



Aaron L. Casagrande

Partner

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For nearly 20 years, Aaron Casagrande's practice has spanned a broad array of business and commercial matters. His engagements have included the representation of companies, creditors, and trustees with investigations and litigation involving director and officer liability, mismanagement, business fraud, antitrust and false claim act claims and other commercial disputes. Aaron has extensive experience in litigating disputes on behalf of Chapter 7 Trustees and post-confirmation bankruptcy trusts, including the administration and wind-down of bankruptcy estates. He also represents companies, creditors, and trustees in financial restructurings, bankruptcy proceedings, and related litigation. Aaron has advised clients through both civil and criminal governmental investigations.

Aaron has also successfully defended two of Maryland's largest jurisdictions in multiple pieces of litigation concerning land use and development decisions made by those jurisdictions and resulting claims pursued by landowners in response thereto, including the defense of constitutional takings claims, First Amendment claims, and claims under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

Aaron's experience includes handling issues arising from electronic discovery and electronically stored information. He routinely advises clients through the discovery process during complex litigation and in response to civil and investigative subpoenas, including the preservation, collection, review, and production of electronically stored information and the implementation of software tools to streamline the process. At his prior firm, Aaron was a co-chair of its E-Discovery Practice Group and currently serves as a member of Ice Miller's E-Discovery Advisory Committee.

Aaron began his career as a law clerk for the Honorable Ellen L. Hollander at the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, now known as the Appellate Court of Maryland.

Education

- Bucknell University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2003)
- University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2006)

Admissions

- District of Columbia

Services & Industries

- Antitrust Government Investigations
- Appellate
- Bankruptcy & Restructuring
- Bankruptcy Litigation
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Creditors' Rights & Commercial Law
- Distressed Investments
- Distressed Health Care & Life Sciences
- Electronic Discovery (e-discovery)
- Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Zoning & Land Use

- Maryland
- United States District Court - District of Maryland
- United States Bankruptcy Court - District of Maryland
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals - Fourth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Maryland State Bar Association
- Member, American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member, Bankruptcy Bar Association for the District of Maryland

Awards & Honors

- *Benchmark Litigation*, Maryland "Future Star", 2020-2025; "40 & Under Hot List", 2017–2020; *Litigation Star*, 2026
- Maryland *Super Lawyers*®, Baltimore, MD - Bankruptcy: Business "Rising Star", 2010, 2012–2021
- *Chambers USA* America's Leading Lawyers for Litigation: General Commercial, 2023-2024

Community Involvement

- Committee Member, Howard County Adequate Public Facilities Act Review Committee, 2024-2025
- Board Member, Maple Lawn Swim Club, 2024-present
- Board Member, Maple Lawn Homeowner's Association, Inc., 2015-2023

Key Matters

Reported and Representative Cases

- Represented Montgomery County, Maryland, in defense of a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland brought by one of the largest residential developers in the country that alleged that its plans to develop 541 acres of land were frustrated when the County took steps to change zoning, impose new restrictions and delay or deny water and sewer service to the property, including claims of violation of constitutional due process and unconstitutional takings. After extensive discovery, the District Court granted the County's motion for judgment on the pleadings, a decision subsequently affirmed by the Fourth Circuit. *See Pulte Home Corporation, et al. v. Montgomery County Maryland, et al.*, 909 F.3d 685 (4th Cir. 2018).
- Represented Montgomery County, Maryland, in defense of a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland challenging a County decision to deny the request of a landowner to extend public sewer connection to support construction of a 2,000-seat church. Plaintiffs asserted claims under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (commonly known as RLUIPA), as well as other First Amendment, federal, and state constitutional claims. The District Court granted summary judgment in the County's favor, the Fourth Circuit affirmed that ruling and the United States Supreme Court denied plaintiffs' petition for writ of certiorari. *See Canaan Christian Church, et al. v. Montgomery County Maryland, et al.*, 29 F. 4th 182 (4th Cir. 2022), cert denied, 143 S.Ct. 566 (2023).

