

DETROIT

150 West Jefferson Ave.
Suite 2500
Detroit, Michigan 48226
T: +1.313.496.7829
O: +1.313.963.6420
F: +1.313.496.7500

spinner@millercanfield.com

Services

Bankruptcy, Restructuring and
Insolvency

Creditor and Creditors'
Committee

Distressed Automotive Supplier

Distressed Transactions and
Bankruptcy Sales

Loan Enforcement and
Restructuring

Public Finance

Industries

Government and Public Sector

Education

University of Michigan Law School,
J.D., 2009

New York University, Stern School
of Business, M.B.A., 1997

Rutgers University, M.S., 1991,
B.A., 1989

Bar Admissions

Michigan

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals

- Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court

- Eastern District of Michigan
- Western District of Michigan
- Northern District of Illinois
- Northern District of Ohio



Ronald A. Spinner

Principal

Ron Spinner brings extensive business experience to his bankruptcy practice, developing results-oriented strategies and breaking new legal ground where necessary to do so.

Ron's ability to deal with novel situations helped tremendously in the City of Detroit bankruptcy case, where questions of first impression arose regularly. His ability to navigate the unique aspects of chapter 9 aided (and continues to aid) the City in its recovery.

As another example, Ron represented a creditor who "factored" the debtors' invoices. Courts typically characterize factoring as a "true sale" or a lending relationship (with no ground in between), oversimplifying the relationship and often leading to unnecessary conflict. Ron persuaded the court to consider the factoring arrangement as a series of individual transactions, each of which it could authorize separately. This provided the factor with strong protections, allowing the debtor to retain its funding source for its bankruptcy case. Creative application of the bankruptcy code thus resulted in a successful reorganization for the debtor and payment in full for Ron's client.

Similarly, Ron understands how to help clients handle the emerging issues of cryptocurrencies in bankruptcy and workout situations. He is a frequent speaker on cryptocurrency and has been published in a leading academic bankruptcy journal discussing in layman's terms how Bitcoin works and the legal questions that arise because of it.

Ron's specialty is preference defense, also known as "claw back actions," where a debtor seeks to recover money that it previously paid to its creditors. By resolving these cases out of court, Ron obtains exceptional results for his clients while

Ronald A. Spinner

keeping costs down. For example, one client asked Ron to defend five such actions for it, with over \$2.4 million in total potential liability. After analyzing the claims, Ron was able to negotiate reasonable resolutions in all five cases. Two were resolved for small settlement payments and the remaining three were simply dismissed by the respective debtors for no payment at all.

Representative Matters

Expanding Interpretation of When Creditors Deserve Reimbursement for Bankruptcy Participation

Represented a credit insurer in a bankruptcy case involving a large trucking firm. The bankruptcy trustee mishandled a clawback suit and the court sanctioned the trustee by dismissing the case and depriving the estate of potentially millions of dollars in recoveries. The trustee declined to investigate the possibility of there being a malpractice claim against his law firm for the loss. Miller Canfield convinced the Bankruptcy Court that the trustee could not investigate his own legal liability and that he should be replaced as trustee, and in the process, recovered funds for the credit insurer client.

Enhancing Creditor Recoveries Efficiently

In a bankruptcy case involving a regional home supply chain headquartered in Texas, Ron was given the role of investigating and prosecuting preference actions on behalf of the debtors. Recoveries on unsecured claims were initially estimated to yield 45-55 cents on the dollar. Ron investigated several hundred claims to select only those with likely recoveries, sent demand letters, and ultimately filed approximately 70 complaints. Ron negotiated settlements with each creditor, so that unsecured recoveries rose 50% (to approximately 75 cents on the dollar) without requiring a single creditor to waste resources on a trial.

Defending Preference Actions

Two related clients brought Ron five preference actions to defend, with just over \$2.4 million in claims alleged after the various defenses the trustees deemed they would allow. Ron analyzed the cases and negotiated each to settlement or dismissal, without trial (and often without a formal answer having to be filed). This kept client expenditures, inclusive of fees and settlement payments, minimal.

Additionally, Ron successfully and economically defended Jormic IT Solutions, LLC, an information technology client against a \$32,032 preference demand in a bankruptcy case, resulting in the trustee agreeing to forgo a lawsuit after concluding a complete defense was mounted by the client.

Ron also successfully defended Integrity Tool & Mold, Inc., a Canadian plastic injection molding services client, in a \$147,000 preference claim in a bankruptcy case, resolving the matter quickly and at minimal cost.

City of Detroit Chapter 9 Bankruptcy Restructuring

Miller Canfield served as local counsel to the City of Detroit in connection with its Chapter 9 bankruptcy case filed in July 2013 and its ongoing restructuring efforts. Since the City confirmed its Plan of Adjustment in December 2014, Miller Canfield has continued to represent the City in connection with many aspects of its Plan implementation, appeals of Plan confirmation, set up of the Great Lakes Water Authority, and a variety of financings.

