

## Tom Astle

Partner  
London

### Biography

As a partner based in London, Tom Astle is part of the firm's business restructuring and insolvency team.

He usually works for funds, banks, and corporates involved in domestic and multi-jurisdictional restructurings. The majority have been implemented with successful negotiation of a consensual solvent solution, although he has regularly used pre-packaged administration, and/or a Schemes of Arrangement, to deliver his clients' preferred solution.

Tom has particular experience of dealing with multiple stakeholders, including syndicates of lenders, sponsors, and material pensions stakeholders. He also has a good working experience of more heavily distressed businesses and trading insolvency, having been hired by administrators on trading insolvencies in the retail and entertainment sectors.

### Representative experience

Agrokor: Advising ad hoc noteholder committee on restructuring \$4-6bn debt owed by Croatian business in new special administration, including provision of \$1bn DIP funding.

Autobar, advising the provider of super senior new money into the pan European restructuring of the vending services group.



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### Languages

English

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### Practices

Business Restructuring and  
Insolvency

Banking Transactional

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### Industries

Automotive and Mobility

Consumer

Energy and Natural Resources

Financial Institutions

Real Estate

Apcoa: advising the agent and security trustee on change of governing law and subsequent contested English law Schemes of Arrangement

Acting for a fund in delivering the West Cornwall Pasty Company business through a pre-packaged process to take ownership

Advising the senior lender syndicate in relation to the restructuring of the OfficeTeam Group, delivered through a debt for equity swap via a pre-packaged administration

Acting for a lender providing facilities to Baker Tilly in connection with the acquisition and merger of the RSM Tenon business

Advising listed UK/US group AEA Technology plc on accelerated M&A process and sale, including compromise arrangements with the PPF, pension trustees, and secured lender

Advising the senior lender syndicate to Peacocks and Bon Marche, and acting for the administrators on subsequent trading administration and sale of over 900 stores

Advising the lending syndicate in relation to their exposure to listed nightclub operator, Luminar Group, and acting for the subsequently appointed administrators

Advising administrators on the £3.2bn pre-packaged administration of major music group, EMI

## Awards and rankings

- Identified as being one of their "40 under 40" rising legal stars, *Financial News*
- Ranked as "Next Generation Lawyer", *Legal 500*, 2019
- Ranked as "up and coming", *Chambers 2019*, 2019

## Latest thinking and events

TMT

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## Areas of focus

Direct Lending

Creditor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies

Cross-border Restructuring and Insolvency

Debtor Representation in Restructurings and Insolvencies

Loan Portfolio and Distressed Debt Transactions

Oil and Gas: Pipelines and Midstream Facilities

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## Education and admissions

### Education

LL.B., The University of Sheffield, 1998

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## Accolades

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*Financial News*

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'Exceptionally bright and wise beyond his years', Tom Astle has been at the forefront of some of the group's most impressive instructions, including advising

- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - When direct lending turns distressed *Lev Fin Spin*
- Media Mention
  - When direct lending turns distressed - in conversation with Hogan Lovells
- Events
  - Debtwire Emerging Markets Investors Summit
- Hogan Lovells Events
  - High Yield in a Post Brexit World
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - Leveraged Finance Update from Hogan Lovells *Lev Fin Spin*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
  - APCOA Schemes – Waterfalls, classes, and territorial boundaries *Client Notes*

Mizuho as agent and security trustee on APCOA's \$885m restructuring

*Legal 500:*

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He is praised as "an incredibly commercial lawyer," with interviewees reporting that "he is very good at explaining a complex message and providing clarity in an opaque and complex situation."

*Chambers 2018*

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