

Rising Star: Jenner & Block's Angela Allen

By Rick Archer

Law360, New York (July 17, 2017, 3:48 PM EDT) - Jenner & Block LLP's Angela M. Allen has 10 years of complex bankruptcy litigation under her belt, including representing the examiner in the DACCO Transmission case and serving as an attorney for Caesars Entertainment Corp., earning her a spot as one of five bankruptcy law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

WHY SHE IS A BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY:

Allen said she was inspired to go into bankruptcy law by an observation from one of her law school professors.

"He told me the happiest lawyers he knows are bankruptcy lawyers, because as he described it, 'generally, in bad times bankruptcy lawyers are in demand, and in good times law firms aren't firing,'" Allen said.

MOST CHALLENGING CASE:

She said her "trial by fire" was the Sentinel Management Group bankruptcy, the first case to land on her desk as a newly minted Jenner & Block associate in 2008. Sentinel entered bankruptcy in August 2007 after revelations that its CEO at the time, a now-jailed Eric Bloom, and one of his employees committed a more than \$600 million fraud by commingling investors' funds with the company's own and using the money as collateral to take out loans.

The case has since blossomed into litigation against lenders, auditors, brokers and insiders and has seen the litigation of avoidance actions involving "safe harbor" and novel customer

RISING
★★★★★
STAR



Angela M. Allen
Jenner & Block

Age: 35

Home base: Chicago

Position: Partner

Law school: University of Michigan Law School

First job after law school:

Associate at Jenner & Block

property issues. Over the last 10 years the case has gone to the Seventh Circuit no less than five times — most recently this June — and has involved nearly every aspect of bankruptcy law and practice, she said.

"I got a lot of experience in that case that most junior and mid-level associates would never get," she said.

PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:

In 2013, she inspired the Illinois Supreme Court to adopt a rule allowing out-of-state attorneys whose partners are serving in the military to receive temporary law licenses. In January, Michigan became the 23rd state to do so, following Allen's testimony in favor of the law in the Michigan State Senate.

Allen, the wife of a military man who was deployed to Iraq in 2010 and 2011, also helped implement a pilot project in Illinois establishing a free statewide "justice hotline" to provide veterans and active military members with legal assistance, and military families have been the focus of her pro bono work.

"I always wanted to advocate for veterans issues," she said.

WHAT MOTIVATES HER:

She says she feels "lucky" to have the job she does.

"I'm a first generation college student," she said. "I don't have any doctors, lawyers or similar professionals in my family. I never dreamed I would be able to do something like this."

ADVICE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS:

For career development, networking is the key, she said. Herself a member of the Turnaround Management Association — a group for turnaround professionals, including attorneys, lenders and others — and a past co-chair of the group's NextGen Committee for young professionals, she said to pick a networking group and "run with it."

"You should get to work early building your brand and your network," she said. "Don't expect anyone else to do that."

--As told to Rick Archer

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2017 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,200 submissions. This interview has been edited and condensed.

Correction: An earlier version of this article mischaracterized Allen's role in the Ceasars Entertainment Corp. bankruptcy. The error has been corrected.