Selected Experience

Corporate Governance, Professional Liability, Trustee Representation, Bankruptcy Litigation and Special Counsel Services

- Counsel to the Liquidating Trust of an international consulting firm in the investigation and pursuit of claims against a former officer and directors of the consulting firm for breach of fiduciary duties. The bankruptcy case was commenced in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and the corporate governance case in Virginia state court settled for \$55 million.
- Special Litigation Counsel to a regional medical center in its Chapter 9 bankruptcy case in the investigation and successful pursuit of claims of officer liability, fraud, professional malpractice, and breach of contract against certain of the hospital's former officers and its former hospital management company.
- Counsel to the Litigation Trust for a New York hospital and healthcare system in its investigation and successful pursuit of officer liability and professional malpractice claims in New York.
- Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee of the estate of a regional furniture retailer in the investigation and pursuit of claims against a former director for breach of fiduciary duties as well as the pursuit of numerous avoidance actions in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division.
- Counsel for a Mississippi Gulf Coast health care system, in the prosecution of professional malpractice and breach of contract claims against a national hospital management company relating to the operations and management of the hospital.
- Counsel to the Litigation Trustee established to liquidate an airline industry service company, including prosecution of claims against supply chain management software and services company and other professionals on behalf of Litigation Trust.
- Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee of a Maryland-based business credit investment institution in, among other things, investigation of potential claims against certain officers and the liquidation and distribution of estate assets.
- Counsel to the Chapter 7 Trustee and the estate of a furniture manufacturer and retailer, in the investigation and prosecution of director and officer claims in Virginia. Matter settled favorably for clients without filing a complaint.
- Special Litigation counsel to Debtors in a case in Richmond, Virginia, in investigation of claims against insider officers and directors.

Business, Land Use Litigation & Appellate Practice

- Counsel to one of the country's major manufacturers of water treatment chemicals in multi-district litigation in the United States District Court for New Jersey and related qui tam claims asserted in various state courts around the Country. The MDL proceedings were a consolidation of multiple putative class-action lawsuits pursuing antitrust and related claims on behalf of direct and indirect purchasers of certain water treatment chemicals.
- Counsel to Montgomery County, Maryland and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission in the defense of due process, equal protection, taking and related claims pursued by one of the country's largest developers that purchased and sought to develop more than 540 acres of land in the Washington, DC suburbs. Case was dismissed in favor of our clients on a motion for judgment on the pleadings by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, which was affirmed by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Counsel to Montgomery County and another Maryland jurisdiction in the defense of multiple different lawsuits pursued under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, First Amendment, and other state and federal claims arising out of land use and zoning decisions and regulations.
- Counsel to one of largest developers and managers of apartments in Mid-Atlantic region in pursuit of construction defect claims against company that installed an automated parking system in a residential apartment complex. Engagement resulted in a substantial arbitration award in favor of client against installer of automated parking system.
- Obtained summary judgment, which was affirmed on appeal, on behalf of a commercial aerospace components manufacturer in litigation brought by a former officer of United States subsidiary seeking reinstatement of stock options eliminated in connection with a sale transaction.
- Representation of companies in connection with federal and state civil and criminal investigations.

Business Reorganization and Bankruptcy, Creditors' Rights and Loan Workouts

- Representation of debtors and trustees in pre-bankruptcy planning, bankruptcy filings, administration and wind-down of estates and post-confirmation trusts and proceedings involving defense of preferential and fraudulent transfers, executory contracts, asset sales and claim objections.
- Counsel to regional and national landlords in various bankruptcy cases relating to claims asserted against bankruptcy estates and litigation arising out of lease assignments, sales and assumptions.
- Representation of trustees, estates, businesses and individuals in the pursuit and defense of preference, fraudulent transfer, and other avoidance actions in bankruptcy cases.
- General representation of creditors in bankruptcy proceedings.