



DRESSLER | PETERS LLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Lawyers who think like your business partners.

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The attorneys at Dressler|Peters are former businessmen who bring real-world business experience to the practice of law, specializing in business transactions and disputes. Whether in commercial litigation, bankruptcy or a transactional matter, our considerable experience is nationally recognized. We provide counsel to some of the nation's largest companies who value our cost-effectiveness, our ability to deliver results and our real understanding of how legal disputes affect business interests. We are also proud to represent small businesses and individuals in all of their legal issues. With our focus on our core practice strengths, we have the flexibility required for today's fast-moving businesses. Whether through assisting with fee and billing arrangements, staffing requirements or status reporting, Dressler|Peters adapts to how you do business. We truly understand that when your business succeeds, we have succeeded. Our attorneys are licensed to practice in the states of Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, as well as the Northern, Central and Southern Districts of Illinois; the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri; the Western District of Michigan; the Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana; the Seventh and Eighth Courts of Appeal and the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Dennis A. Dressler

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Mr. Dressler is an experienced attorney who thinks like your business partner, having learned that successful representation is more than just a thorough understanding of the law – it’s a dedication to the success of your business.

Prior to entering the law, Mr. Dressler was an executive in the construction industry. He has spent the last decade litigating cases across the nation representing companies in the financial, real estate, medical, energy, construction, transportation and computer software industries. His extraordinary track record across a broad range of federal, bankruptcy and state courts throughout the country has led him to be recognized as a “Rising Star Super Lawyer” from the publishers of *Law & Politics* magazine. Mr. Dressler specializes in resolving business disputes and commercial bankruptcies and he applies exceptional crisis management skills to clients ranging from publicly traded corporations to family-owned companies.

Mr. Dressler is licensed to practice law in the states of Missouri and Illinois as well as numerous federal district courts throughout the nation, and is registered to practice in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.



Kenneth D. Peters

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Mr. Peters was an executive in the industrial oil business with responsibility for operations, finance and legal, and knows how to keep a focus on the bottom line. As a principal at Dressler|Peters, Mr. Peters represents some of the nation's largest multinational corporations in the finance, energy and manufacturing industries. He also represents small- and mid-size companies in a wide variety of practice areas where a strategic, common-sense approach is required.

Mr. Peters' teaching experience at the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, where he was one of the highest-rated instructors and served on the curriculum council, enables him to provide you with valuable insight based upon your financial and management constraints. He has also taught continuing legal education courses at the Chicago Bar Association and at ExxonMobil to in-house attorneys. Additionally, he has published several articles in a broad range of practice areas. He resides with his wife and three children in Highland Park, Illinois and is active with his eldest son's high school hockey team.



Christian J. Jorgensen

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Prior to joining the firm as a partner, Mr. Jorgensen was corporate counsel and a principal of Northwest Indiana's largest supplemental education franchisee. As a business owner and attorney, he has a unique understanding of the issues facing business owners. Mr. Jorgensen has ten years of experience counseling businesses in all aspects of commercial litigation and litigation avoidance, as well as extensive experience in equipment leasing and financing litigation, secured transactions, sales, mechanic's lien litigation, commercial landlord-tenant disputes and employment law. Like all of the attorneys at Dressler|Peters, Mr. Jorgensen is an aggressive attorney who understands your business objectives. He is licensed to practice law in both Illinois and Indiana and routinely practices in federal and state courts in both states.

Mr. Jorgensen currently resides in Northwest Indiana with his wife and children, and remains active as a legal advocate for local businesses. He is available for consultation at Dressler|Peters and by appointment in Northwest Indiana.



David A. Wargula

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Mr. Wargula has been helping businesses solve problems throughout his legal career, and his experience working for law firms and as in-house counsel gives him a broad perspective which enables him to focus on his client's needs first - without losing sight of the legal consequences.

