

# Tom Zavala

## ASSOCIATE

DALLAS, TX

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## OVERVIEW

Tom draws on his deep knowledge of businesses and experience in court to develop practical solutions for clients involved in bankruptcy proceedings and related litigation.

Tom has experience assisting corporate clients at every stage of insolvency, from out-of-court workouts to complex financial restructurings in chapter 11. Tom works with clients of all sizes in a wide variety of industries, including oil and gas, manufacturing, banking, retail, real estate, and cryptocurrency. He is experienced in both debtor and creditor representation, and he has extensive experience prosecuting adversary proceedings.

After graduating from Texas Law, Tom clerked for the Honorable Stacey G. C. Jernigan, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas. Tom's clerkship jumpstarted his legal career, getting him comfortable in the courtroom and helping him develop relationships with other professionals and judges in the bankruptcy bar. Prior to pursuing a legal career, Tom served as a corporate tax consultant and earned his CPA license. Tom leverages his understanding of the finer details of business and finance to achieve fast and comprehensive results for clients.

Tom joined Husch Blackwell to expand the scope of his practice, and he now serves clients across the country in both bankruptcy matters and commercial litigation. Known as a sharp and efficient attorney, Tom is highly responsive to clients' needs so that clients can have peace of mind that they are in good hands.

## Industry

Financial Services & Capital Markets

## Service

Insolvency & Commercial Bankruptcy

## Experience

- Drafted claim objection and motion to estimate leading to settlement of \$5 billion preference and breach of contract claims.
- Successfully prosecuted municipality client's \$1.5 million cure claim.
- Negotiated and drafted stipulation and plugging and abandoning agreement on behalf of energy client.
- Drafted DIP motion and worked with lender's counsel on terms of DIP order in complex chapter 11 case.
- Researched and drafted motion to reopen bankruptcy case to enforce bankruptcy injunction, causing tort litigant to withdraw claims against client.
- Assisted in researching and drafting a joint motion to dismiss complaint in \$1 billion adversary, leading plaintiff to seek settlement.
- Researched and drafted novel motion for authority to engage in complex cryptocurrency transactions in the ordinary course of business.
- Analyzed and negotiated settlement of over 60 cure objections and 20 rejection damages claims in representation of large retail debtor in a complex chapter 11 case.
- Successfully argued contested motion for sanctions against pro se litigant and application for allowance of administrative expenses before Judge Larson.
- Represented purchaser in successful \$588,250,000 bid for all of debtors' assets.

## Recognition

- The Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch, 2023–24

## Education

- J.D., University of Texas School of Law
  - Teaching Assistant, Contracts, 2018–19
  - Teaching Quizmaster, 2017–19
  - *Texas Hispanic Journal of Law & Policy*, Associate Editor, 2017–18
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles School of Law
  - Men's Rugby

## Admissions

- Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas

## Clerkships

- Honorable Stacey G. C. Jernigan, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Texas