

## Third-party funder hires Paul Hastings restructuring counsel

Jessica McKay, 16 June 2017



Marc Carmel Longford Capital Management

Third-party funding provider Longford Capital has hired former Paul Hastings of counsel Marc Carmel to build its presence in the bankruptcy and restructuring sector.

Carmel, who has nearly 20 years' experience in restructuring, joined Chicago-based Longford this month as a director, the third-party funder announced on Monday.

In his new role, Carmel will focus on finding investible bankruptcy cases, as well as assisting with due diligence and monitoring of portfolio investments more generally.

Carmel began his career as an accountant at Chicago firm Altschuler Melvoin and Glasser.

Between 2000 and 2011 he worked at Kirkland & Ellis in the city, becoming a partner in the firm's restructuring group in 2006.

He went on to spend over six years as of counsel at Paul Hastings, where he advised clients on restructuring planning, distressed acquisitions, lending agreements, drafting and implementing Chapter 11 plans, and fiduciary duties of directors and officers.

He led the Paul Hastings' team representing Victory Park Capital in the Chapter 11 restructuring of, and its investment in, San Jose-based grocery chain Mi Pueblo Foods.

He also represented clinical research organisation Contract Research Solutions – known as Cetero Research – as restructuring counsel in its Chapter 11 case.

Carmel, who began working at Longford on 12 June, tells GRR that he was drawn to the role because he finds third-party funding "really interesting", and that Longford Capital was the "most attractive player within the industry". He says the job is "wonderful so far".

"My academic background and work background started with business, then I went to law school, and I was looking for an aspect of the law that would give me the best opportunity to apply my skills and interest in business," he says. "I expect that the litigation finance world is going to change significantly in the next several years and I think there are a lot of interesting ways in which it may change in the distressed world".

Carmel adds that his new Longford colleagues are “smart, experienced within the industry, and very supportive of what I’m trying to accomplish.”

Carmel says he will use his background in restructuring to source investments. He adds: “My focus is certainly in restructuring, bankruptcy and distress, but I envision that I will be sourcing deals from both within and outside of that universe.”

William Farrell, Longford co-founder and managing director said: “We are very pleased to have Marc join us at Longford Capital.”

He added: “Controversies arising in the bankruptcy context and with distressed companies outside of court are particularly well-suited for third-party funding. Marc will help us identify opportunities to assist companies with pursuing meritorious legal claims while navigating the challenges of bankruptcy and restructuring.”

Launched by Farrell and fellow former Neal Gerber & Eisenberg partner Mike Nicolas in 2012, Longford raised US\$56.5 million for its first fund, and has gone on to register more than US\$407 million from 120 investors.

Prominent investment banker William Strong, the former co-CEO for Morgan Stanley’s Asia Pacific region, joined Longford in 2014 as chairman.

A spokesman for Paul Hastings said “we wish Marc the best for the future”.