Before joining Dressler|Peters, Mr. Wargula was unit general counsel for MarCap Corporation, a leading healthcare lender. Prior to working "in-house", Mr. Wargula represented a variety of businesses – from national banks and lenders, to local companies in general business disputes. He is licensed to practice law in Illinois and a number of federal district courts.

Mr. Wargula received his undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Arizona in 1989 and his J.D. from the De Paul University College of Law in 1995. Mr. Wargula resides in Oak Park, Illinois with his wife, a landscape designer.



Joshua M. Bernstein

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Mr. Bernstein came to the law with an understanding of the needs of business clients. Prior to law school, Mr. Bernstein managed client services for a boutique marketing firm which served Fortune 100 manufacturing clients. Mr. Bernstein brings a deep commitment to client service, and an understanding of your bottom line concerns to his practice, which focuses on aggressive yet cost-effective resolution of commercial disputes.

Mr. Bernstein has extensive experience litigating in state and federal trial and appellate courts, representing secured creditors, large and small corporations, and individuals in complex legal disputes. He is licensed to practice in the State of Illinois, the Federal district courts of Illinois and Indiana, and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Bernstein received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University, where he was inducted into the Order of the Coif. Mr. Bernstein resides in Evanston with his family.



Dan Collins

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Mr. Collins draws from an extensive business career prior to beginning his practice of law. For fifteen years he was part owner of an office supply company in Cleveland, Ohio. For the following five years he was active in the cellular telephone business, holding the position of General Manager for Mobilcom, Inc., the original cellular service provider for Bell South. With this background, Mr. Collins gained a broad understanding of best practice approaches for both large and small organizations.

In his legal career, Mr. Collins has concentrated on commercial litigation and collections and represents many of the largest leasing companies in the United States.

Joining Dressler & Peters, LLC, is consistent with Mr. Collins' approach to detail and his monitoring of litigation and collection costs. Careful assessment of a case's pertinent elements allows Mr. Collins to keep litigation matters moving without overreaching costs.



Vincent Bidez

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Mr. Bidez served in the U.S. Navy and was subsequently employed by Space Systems/Loral and Kodak Service & Support. He brings to his law practice the same professionalism and attention to detail that served him well during his years in the Navy, as well as a strong sense of commitment to the service of our clients.

While in law school at Boston University, Mr. Bidez completed the Civil Litigation Clinical Program and earned a Concentration in Litigation and Dispute Resolution. His background and experience adds to Dressler Peters' focus on the proactive, strategic legal representation for which the firm has become recognized.

Mr. Bidez received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Juris Doctor degree from Boston University School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois and was admitted to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Bidez resides in Chicago.



Natalie Vizzini

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Natalie Vizzini serves as Paralegal and Business Manager for Dressler|Peters, specializing in equipment leasing, commercial litigation, commercial bankruptcy and equipment replevin. Prior to entering the law, Ms. Vizzini worked in the marketing industry. A Chicago native, Ms. Vizzini currently resides in the area with Hercules, her English bulldog.

Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy Practice

Dressler|Peters' corporate reorganization and bankruptcy practice has earned an excellent reputation for financial workouts, receiverships and bankruptcies on behalf of clients large and small across the nation. The hallmark of our practice is to combine our business perspective and legal expertise to achieve cost-effective results. The major areas of our corporate reorganization and bankruptcy practice involve representing:

1. Secured creditors
2. Equipment lessors
3. Chapter 11 debtors/debtors-in-possession
4. Real estate lessors and landlords
5. Unsecured creditors
6. Insurance companies
7. Chapter 7 and Chapter 11 trustees

Out-of-Court Restructuring – Workouts

Dressler|Peters represents clients in out-of-court debt restructuring matters. We have the experience to identify problems early and negotiate timely, cost-effective solutions. We are experienced in:

1. Reviewing clients' contract documents and determining whether the client is properly perfected, and identifying any potential defects in collateral position.
2. Providing recommended strategy that clients can use to mitigate losses from troubled loans and minimize lender-liability issues.
3. Evaluating possible restructuring proposals and developing alternative financing proposals.
4. Assessing clients' options in potential bankruptcy proceedings and working to minimize potential preference, avoidance actions and lender-liability issues.
5. Drafting settlement and restructuring agreements.

