
Navigating Economic and Corporate Distress: An Investor Perspective

Tuesday, 24 February, 4:10pm

Panelists

Allan A. Brown

Allan A. Brown is Portfolio Manager and Co-head of Global Distressed Debt Trading at Concordia Advisors LLC. Concordia was founded in 1993 and currently manages in excess of \$1.5 billion in a variety of global hedge fund strategies including multi-strategy, equity market-neutral, volatility arbitrage, fixed-income arbitrage, and distressed and event-driven securities.

Prior to joining Concordia in 2002, Mr. Brown was a Managing Director of Magten Asset Management for a period of eight years during which he was actively involved in numerous corporate restructurings and reorganizations.

Mr. Brown is also currently an Adjunct Professor of Finance at NYU's Stern School of Business, where since 1999 he has taught a course he conceived and developed, Distressed Securities Investing. Previously, he had also taught Bankruptcy and Corporate Restructuring at the school.

Prior to pursuing his career in finance, he was a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Early in his career, he was a Financial Consultant for Shearson Lehman Brothers and also Smith Barney.

In addition he has spoken at numerous conferences on the topic of distressed investing and corporate bankruptcy, and taught classes on the subject for the New York Society of Security Analysts. He contributed the section on capital structure arbitrage to the text Corporate Financial Distress and Bankruptcy, 3rd Edition by Edward I. Altman and Edith Hotchkiss (Wiley 2006).

Mr. Brown received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, his M.B.A. with Distinction from New York University's Stern School of Business, and is CFA charterholder.

Stephen F. Cooper

Stephen F. Cooper is the co-founder and former chairman of Zolfo Cooper.

With more than 30 years of experience as a financial advisor, Mr. Cooper is a sought-after interim executive and advisor to companies facing operational and performance issues. He recently served as the CEO of Hawaiian Telcom and provided management services to American Home Mortgage. Other recent engagements include serving as executive chairman of Blue Bird, a leading bus manufacturer, and chairman of the board of auto supplier Collins & Aikman. In 2005 Mr. Cooper was CEO of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts; from 2002-2005 he served as CEO and CRO of Enron.

A turnaround industry pioneer, Mr. Cooper has worked on both the creditor and company sides of distressed situations. Through managing more than 300 engagements, he has earned an international reputation as a creative problem-solver who can craft constructive business solutions out of complex, contentious situations. His track record includes prominent engagements such as Laidlaw, Washington Group, Morrison Knudsen, Federated Department Stores and numerous others.

Previously, Mr. Cooper was a financial consulting partner of Touche Ross (now Deloitte & Touche), where he was also a founding partner of that firm's reorganization advisory services group.

Mr. Cooper holds a B.A. from Occidental College and an M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Management Accountants, the Turnaround Management Association and the Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors. Mr. Cooper has also been named a fellow of the American Bankruptcy Institute and is a founding member of the International Insolvency Institute. In addition, Mr. Cooper is a frequent speaker and author on the subjects of leadership and financially troubled companies.

Brad Eric Scheler

Brad Eric Scheler is a senior partner and chairman of Fried Frank's bankruptcy and restructuring department resident in the Firm's New York office. Mr. Scheler represents both debtors and creditors; his practice includes both in-court and out-of-court restructurings and the rehabilitation of financially distressed businesses. He regularly represents corporate debtors, creditors' committees, bondholders' committees, equity holders' committees, trustees, financial institutions that are lenders to and investors in financially troubled companies, buyers and sellers of distressed securities and businesses, and parties seeking to invest in and/or acquire the assets and businesses of financially troubled companies. Mr. Scheler's experience on some of the largest and most complex transactions — from leveraged buyouts to strategic mergers — has given him perspective and insight into the challenges of realizing maximum value and recovery from both distressed and non-distressed businesses and assets. Drawing upon his substantial experience in corporate boardrooms and the courtroom, Mr. Scheler also acts as outside general counsel and strategic adviser to a number of financially strong corporate and institutional clients in connection with financings and capital market transactions, including the issuance and restructuring of debt and equity securities and the structuring and implementation of mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures.

Mr. Scheler writes on subjects related to his experience and is a frequent speaker at seminars for clients and fellow professionals. He is a contributing author to *Collier on Bankruptcy*, 15th Edition Revised. Together with Adjunct Professor Allan A. Brown, Mr. Scheler regularly co-teaches a course on Investing in Distressed Securities at the New York University Stern School of Business. Mr. Scheler delivered the Benjamin Weintraub Distinguished Professorship Lecture at Hofstra University School of Law and he delivered the Orientation Address to the Law School's Class of 2011.

Mr. Scheler is a member of the American Bar Association; the New York State Bar Association; and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a member of the Advisory Board for the K&A Restructuring Register. Mr. Scheler is consistently recognized by *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business* and *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as a leading individual in his field and consistently recognized by *Legal 500* in Finance: Corporate Restructuring.

Mr. Scheler is a member of the Board of Trustees of Lehigh University and the Board of Advisors for Lehigh University's College of Business and Economics. Mr. Scheler is also the Chair of the Board of Directors of inMotion-Justice for All Women. Mr. Scheler has previously served on the boards of directors of other charitable and not-for-profit organizations, including Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, American Friends of Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer and the Village of Larchmont Library Board.

Mr. Scheler received his JD from Hofstra University School of Law in 1977, where he was Research Editor of the *Law Review*, and his BA from Lehigh University, with high honors, in 1974.