Energy Company Back Royalty Payments/Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection

Represented an energy company that leased significant natural gas rights to another energy company that filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. At stake was almost \$2 million in back royalty payments under the lease. The court

Ronald A. Spinner

held that under Michigan law the oil and gas lease was indeed a lease under the Bankruptcy Code, entitling the client to all past due royalty payments before the debtor could continue extracting natural gas.

Dean Foods Bankruptcy

Represented Citrofrut USA in the Dean Foods bankruptcy in the Southern District of Texas, helping to form an ad hoc committee to negotiate better terms for an administrative expense protocol proposed by the debtors. Revised terms required debtors to disclose additional information to creditors so that many were able to determine that opting out of the protocol would save them significant funds. Resolved a disputed administrative expense claim by brokering a resolution whereby the client received \$230,000, and settled a \$1.7 million preference claim for \$95,000 without litigation.

Steel Distributor Bankruptcy Avoidance Action

Successfully defended Blue Fin Steel Corp., in two simultaneous bankruptcy avoidance actions, persuading trustees to accept defenses without requiring expensive expert engagement.

Honors

The National Law Review Go-To Thought Leadership Award, Bankruptcy Law, 2022

State Bar of Michigan Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2021-2025

DBusiness Magazine, Top Lawyers, 2020-present:
Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights Law

University of Michigan Law School, magna cum laude; Dean's Scholarship; Certificates of Merit - Contracts, Secured Transactions; Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review, Article Editor

New York University, Stern School of Business, Marketing; Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society

Rutgers University, Computer Science; Academic Fellowship; Presidential Scholarship; Departmental Honors

Professional Activities

State Bar of Michigan

Turnaround Management Association (Detroit Chapter), Programming Committee, 2019-present

American Constitution Society for Law and Public Policy (ACS), University of Michigan Chapter, Board Member, 2007-2009; Logistics Coordinator for Constance Baker Motley National Moot Court Competition, 2009

Civic, Cultural & Social Activities

Accounting Aid Society, Quality Reviewer, 2010-present

Ronald A. Spinner

Speeches

"Bankruptcy Judges Panel," Turnaround Management Association MidAmerica Regional Conference, Moderator, April 13, 2026

"Decrypting Crypto - Cryptocurrency Basics for Bankruptcies and Workouts; Introduction to Bitcoin" 2026 Bankruptcy, Insolvency and Creditors' Rights (BICR) Section Educational/Social Retreat, Speaker, February 26, 2026

"Introduction – Crypto in Real Estate Transactions," Acquisitions Committee Presentation, American College of Real Estate Lawyers, Panelist, December 3, 2024

"The Bankruptcy Small Business Reorganization Act: Overview and Recent Developments," Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, May 23, 2024

"Payment Rails," Panelist, American College of Real Estate Lawyers, August 22, 2023

"Subchapter V of Chapter 11 Bankruptcy," Panelist, State Bar of Michigan Real Property Law Section, July 21, 2023

"The Wild, Wild West of Crypto," Panelist, American Bankruptcy Institute Central States Bankruptcy Workshop, June 9, 2023

"Cryptocurrency: Is There a Future?," Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, March 30, 2023

"Preferences and Fraudulent Transfers: A Primer on Bankruptcy Avoidance Actions," Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, January 18, 2023

"Cryptocurrency and the Effect on Corporations," Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, Oct. 13, 2022

"Cryptocurrency Issues," MSU Inn of Court, April 6, 2022

"The Bankruptcy Small Business Reorganization Act Turns Two Years Old," Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, March 8, 2022

"Subchapter V: Developing Case Law and Trends," Panelist, Detroit Consumer Bankruptcy Association, Hon. Steven Rhodes Consumer Bankruptcy Conference, Nov. 11, 2021

"Small Business Restructuring Act – One Year Later," Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, March 3, 2021

"Bankruptcy," Michigan Community Resources Business Closure Series, 2021

"The Small Business Reorganization Act and Other Recent Changes to Bankruptcy Law," Miller Canfield Webinar, October 6, 2020

Ronald A. Spinner

"What Will the Upcoming Bankruptcy Law Changes Mean to You?", Panelist, Detroit Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, Feb. 25, 2020

"Marijuana: Up In Smoke," Panelist, Federal Bar Association Western District of Michigan 31st Annual Bankruptcy Section Seminar, July 26-28, 2019, Thompsonville, Michigan

"Creditors' Law Update," Miller Canfield, October 20th and 28th, 2015

Publications

"Nondebtor Plan Releases After the Purdue Pharma Decision (pp. 5–9)," *Michigan Bankruptcy Journal*, Fall 2025

"Anatomy of Cryptocurrency—What You Need to Know to Understand the 2022 UCC Amendments," *Michigan Bar Journal*, Spring 2024

"Crypto Under Control: The 2022 UCC Amendments," *Michigan Bar Journal*, Spring 2024

