



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Evan J. Zucker

Blank Rome LLP, New York
Class of 2019

Since its inception in 2017, ABI's "40 Under 40" program has recognized rising leaders whose talent, innovation and commitment to service have shaped the future of the bankruptcy and restructuring profession. As ABI gets ready to celebrate the 10th class this year, we are proud to spotlight some of the accomplished professionals who have helped define the program's legacy over the past decade.

In this alumni spotlight, we reconnect with Evan J. Zucker, who is Of Counsel in Blank Rome LLP's Bankruptcy & Restructuring group in New York, where he concentrates his practice on corporate reorganizations and related complex litigation in national and cross-border matters. He frequently represents foreign representatives in chapter 15 proceedings, creditors' committees, secured creditors, indenture trustees, executory contract parties, and other key parties in interest. Mr. Zucker routinely publishes and speaks on bankruptcy topics, including the model laws promulgated by UNCITRAL's Working Group V, as well as on the causes of retail insolvencies around the world. In 2022, he was inducted as a member of the International Insolvency Institute and was a recipient of *Global Restructuring Review's* "40 Under 40" award and INSOL International's Future Forty award. In 2023, he was appointed as co-chair of the U.S./Canada/Caribbean Regional Committee for the International Insolvency Institute (III). Since 2022, he has served as an III Delegate to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law's Working Group V (Insolvency). In this profile, he reflects on how his "40 Under 40" honors impacted his professional opportunities and his views on the future of the restructuring profession.

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What do you remember most about the year you were recognized?

What I remember most is the people, both the remarkable cohort of fellow honorees and the broader ABI community that welcomed us. The honoree class brought together practitioners from across the globe, across disciplines, and across constituencies, and the friendships and professional relationships I formed have only deepened with time. I also remember the recognition coming at a

moment when my practice was accelerating, and the visibility ABI provided helped to amplify the work I was doing.

How did the recognition impact your professional reputation or opportunities?

The recognition opened doors in tangible ways. It elevated my profile within the restructuring community. Being validated by

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Q&A WITH EVAN J. ZUCKER

the restructuring community through ABI signaled that my work was trusted and respected at the highest levels of the profession.

Are there particular cases, projects or leadership roles you are especially proud of?

I am proudest of the work that contributes to the advancement of the profession itself. On the practice side, I take pride in matters involving novel applications of chapter 15 of the Bankruptcy Code. My publications with leading bankruptcy journals on international asset-tracing, the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments, and the application of UNCITRAL model laws have been collaborations with scholars and practitioners I deeply admire, and I hope they have helped move the field forward. My delegate role at UNCITRAL Working Group V is especially meaningful because the work shapes how insolvency law is harmonized across jurisdictions.

How has the restructuring profession changed since you were recognized?

The profession has become more global, more technologically complex, and more interdisciplinary. Cross-border matters that once represented a niche practice are now central to large restructurings, and practitioners are increasingly expected to navigate multiple insolvency regimes simultaneously.

What skills or qualities do you think are most important for the next generation of leaders in this profession?

Adaptability, intellectual curiosity, and cross-cultural competence are increasingly indispensable. Equally important are the qualities our community has always valued: sound judgment, the ability to communicate complex issues clearly to diverse stakeholders, a willingness to mentor others, and an unwavering commitment to ethical practice.



Why do you think programs like “40 Under 40” are important for the restructuring profession?

Programs like 40 Under 40 are essential because they do three things at once: they identify and validate emerging

leaders, they create durable cohorts of relationships that will shape the profession for decades, and they signal to the broader bar that mentorship and investment in the next generation are core values of our community.

What excites you most about the future of the restructuring profession?

I am most excited by the way our community continues to evolve and expand. The globalization of insolvency practice and the emergence of new asset classes — particularly digital assets — are dynamic forces, but what makes this moment so promising is the global community of practitioners, judges and academics who are working together to develop the frameworks the field needs. The harmonization work at UNCITRAL, the growing sophistication of cross-border cooperation, and the increasing diversity of the bankruptcy bar all reflect a profession that is advancing itself collectively, and that collaborative ethos is what gives me the most optimism about the years ahead.

In one sentence, what does the ABI “40 Under 40” program represent to you?

The ABI 40 Under 40 program represents the restructuring community’s investment in its own future; it is a peer-driven recognition that builds lasting relationships and advances the profession through the next generation of leaders.

Read the full Q&A on the ABI Journal app.

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