



Scott A. Chernich

Shareholder

313 South Washington Square
Lansing, MI 48933
T: 517.371.8133
F: 517.367.7133
SChernich@fosterswift.com

Scott Chernich's practice areas include representing numerous financial institutions including community banks and credit unions and Chapter 11, 7 and 13 bankruptcy as well as commercial litigation and construction law. Recently, Scott has successfully resolved several insolvent probate estates and has assisted financially challenged agribusinesses. In 2003, Scott was appointed as a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee by the U.S. Justice Department and in 2020 appointed as a Subchapter V Chapter 11 Trustee. While he spends a significant portion of his time representing creditors in prosecuting claims and recovering collateral, he also has significant experience as a debtor's lawyer and as a trustee. As a result, he offers clients (businesses and individuals) a perspective that includes familiarity with common strategies for all sides and the ability to spot and resolve issues early in the process.

Scott is very involved in several professional associations, including the American Bankruptcy Institute and the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and served in numerous leadership roles in the Lansing community. He was also a popular adjunct professor of Bankruptcy at his alma mater, Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School for 12 years.

He has served several terms on Foster Swift's Executive Committee, acting as the first Treasurer for 6+ years. For several years previous, Scott was the practice group leader for the firm's Finance, Real Estate & Bankruptcy section.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Scott has administered over 2,000 Chapter 7 cases as a Trustee.
- Scott has been appointed as Subchapter V Trustee in the following cases:
 - Turbo Components Inc.

PRACTICE AREAS

Financial Institution Law
Credit Union Representation
Commercial Litigation
Collections / Creditor - Debtor Rights
Bankruptcy & Restructuring
Finance, Real Estate & Bankruptcy Law
Real Estate Litigation
Agri-Business
Cannabis Law

EDUCATION

Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D., 1993, *cum laude*
Shippensburg University, M.I.M., 1986
Shippensburg University, B.S., 1984

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

- Atlas Heave Engine Co.
 - Douglas M.
 - Purple East Plus Inc.
 - Krieger Craftsmen Inc.
 - Residential Marketing Concepts
- Scott was appointed Chapter 11 Trustee in CDDM Corporation case and successfully completed a plan of reorganization.
 - Scott successfully assisted an international broker/dealer avoid a threatened suit by a prominent figure in a nationally known Chapter 11 case.
 - In a very complicated, multi-million dollar construction case, five parties (a general contractor, sub-contractors and insurers) were fighting over the contracts, state lien law rights and surety issues. Scott was hired and, in one day, mediated a resolution to all of the disputes and satisfaction of all parties.
 - When a large credit union was sued on a lien avoidance action, Scott was hired to defend. He succeeded in having the case dismissed on Summary Judgment.
 - A commercial landlord was being sued by a tenant who was in Chapter 11. Scott successfully defended the landlord and recovered back rent in the amount of \$250,000.
 - A creditor, sued by a Chapter 11 debtor, hired Scott, who resolved the preference action and then recovered in excess of \$1 million for his client on a 503(b)(9) claim.

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Best Lawyers in America® - (Banking and Finance Law, Bankruptcy and Creditor-Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law), 2010-2025

Best Lawyers in America® - Banking and Finance Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing, 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

SBRA Deep Dive, *Federal Bar Association's Bankruptcy Seminar*, September 24, 2021

Trigger Point to Avoid Financial Ruin: Perspectives from a Bankruptcy Lawyer, *Great Lakes Crop Summit*, January 31, 2018

Federal Bar Association - Featured Speaker on Bankruptcy, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2014-2016, 2018-2022

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the 363 Bankruptcy Sale: High-Value Opportunities for Strategic Investors, *Foster Swift Finance & Bankruptcy Law News*, October 21, 2024



A Business Guide to Dealing with a Major Customer's Bankruptcy, *Foster Swift Finance & Bankruptcy Law News*, October 15, 2024

How to Handle Bankruptcy Amid Record Levels of Debt in the Farm Industry, *Foster Swift Finance Real Estate & Bankruptcy Law News*, November 17, 2022

Bio-Digesters: A New solution for a New Era, *Foster Swift Agricultural Law News*, September 17, 2021

The Significance of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Bankruptcy Trustees, *Thomson Reuters WestLaw Today*, July 27, 2021

Economic Support for Agricultural Producers Under the CARES Act, *Foster Swift Agricultural Law News E-blast*, April 3, 2020

Key Details of the Paycheck Protection Program Under the CARES Act, *Foster Swift Legal Update E-blast*, April 3, 2020

Essentials of the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Application Process for Your Business, *Foster Swift Legal Update E-blast*, March 26, 2020

The Small Business Reorganization Act—Coming to a Bankruptcy Court Near You in February 2020, *Foster Swift Finance Real Estate & Bankruptcy Law News*, November 4, 2019

Don't Overlook Legal Counsel When Addressing Agribusiness Financial Challenges, July 31, 2019

When an Inheritance Gets Entangled in a Bankruptcy Proceeding, Smart Estate Planning Can Help, *Foster Swift Finance Real Estate & Bankruptcy Law News*, October 31, 2018

How to Avoid Bankruptcy and Build a Strong, Successful Business, *Foster Swift Finance Real Estate & Bankruptcy News*, March 1, 2018

Michigan Enacts the New Uniform Voidable Transactions Act, *Foster Swift Finance, Real Estate & Bankruptcy News*, June 8, 2017

Dower Rights are Abolished in Michigan, *Foster Swift Finance, Real Estate & Bankruptcy News*, February 7, 2017

Michigan Authorizes New Asset Protection Trusts, *Foster Swift Finance, Real Estate & Bankruptcy News*, February 7, 2017

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Legal Affiliations:

- Ingham County Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Commercial Law League of America
- ACADEMIC POSITION: Western Michigan Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Adjunct Professor

Industry & Professional Associations:

- American Bankruptcy Institute
- National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees



Community Involvement:

- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, Financial Oversight Committee, past member
- Capital Area Humane Society, Past Chairman of the Board
- Volunteers of America
- Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Advisory Council

RECENT BLOG POSTS

Michigan Bankruptcy Blog

Collect Your Money in Bankruptcy: Chapter 13

Collect Your Money in Bankruptcy: Chapter 7

Do People Owe You Money?