State Law Insolvencies and Receiverships

Dressler|Peters' attorneys represent clients in state law receiverships, often in conjunction with state/federal court litigation or bankruptcy proceedings. The laws governing receiverships vary from those governing bankruptcy cases. Dressler|Peters' attorneys have the experience to navigate the various laws related to state court receiverships and use expertise to achieve cost-effective solutions for clients.

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Equipment Financing

Dressler|Peters has the skills and knowledge to minimize the legal pitfalls of equipment leasing. We bring extensive experience in document preparation and review to maximally protect your interests. Dressler|Peters' attorneys are experienced in drafting many types of transactions including:

1. Security agreements
2. Master lease agreements and related lease schedules
3. Manager/officer certificates of authority
4. Delivery and acceptance receipts and related acknowledgments
5. Assignment agreements
6. Transfer and assumption agreements
7. Collateralization and cross-collateralization agreements
8. Syndication documents, bills of sale and insurance documents
9. Replevin bonds
10. Sale/leaseback documents
11. TRAC leases and title documents
12. UCC financing statements
13. Aircraft purchase agreements
14. Aircraft agency agreements

When there is a default in a lease or loan agreement, the attorneys at Dressler|Peters have the experience and knowledge to quickly recover your equipment wherever it is located. We have template files of complaints for monies and replevin for almost every state, enabling our lawyers to efficiently draft and file the complaint. When dealing with equipment, speed matters – the faster we move, the better the return on your investment.

The uniformity of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) and our considerable experience litigating UCC Articles 2A, 3 and 9 issues nationwide enable Dressler|Peters to cost-effectively serve as national counsel to finance companies. We continually prove our value through our results.



Mortgage Fraud

Residential and commercial mortgage fraud is a rapidly growing problem – one that can affect the financial solvency of any business. Today, this issue affects a broad range of companies and individuals. The mortgage fraud attorneys of Dressler|Peters litigate such cases in state and federal courts, as well as assist in governmental investigations on criminal matters.

Mortgage fraud now comes in a variety of forms, from equity skimming to inflated appraisals and silent seconds – a full complement of creative malfeasance. Our lawyers limit your exposure by vigorously pursuing every avenue of recovery, including closing protection letters, fidelity bonds, commercial crime bonds, title insurance and professional malpractice insurance.

Mortgage fraud sometimes involves multiple proceedings and complex insurance issues. Many times, when one or more defendants file bankruptcy, the real estate properties are located in different counties or states and there may be insurance issues involving policies written by overseas insurers. The lawyers of Dressler|Peters are uniquely qualified to handle mortgage fraud cases due to their considerable experience dealing with real estate, bankruptcy, insurance and fraud issues in multiple jurisdictions.



Intellectual Property

The attorneys at Dressler|Peters represent businesses and artists in a wide range of areas involving intellectual property. Our attorneys are registered to practice in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and numerous federal district courts nationwide. We provide effective counsel in:

Registering and Protecting Trademarks

We protect your valuable intellectual property, which in many cases may be your most valuable asset, as well as trademark and service-mark registration. We register trademarks and work with clients to design and implement systems to monitor trademark infringement.

Transactions

We work with clients to protect intellectual property rights in outsourcing agreements, asset sales, subcontracting arrangements and joint ventures. Intellectual property can be used as collateral in order to secure loans.

Domain Names and Cyberspace

Domain names and web addresses are key assets of your business. The attorneys at Dressler|Peters have the critical skills to assist individuals and businesses with protecting their interests and negotiating resolutions of cyberspace disputes.

