

JOAN E. SCHLEEF

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Education

University of Cincinnati College of Law
Cincinnati, Ohio
J.D., *cum laude*, 1985
Lead Articles Editor, *University of Cincinnati Law Review*
Member, Order of the Coif

Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana
Bachelor of Music, *with distinction*, 1982 (performance degree on violoncello)

Legal Employment

Varnum
Grand Rapids, Michigan 1988
Partner

Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Wendell A. Miles
United States District Court, Western District of Michigan
1985 - 1988

Admitted to Practice:
United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Michigan
All Michigan state courts
Ohio (currently on inactive status)

Practice Area

Joan has worked since 1988 in the areas of commercial law, loan documentation, secured transactions, bankruptcy and debtor-creditor relations, and commercial contract law.

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Professional Affiliations

Federal Bar Association (Bankruptcy Law Section)

State Bar of Michigan (West Michigan Chapter)

Grand Rapids Bar Association

Ohio Bar Association

Representative Matters

Represents financial institutions in documenting, negotiating, and closing commercial credit facilities of various types, *including*:

- syndicated and participated loans
- working capital lines of credit
- real estate construction and acquisition loans
- term financings
- floorplan financings
- loans secured by aircraft and documented vessels
- loans to ESOP's and leveraged buy-out financings
- loans guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration

Represents manufacturers, retailers, real estate developers, hospitality businesses, automotive suppliers, and other corporate and business clients in negotiating and closing financing transactions of various types, including syndicated loans, working capital financings, asset-based loans, mezzanine financings and private debt placements

Represents financial institutions and affiliated community development corporations in connection with loans under the New Markets Tax Credit program

Represents financial institutions issuing letters of credit in support of tax-exempt bonds and taxable notes

Represents business clients in connection with securitized sales of accounts receivable and mortgage-backed commercial paper, and has rendered true sale and non-consolidation opinions

Represents a certified development company in connection with loans to small business concerns under the U.S. Small Business Administration 504 loan program

Regularly renders third-party opinions to financial institutions and other lenders in connection with financing transactions, addressing various issues of Michigan corporate, commercial and real property law

Regularly advises financial institutions of various sizes concerning general questions of commercial law, and advises on the formulation of institutional policies concerning lending due diligence, loan structure and collateral support, and documentation issues

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Speaking and Publications

Author (with Robert A. Hendricks), *Land Contracts in Bankruptcy: Terrell Revisited*, 18 Michigan Real Property Review 57 (1991)

Speaker at Lorman Education Services seminar "Business Lending in Michigan," August 2004

Speaker at Institute for Continuing Legal Education seminar "Creditors' Rights and Debtors' Refuges," February 1994

Has lectured and taught at training and continuing education seminars for Michigan bankers hosted by The Risk Management Association

Community Involvement

Wealthy Theater, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, (Secretary and Board Member, 1999 - 2002)