

Christopher J. Azzara

Shareholder

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Christopher J. Azzara has been part of the Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky (SMGG) team since 2007. In addition to being a shareholder, Mr. Azzara is a Member of the Executive Committee and Treasurer at SMGG. He is the Chair of the Firm's Banking, Creditors' Rights and Insolvency Group and the Co-Chair of the Firm's Real Estate Group. Mr. Azzara represents various companies in real estate, corporate, finance, construction, public sector, and litigation matters.

Mr. Azzara's competency is in the areas of banking, bankruptcy, and creditors' rights laws. He is one of only five board certified creditors' rights specialist attorneys in Pennsylvania. Mr. Azzara routinely advises large and mid-market financial institutions, business owners, developers, institutional lenders, and real estate investors in a wide range of commercial financing transactions, including the preparation and negotiation of loan documents, workouts, and foreclosures. He also has extensive experience representing secured and unsecured creditors, as well as trustees, landlords, and small businesses, in all aspects of Chapter 11 business bankruptcy cases and Chapter 7 and 13 individual bankruptcy cases.

Mr. Azzara's work as Co-Chair of SMGG's Real Estate Group is renowned for his representation of clients in all aspects of commercial real estate, including complex issues related to buying, selling and leasing, negotiating and preparing transaction documents, commercial and residential developments, like-kind exchanges, contract disputes, foreclosures, landlord/tenant matters, and insurance and defense of title claims. Mr. Azzara is also a licensed Pennsylvania title agent for several national title insurance companies and oversees SMGG's commercial and residential closing practices.

Known for his attention to detail and ability to learn, understand, and advocate for his clients' businesses, Mr. Azzara is the face of SMGG with various corporate clients, representing them on matters of real estate, corporate, finance, construction, public sector, and litigation matters. He is also the author of the Mechanics' Liens and Fraudulent Transfers Chapters of the treatise entitled Pennsylvania Commercial Litigation, which was published by American Lawyer Media's The Legal Intelligencer.

Outside of his legal practice, Chris is an avid golfer and skier and enjoys live music, cooking, and traveling. A native of Watertown, Connecticut, Mr. Azzara now lives in the North Hills of Pittsburgh with his wife and two children.

Practice Areas

- Crisis/COVID-19 Legal Counseling Services
- Banking, Creditors' Rights, and Insolvency
- Real Estate
- Business Services
- Construction
- Public/Non-Profit
- Litigation

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 2006
- Ohio, 2015
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Ohio

Education

- J.D., Duquesne University
- B.A., Fairfield University

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Professional Affiliations

- Allegheny County Bar Association- Member of the Construction Law, Real Estate, and Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Sections
- American Bankruptcy Institute
- American Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association

Recognition & Awards

- Best Lawyers, 2019
- Super Lawyers, 2019-2020, Rising Star, 2016-2108
- American Board of Certification, Creditors' Rights Specialist
- AV Preeminent Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Pennsylvania licensed title agent

Community Involvement

- Vincentian Collaborative System, Board of Directors, 2016-2020, Current President
- Travelers Aid of Pittsburgh, Board of Directors, 2019-2020
- North Hills Community Outreach, Legal Consultant Volunteer



**Strassburger McKenna
Gutnick & Gefsky**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW | SINCE 1919

