

Press Release

Barton Barton & Plotkin LLP Forms Financial Crisis Opportunities Team

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AN INTERDISCIPLINARY GROUP FOCUSING ON ASSISTING CLIENTS NOT ONLY TACKLE THE MOUNTING CHALLENGES BROUGHT ON BY RECENT FINANCIAL TURMOIL, BUT ALSO WITH THEIR PURSUITS OF ITS CORRESPONDING OPPORTUNITIES

A number of recently formed financial crisis advisory groups appear to view the financial market as half-empty and leaking profusely. They emphasize reactive multi-disciplinary services in such areas as commercial litigation, white-collar defense, fraud, internal investigations and enforcement, compliance, restructurings and bankruptcies. Like them, BB&P's professionals regularly advise their clients on responding to the myriad issues rapidly arising and evolving from the turbulence in the financial markets. There is no doubt that the economy is under tremendous stress with still not fully discernable consequences and BB&P is steering business interests and investors around the legal landmines through its interdisciplinary approach.

However, BB&P equally recognizes that the Great Depression this is not. BB&P's professionals, therefore, have chosen to view the current economy as half-full with opportunities to be harvested and advise their clients accordingly.

As BB&P's Managing Partner, Roger E. Barton notes, "Half a century ago, in 1959, during a time of other world crises, then-Senator John F. Kennedy perceptively employed the trope 'The Chinese use two brushstrokes to write the word crisis. One brushstroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger—but recognize the opportunity.'" BB&P is well aware of, and advises its clients on, the "dangers" inherent to the current financial crisis, but equally focuses its energies and efforts on helping its clients seize the opportunities that will allow their businesses to flourish for many years to come. "That is what sets us apart. We are forward-looking. Entrepreneurial. Our interdisciplinary Financial Crisis Opportunities Team is similarly focused and provides its services with long-range corporate and investment profitability firmly in mind," states Barton.

A case-in-point is the recently enacted Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and its primary component, the Troubled Assets Relief Program ("TARP"). Regardless of one's view of this legislation, it will inject as much as \$700 billion into the private sector. The ink barely dried on the Act and TARP, and already that funding is being proposed to go well beyond its initial intended end source, *i.e.*, for the government's purchase of troubled mortgage loans and mortgage-related assets.

BB&P believes this is barely the tip of the iceberg as billions of dollars worth of distressed debt and assets are, during the next several years, downloaded into the financial markets at depressed values virtually unseen since the days of the Savings & Loan Crisis two decades ago. BB&P's professionals remember those days, advised corporate and investment clients then as to securing the opportunities associated with significantly devalued real estate and the panoply of other distressed assets, and seeks, through its Financial Crisis Opportunities Team, to again capture those same opportunities just now emanating from the present financial crisis.

Roger Barton, formerly with Sidley Austin, brings more than two decades of both litigation and transactional expertise to the Team. Abe Mastbaum is a member of the Team with more than a quarter of a century's experience in the capital markets. He was a former Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer for a leading private equity firm. Eric Sleeper provides more than twenty years of experience to the Team in advising on corporate and investment restructurings, refinancings and Chapter 11 reorganizations. He advises secured creditors, lenders, hedge funds, and institutional investors, including with respect to the acquisition and trading of distressed assets, debts and claims. Mathew Hoffman is a three-time selected Super Lawyer and litigator with more than thirty years of experience handling complex commercial, securities, and hostile takeover litigation. Kevin Koplin is a former FINRA Compliance Examiner specializing in the area of broker-dealer regulation, compliance and enforcement matters before the SEC, FINRA, NYSE, AMEX, PHLX and other federal and state regulatory agencies.

States Barton, "We are confident in our Team's ability to assist clients in all aspects of the crisis in the financial markets, both proactive and reactive, including in the active analysis and actual acquisition and trading of distressed assets, debts and claims as well as in such areas as corporate and investment restructurings and recapitalizations; pre- and post- workout and bankruptcy matters; complex litigation; regulatory compliance and enforcement; and broker-dealer issues."

For more information on the Financial Crisis Opportunities Team or generally about BB&P, please contact Roger Barton at (212)687-6262 or rbarton@bartonesq.com. You can visit our website at www.bartonesq.com.