

## PROFESSIONAL RÉSUMÉ

**DAVID L. NEALE** began his legal career in New York, with the law firm of Kramer, Levin, Nessen, Kamin & Frankel, where he represented creditors and creditors' committees in large, complex cases such as Texaco Inc., LTV Steel and Charter Co. When Mr. Neale relocated to California in 1989, to join the law firm of Levene & Eisenberg, he brought with him an understanding of creditors' rights and remedies that he was able to apply to the representation of debtors and other constituencies in bankruptcy and workout situations.

His broad experience includes handling cases in a variety of areas including:

**Manufacturing** (successful Chapter 11 reorganization for companies such as Future Media Productions, a manufacturer of blank CDs and DVDs; California Aircraft & Engines, Inc., a manufacturer of aircraft engine parts with claimants from around the world; DCC Compact Classics, Inc., a manufacturer of specialty CDs and recordings; Fernandes Guitars, a manufacturer of electric and acoustic guitars for distribution around the world); **Food and beverage industry** (Chinois Restaurant, successful Chapter 11 reorganization for a Las Vegas restaurant; Café-Melisse Valencia, successful out-of court workout and orderly liquidation; Galletti Brothers Foods, successful Chapter 11 reorganization for one of the nation's largest fresh seafood wholesalers) Crunchies Food Company, successful Chapter 11 sale of assets of retailer of dried fruit snacks); **Construction** (successful Chapter 11 reorganization for Rock & Waterscape, Inc., builder of water-themed features in Las Vegas and around the world); **Real Estate** (successful Chapter 11 cases for Roosevelt Lofts, LLC, involving a condominium conversion in downtown Los Angeles; North Silver Lake Lodge, LLC, involving one of the last undeveloped parcels of real property in the Deer Valley, Utah ski resort area; IDM Corporation and its affiliates requiring the restructuring of over \$1 billion in debt; and Galletti Brothers Investments, a real estate partnership with multiple properties. He has also represented Ritter Ranch Development, the owner of an 11,000-acre development property in Palmdale; and National Enterprises, Inc. and San Diego Investments, real estate management and development companies with properties across the United States); **Energy** (representing the California Independent System Operator Corporation in connection with the bankruptcy cases of California Power Exchange, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Enron Inc. and Mirant and its affiliates; Evergreen Oil, an oil re-refining company operating throughout California); **Banking and finance** (Imperial Credit Industries,



**DAVID L. NEALE**  
dln@lnbyg.com

Inc.); **Trucking** (Green Fleet Systems and TKS Leasing, successfully confirming a plan of reorganization for a short-haul trucking company operating out of the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach; Coast Bridge Logistics, Inc. representing another short-haul trucking company in connection with the sale of its assets; Consolidated Freightways and its affiliates, in which Mr. Neale represented multi-employer pension funds that were the largest creditors and went on to represent the post-confirmation Plan Oversight Committee and serve as special counsel to the Liquidating Trust in certain litigation and appellate matters, and The Penn Traffic Co. and its affiliates, in which Mr. Neale represented certain multi-employer retirement, health and welfare funds); **Health Care** (Solid Landings Behavioral Health and its affiliates, operators of rehab facilities in California, Texas and Nevada); North American Health Care and affiliates (operators of skilled nursing facilities); **Technology and Communication** (WCI Cable, Inc., a fiber optic cable network located in Oregon and Alaska); and **Retail** (successful Chapter 11 cases for Ortho Mattress, Inc., a manufacturer and retailer of bedding products; Britches of Georgetowne, Inc., a clothing retailer with outlets in several states). Mr. Neale has a particular expertise in the **Entertainment Industry**. He has represented clients involved in **publishing** (New Millennium Entertainment, Buzz Magazine); **film exhibition** (Resort Theaters of America); **film production** (Franchise Pictures, LLC and its affiliates); The Samuel Goldwyn Company in connection with its acquisition of Heritage Entertainment); **music** (Even St. Productions, LLC, the owner of rights relating to the catalogue of Sly & the Family Stone) and **artists** (Gladys Knight, Mick Fleetwood, Lynn Redgrave, among others). He has also successfully represented numerous individual Chapter 11 debtors with respect to personal real estate holdings and liabilities and other financial difficulties. Mr. Neale has also represented numerous purchasers, equity interest holders, creditors and official committees in many Chapter 11 cases around the country. This is a small sample of the cases he has handled over his almost 30-year legal career.

