spring 2010

Presentations

- Guest Lecturer, "Shawn Christianson, Guest Lecturer at UC Hastings College of the Law," UC Hastings College of the Law, November 7, 2019
- Panelist, "Shawn Christianson, Speaker at the Barristers Club of San Francisco Bar Association," Barristers Club of San Francisco Bar Association, May 7, 2019
- Speaker, "Bankruptcy Bypass: Recent Use of State Court Healthcare Provider Receiverships in lieu of Bankruptcy," May 3, 2018
- Speaker, "IWIRC Strategic Planning," IWIRC Leadership Summit 2017, July 21, 2017
- Presenter, "The Bay Area Chapter of the California Receivers Forum," San Francisco, California, January 19, 2017
- Co-Speaker, "Women in Politics - Why Not?," the San Mateo Chamber of Commerce's Women in Action Professional Women Networking Event, April 4, 2016
- Speaker, "Who Will Be There To Shut Out The Lights," American Bar Association's 2015 Business Law Section Spring Program, April 18, 2015
- Speaker, "Language and the Law," University of California, Berkeley, November 25, 2014
- Speaker, "Language and the Law," UC Berkeley, Introduction to Applied Language Studies, November 21, 2012
- Speaker, "Thunderclouds on the Horizon: What Happens if your Cloud Provider is Insolvent," American Bar Association Business Law Section Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, August 5, 2012
- Speaker, "Language and the Law," UC Berkeley, Introduction to Applied Language Studies, November 22, 2011
- Panelist, "Receivership Sales," Bay Area Chapter of the California Receivers Forum, September 22, 2011
- Speaker, "Receivers and Turnarounds: Emphasis On and Comparison With California," TMA Conference, July 15, 2011
- Speaker, "Preferences and Reclamation Rights in Bankruptcy or Variations on the Theme of "Give It Back, Now!," Western Region Credit Conference, October 1, 2010
- Speaker, "Nuts and Bolts of Receiverships," BASF Conference Center in San Francisco, CA, March 9, 2010
- Speaker, "Alternatives to Chapter 11," Bar Association of San Francisco, March 10, 2009
- Speaker, "Combining Successful Law Careers with Kids," Hastings Law School, February 4, 2009
- Speaker, "Funding the Estate," California Receivers Forum: Loyola Seminar, January 16, 2009
- Speaker, "Beginning The Journey: Leadership Skills and Career Advice," Council for Women of Boston College, September 30, 2008
- Speaker, "Receivership Law & Practice," California Receivers Forum: Loyola Seminar, January 16, 2008
- Speaker, "Navigating the Potentially Treacherous Cross-Currents of Executory Contract/Lease Treatment in Chapter 11," San Francisco Bar Association - Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, July 10, 2007
- Speaker, "After the Default: Litigation Under UCC Article 9," American Bar Association, September 12, 2006

- Speaker, "Receiverships in the New Millennium: Part II," California Receivers Forum, Loyola Law School, October 8, 2004
- Speaker, "IP Financing," American Bar Association, April 3, 2003
- Speaker, "Federal Civil Litigation," Lorman Education Services, February 27, 2003
- Speaker, "Outsourcing in the Consumer Lending Industry: Preparing for the Worst: Salvaging At-Risk Relationships...and What to Do When You Can't-Part III," American Conference Institute, October 1, 2002

Education

Ms. Christianson earned her J.D. at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, where she was on the editorial board of the *Hastings Journal of Communications and Entertainment Law*. She earned her B.S. *magna cum laude* at Boston College.

Bar Admissions

- California

Community

- Mayor of the Town of Hillsborough, California, 2018-2020
- Elected in November 2005 to the Hillsborough City School District's Board of Trustees, serving as President of that Board in 2009, serving on the Hillsborough City Council commencing in 2012, and acting as Hillsborough's Vice Mayor from 2016-2018.
- Founding member, Barrister Club's Speakers Bureau
- Chair and Vice-Chair, Bar Association of San Francisco's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section
- Served on several boards and committees, including the California Receiver's Forum, the Bay Area Chapter of the California Receiver's Forum, where she also served as Vice President, the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Bankruptcy Forum ("BABF"), BABF's Program and Finance Committees and the organizing committee of the California Bankruptcy Forum's Fifth Annual Conference.