

Please submit your Bio in the following format

Name: Gregory B. Classon

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I. Professional	Accrediting Agency or Jurisdiction	Date of Admission
Attorney	New York State Bar	July 28, 1982
Attorney	U.S. Dist. Ct. for the So. Dist. of NY	January 17, 2023

II. Professional Organization	Date of Admission	Active/Inactive
New York State Bar	July 28, 1982	Active
NY State Bar Assoc.	c. 1980	Active
The Maritime Law Assoc. of the U.S.	1991	Active
New Jersey State Bar (In-House Counsel License)	2006	Inactive

III. General professional experience:

I have served as an in-house legal counsel in the wholesale energy and chemical industries for 40 years, commencing in 1981, marked by a number of financially-driven business restructurings and a bankruptcy, in international business environments. The first 19 years of my in-house legal career I was employed in the legal departments of Transworld Oil, a private Bermudian-based oil trading concern, AroChem Corporation, a private U.S.-based petrochemical refining and marketing company, and Metallgesellschaft, the publicly-held, German-based commodity trading and industrial conglomerate, each of which were involved to varying degrees in the wholesale oil trade in physical, futures and derivative markets. Metallgesellschaft was forced to restructure its business perimeter and financial affairs in the early 1990's after sustaining substantial oil trading losses, most notably through the liquidation of oil futures contract positions traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). AroChem, a company formed to refurbish and operate an idled petrochemical plant in Puerto Rico, was placed into involuntary Ch. 11 bankruptcy in 1992 by its secured creditors, but had its case converted to Ch. 7 liquidation after a short attempt at reorganization. The latter 21 years I was employed at Rhodia, the French chemical group, and its successor, Solvay, the Belgian chemical concern. While at Rhodia I had an expatriate posting during the years 2005 – 2008 in France, where I worked on financial transactions to restructure the group's debt in support of its emergence from insolvency.

IV. General pertinent experience:

I have had extensive experience negotiating agreements and resolving disputes in furtherance of the achievement of business and financial objectives of clients in financially distressed situations. This experience has included responsibility for the prosecution, defense and settlement of disputed matters in litigation, arbitration and mediation, mostly commercial in nature and including financial and maritime disputes. I also worked for a court-appointed bankruptcy trustee as the senior manager in charge of AroChem Corporation during its attempt at reorganization under Ch. 11 and then into its Ch. 7 liquidation proceedings, through the sale of its petrochemical production facility in Puerto Rico. My experience working as an expatriate for Rhodia in France gave me high-level exposure to an out-of-court, global business reorganization agreed to through stakeholder consensus, and which resulted in a favorable recovery for creditors and gave each of these companies a new lease on life.

Representative transactional work experience includes the negotiation of:

- senior syndicated, secured, working capital credit facilities and related, worldwide stock, note and fixed asset collateral packages supporting Rhodia's financial work out in France;
- restructuring of receivables securitization program and secured equipment and office capital lease transaction terms to comply with debt default standstill agreement terms for Rhodia in the U.S.;
- secured working capital credit line for Metallgesellschaft's worldwide, physical, copper concentrate trading business to support group liquidity.

Representative dispute resolution experience includes:

- ad hoc arbitration before a neutral selected from a mutually selected roster, successfully preventing a creditor bank from calling for a mandatory loan prepayment as a result of an alleged breach of a financial covenant (Rhodia);
- charter party arbitration before a Society of Marine Arbitrators panel in which recovery was sought from the vessel owner for substantial hedging losses sustained due to a drop in the price of oil during the delay in the delivery of an oil cargo (AroChem);
- mediation and arbitration of several petroleum industry contract performance disputes (Metallgesellschaft).

V. Mediation training:

- 1) 3-Day Commercial Mediation Training, NY State Bar Assoc., 24 hours (Oct. 2022)
- 2) 2-Day Advanced Mediation Training, NY State Bar Assoc., 16 hours (Nov. 2022)
- 3) Mediation Dos and Don'ts - Advocating for Your Clients at Mediation Post COVID-19, NJ State Bar Assoc., 3.5 hours (Jan. 2023)
- 4) NJ Superior Court Annexed Program, 5-Hour Required Mentoring from Civil Roster Mentor Mediator (Jan. 2023)

VI. Pertinent bankruptcy training:

For close to 2 years I was the senior on-site manager for AroChem Corporation while it sought to reorganize under Ch. 11 and, after conversion of the case to Ch. 7, through liquidation of its inventories and fixed assets by a Ch. 7 trustee. At the start of these proceedings the company had a staff of approximately 120, most of whom were employed at the company's petrochemical plant in Puerto Rico. I was tasked with funding continued operations through this wind-down period under the terms of a cash collateral order, and which was accomplished largely through the periodic sale of remaining petroleum product inventories at the plant site. My tenure ended with the eventual court approved sale of the company's plant, and the termination of all its employees. In addition, as elsewhere noted hereabove, I have worked extensively on the renegotiation of credit lines to work out of debt default exposure situations and in order to avoid insolvency proceedings.

VII. General pertinent business or legal experience:

As mentioned above, I have practiced law as an in-house counsel for 40 years, most recently having served as a Senior Counsel in the Princeton, NJ based legal department of Solvay USA Inc., a subsidiary of Solvay S.A., the Belgian chemical concern, where my principle client was Technology Solutions, the group's mining chemicals, phosphorus specialties, and polymer additives division. My assignments at Solvay included an expatriate posting in Paris, France where I was counsel to the corporate finance department of Rhodia S.A., the French chemical group purchased by Solvay in 2011. Prior to my 21 years at Solvay/Rhodia I was an in-house counsel at Metallgesellschaft, AroChem Corporation, and Transworld Oil, companies involved in the oil trading business. At Metallgesellschaft (1994 - 1999) in New York City I was part of a new management team brought in to restructure its US energy trading activities after the incurrence of substantial petroleum trading losses, mainly under future contracts traded on the NYMEX. There, my work included negotiating one of the first pre-paid, forward, ISDA-hedged, petroleum supply contracts with a major bank, which was packaged and sold with other oil and gas assets to a major oil company, as well as revised terms for the company's merchant-market petroleum supply program containing fixed index pricing and cash settlement options to comply with a CFTC consent order settling alleged Commodity Exchange Act violations. Before working at Metallgesellschaft I was the sole in-house counsel at AroChem Corporation (1989 - 1994) in Stamford, CT both where, preceding my bankruptcy responsibilities, I negotiated a consent decree with the U.S. EPA minimizing fines and allowing the company time to make necessary capital investments required to remedy NPDES permit violations remediations. My work at Transworld Oil in New York City (1981 - 1989) focused on oil trading agreements in both physical and derivative markets, together with the management and resolution of disputes related thereto, and the negotiation of working capital credit lines supporting the group's refining, marketing and trading activities.