"Celsius Cryptocurrency Woes: Bad News for Those Whose Cryptocurrency Is Trapped in the Estate, Could Be Worse for Those Who Think They've Escaped," Illinois State Bar Association's Section on Commercial Banking, Collections and Bankruptcy Newsletter, April 2023

"Caution—Construction Ahead: Reworking the UCC for Cryptocurrencies," *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Volume 32, Issue 1, March 2023

"Decrypting Crypto—Cryptocurrency Basics for Bankruptcies and Workouts," *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*, Volume 31, Issue 6, January 2023

"Michigan's New Assignment of Rents Act Improves Borrower-Lender Relationships," co-authored with Scott Lesser and Joe Ammar, *Michigan Bankruptcy Journal*, December 2022

"Breaking Down the Gate—Changes to the Barton 'Gate Keeper' Role in the Eleventh Circuit," *Norton Bankruptcy Law Adviser*, May 2022

"Reclamation Is [Mostly] Dead, But Has It Been Reincarnated?," co-authored with Megan Baxter-Labut, *Michigan Business Journal*, Spring 2021

"'Venue' Make a Change, Be Sure to Get It Right," Co-Authored with Marc Swanson, *ABI Journal*, January 2021

"A Hard Choice Ahead for Sears Ch. 11 Creditors," Co-Authored with Marc Swanson, *Law360*, Oct. 24, 2019

"Can You Spot a Potential Fraudulent Transfer?," *Michigan Business Law Journal*, Spring 2018

"Were Those Rents Assigned? Absolutely!" Co-Authored with Marc Swanson, *ABI Journal*, July 2016

"Controlling Exposure in Preference Actions," Co-Authored with Steven Roach, *Journal of Corporate Renewal*, March 2016

Ronald A. Spinner

Articles

Michigan Bankruptcy Exemptions Set to Rise Nearly 11% Effective April 1, 2026

'Void' Judgments Are Not Void After All

Michigan Supreme Court Confirms: No Independent Cause of Action for Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith

Bankruptcy Dollar Amounts Set to Rise Significantly on April 1, 2025

In Purdue Pharma, Supreme Court Rules That Nonconsensual Releases Are A Nonstarter

Debt Limits to Qualify for Subchapter V and Chapter 13 Revert to Prior Lower Levels

Debt Limit to Qualify for Subchapter V and Chapter 13 Set to Revert This Summer

Fifth Circuit Continues Bankruptcy Sale Protections After Supreme Court MOAC Opinion

Supreme Court Rules That Property Tax Foreclosures Can Violate the "Takings Clause" of the U.S. Constitution

Supreme Court Rules That Section 363(m) Protections for a Bankruptcy Sale Are Not Jurisdictional

Innocence Is No Defense: Debt Obtained by Fraud Is Nondischargeable

Michigan Bankruptcy Exemptions Set to Rise Significantly on March 1

Celsius Cryptocurrency Woes

Sunset of Certain Bankruptcy Code Changes

Is Crypto Collapsing?

Eleventh Circuit Bolsters Preference Defense by Holding That 503(b)(9) Claims Do Not Reduce the Subsequent New Value Defense

Passage of Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act

Michigan Adopts Its Version of the Uniform Assignment of Rents Act

Michigan Tax Foreclosures in Bankruptcy – An Auction and a Right to Claim Surplus Proceeds Insulates Against Challenge as a Fraudulent Transfer

Bankruptcy Dollar Amounts Set to Rise April 1, 2022, by a Significant Amount

What Do You Do If a Debtor Defaults on Its Confirmed Bankruptcy Plan?

Michigan Tax Foreclosures May Be Avoidable in Bankruptcy

Not All Student Loans Are Created Equal – Some May Be Dischargeable in Bankruptcy

The Impact of the Bankruptcy Relief Act and Other Recent Bankruptcy Code Changes

Congress Permits SBA to Make PPP Loans to Debtors in Bankruptcy, SBA Says "No"

Ronald A. Spinner

Eleventh Circuit Joins Fifth in Holding that the SBA May Deny Paycheck Protection Program Loans to Debtors in Bankruptcy

Will the Real Party in Interest Please Stand Up?

To Reclaim or Not to Reclaim, That Is the Question

Bankruptcy Rulings: Debtors Do Not Have to Be Currently Engaged in Business and Commercial Activities to Qualify for SBRA Relief

Fifth Circuit Holds that SBA May Deny Paycheck Protection Program Loans to Debtors in Bankruptcy

CARES Act: Bankruptcy Provisions

Bankruptcy Options Available for Small Businesses to Continue Operating

Recent and Upcoming Changes to Bankruptcy Law That Affect Your Rights as a Creditor

Sears Bankruptcy Case Confirmed: Choices Ahead for Administrative Creditors and Looming Preference Lawsuits for Trade Creditors

Assigned Rents Not Bankruptcy Estate Property After Assignment is Enforced