# SMALL BUSINESS REORGANIZATION ACT CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

**USES AND STRATEGIES** 

**June 2021** 



### "SMALL BUSINESS DEBTOR"

- A person or entity
- Engaged in commercial or business activity
  - Single asset real estate excluded
- Up to \$7.5 million of debt
  - Debt limit reduces to \$2.7 million end of March 2021
- 50% of debt arises from commercial or business activity



### **SBRA CHAPTER 11 USES**

- Stay or Stop Litigation or Creditor Remedies
- Suspend Debt Payments to Banks or Creditors
- Restructure Payment Terms with Banks, Landlords and Other Creditors
- Bind Creditors to Plan Even If No Agreement of Creditor
- May Retain Equity Without Paying Creditors in Full
- Able To Obtain New Loans
- Process Encourages Resolution of Issues with Creditors
- Accelerated Process
- No Disclosure Statement Required
- Less Expensive Than Regular Process
- If Necessary, Facilitate Sale of Assets Free and Clear of Liens



### SBRA ACCELERATED REORGANIZATION PROCESS

### Status Conference

- •Within 60 days of filing date.
- "To further the expeditious and economical resolution" of the case."
- •11 U.S.C. § 1188(a).

### Prior Small Biz Plan Date

 Debtor currently has up to 180 days to file plan.



Filing Date

•SBRA Election.









### Progress Report

- At least 14 days prior to status conference.
- Report must detail efforts to attain a consensual plan of reorganization.
- •§ 1188(c).

### Plan

- Within 90 days after the order for relief. 11 1189(b).
- •Only the debtor is permitted to file a plan. § 1189(a).



### BASICS OF SBRA PLAN PROCESS

- No Disclosure Statement Required
- Plan of Reorganization
  - Debtor exclusive right to file plan
  - Due within 90-days of filing
  - Classification of Claims—secured creditors, unsecured creditors, etc.
  - Class Voting 2/3 in \$'s and 1/2 in #'s
  - Assume or Reject Contracts
  - Negotiations and Binding Effect



## KEYS FOR CONFIRMATION OF PLAN

- "Best Interests" of Creditors
  - Each creditor receive at least as much under plan as compared to liquidation
- Feasibility
  - More likely than not Plan projections met
- Administrative Claims May Be Paid Over Life of Plan
- Creditors Accept
  - Class Voting 2/3 in \$'s and 1/2 in #'s



# CRAMDOWN AND RETAIN EQUITY

- "Cramdown"—Confirm Plan Where One or More Classes Reject
- No "Absolute Priority" Rule Under SBRA
  - Need not obtain acceptance or pay all creditors in full to retain equity
- Even if No Class Accepts, Under SBRA Retain Equity When
  - Not "discriminate unfairly", and
  - "Fair and equitable"
    - pay creditors from "projected disposable income" over 3 to 5 years
    - excludes income needed to support debtor or dependents or ensure continuation or operation of business
- Test for Secured Creditor Receive "Indubitable Equivalent":
  - Retain liens
  - Cash payments over time equal to present value of secured claim



## SBRA CHAPTER 11 CHALLENGES

- Public Process
- Financial Reporting
  - Under SBRA, Reporting Due Early in Case
- Court Approval Required for Many Acts
  - Financing: Use of Cash or New Loans
  - Other Actions Outside Ordinary Course
- Pay Expenses, Including Lease Payments, As They Come Due After Filing
- One Way Street–Reorganize or Liquidate
- Transactional Expenses
- Technical Requirements