Mr. Neale is both an experienced and aggressive litigator whose cases have resulted in over a dozen notable published opinions by the Bankruptcy Court, District Court and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He also brings his negotiating skills to bear as a member of the Mediation Panel for the Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, New York County Bar Association, Century City Bar

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Association, Beverly Hills Bar Association, Financial Lawyers Conference, Turnaround Management Association, and the Commercial Law League of America. He has served on the Board of Directors of the AIDS Project Los Angeles and the Los Angeles division of the American Friends of Hebrew University.

Mr. Neale received his B.A., *summa cum laude* from Princeton University in 1984 and his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law in 1987. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1988 and the California Bar in 1989. He was admitted to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1989, and was admitted to the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York in 1988. In 1989, he was admitted to the Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California. He has also practiced extensively in courts around the country, in venues as diverse as Oregon, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Arkansas, Utah, Florida, New York, Delaware and Tennessee.

**Mr. Neale is the author of:**

- “Bankruptcy and Contractual Relations in the Entertainment Industry – An Overview,” *1990 Entertainment, Publishing and the Arts Handbook*
- “A Survey of Recent Bankruptcy Decisions Impacting upon the Entertainment Industry,” *1992–1993 Entertainment, Publishing and the Arts Handbook*
- “SEC Actions and Stays,” *National Law Journal*, 2002
- “The Scope and Application of 11 U.S.C. § 1145,” American Bankruptcy Institute Bankruptcy Battleground West, 2003
- “Whose Life is it Anyway? Treatment of Unique Assets in Bankruptcy,” American Bankruptcy Institute Winter Leadership Conference, 2016

He was featured as a “Mover & Shaker” by *The Deal* magazine in 2006, and has been interviewed several times by, among others, KNX news radio in Los Angeles, *Variety* magazine, *The Hollywood Reporter*, and the *California Real Estate Journal* on bankruptcy topics.

**Mr. Neale has appeared as a speaker on the following topics before the following organizations:**

- “Making the Best Better: Lessons From the Battlefield,” Turnaround Management Association 6th Annual Spring Meeting, 1998

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- “Litigation Issues in Bankruptcy,” Business Torts – An Introduction and Primer, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, 1998
- “There Must Be Fifty Ways to Leave Your Troubles,” Turnaround Management Association, 1998
- “The Impact of State Court Decisions in Bankruptcy Court,” Beverly Hills Bar Association, 2001

**Mr. Neale has appeared as a panelist, addressing issues relating to:**

- “Bankruptcy in the Dot-Com Economy” and “Licensing Agreements: How to Draft and Enforce Them” for Law.Com Seminars
- “Public Company Debtors and the SEC,” American Bankruptcy Institute Bankruptcy Battleground West, 2003; “The 2005 Amendments to Bankruptcy Code Sections 546(c) and 547 – The Early Returns,” Financial Lawyers Conference, 2008
- “Transfers of Intellectual Property,” Southwestern Law School, Bankruptcy in the New Millennium, 2010
- “Practicing in the Limelight: Celebrity Bankruptcies,” American Bankruptcy Institute Winter Leadership Conference, 2016
- “Shark Tank,” American Bankruptcy Institute Bankruptcy Battleground West, 2018

Mr. Neale has consistently been named by *Los Angeles* magazine as one of its 100 “Super Lawyers” in the bankruptcy field, and has been recognized by Chambers & Partners as one of the top practitioners within the bankruptcy/restructuring field in California.