Copyrights

Dressler|Peters' attorneys strive to protect your creative works under various laws including the Copyright Act, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or other copyright legislation and case law. We counsel clients on protecting their creative works, as well as avoiding infringing on other works. We assist businesses with setting employment policies monitoring the replication and transfer of electronic media.

Outsourcing

Our national practice offers experience representing businesses in the structuring, documentation, evaluation and negotiation of outsourcing agreements involving business processes, information services, information technology and telecommunications arrangements.



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Aircraft Financing and Recovery

Dressler|Peters' attorneys represent clients in connection with aircraft financing, restructuring and recovery. The firm is counsel for financial institutions in connection with many loans secured by U.S. flag aircraft, and acts on behalf of sellers of corporate aircraft.

FAA Regulatory Matters

The firm represents clients in various aspects of Federal Aviation Administration rules regarding regulation of aircraft.

Litigation and Aircraft Repossession

Dressler|Peters represents clients in connection with aircraft financing and recovery and has litigated cases nationwide on behalf of its clients. Our attorneys have experience in obtaining results efficiently and cost-effectively.

Bankruptcy

Our firm has extensive experience in representing secured lenders and lessors in bankruptcy proceedings, including airline bankruptcy proceedings.

Insurance

Dressler|Peters represents clients in disputes concerning claims covered by aviation insurance, which differs substantively from other types of insurance. The attorneys at Dressler|Peters have the experience to navigate the complexities of aviation insurance and deliver cost-effective results.



Uniform Commercial Code and Related Business Issues

Our national practice and in-depth experience with the Uniform Commercial Code give the attorneys at Dressler|Peters the ability to efficiently prepare documentation, outline effective strategies for protecting liens and aggressively litigate disputes.

Document Preparation

The attorneys at Dressler|Peters prepare the following types of documents to protect clients' liens and define their rights:

- Warehouse agreements
- Consignment agreements
- Security agreements
- Industrial distributor agreements
- Leasing agreements (True Leases/Article 2A and Secured Transactions/Article 9)
- Subordination agreements
- TRAC leases
- "Sale on approval" contracts
- "Sale or return" contracts and documents of title

Litigation

We aggressively pursue collection of monies and repossession of collateral with a goal of maximizing your bottom line. We evaluate opportunities for collection when your loans default, helping circumvent debtor claims of commercial unreasonableness. And we are typically successful in obtaining judgments that include attorney fees and costs.

There is simply no substitute for the combination of legal and business experience of Dressler|Peters when protecting your interests.



General Business Representation

The attorneys of Dressler|Peters have earned a national reputation for general business representation. Many companies, both small and large, rely on our counsel to guide them through the gauntlet of financial issues modern businesses face in areas such as:

1. Employment agreements
2. Separation agreements
3. Limited liability company formation and operating agreements
4. Incorporation of companies and bylaws
5. Audit compliance
6. Dissolutions (“corporate divorces”)
7. Insurance coverage issues
8. Real estate transactions
9. Financing and loan agreements
10. Enforcement of contractual rights
11. Adjudication of Liens



Commercial Collections and Enforcement of Contracts

Dressler|Peters aggressively litigates cases involving the enforcement of contracts throughout the United States. We approach obtaining judgment as a mere precursor to the ultimate goal of obtaining a recovery for the client. Thus, post-judgment collection is diligently pursued, including following defendants to other states, putting liens on real estate and Sheriff's sales of real estate, executing on personal assets, conducting asset searches and asset depositions, garnishing bank accounts, and filing and litigating estate claims and wage garnishments. Effective enforcement of judgments is a skill. It requires experience, attention to detail, common sense and perseverance, as well as the ability to act quickly when an asset is located. Dressler|Peters is experienced in developing alternative collection strategies, as well as evaluating the likelihood of success and costs.



Partnership you can count on

Partner with Dressler|Peters and discover just how far we can help you take your business.

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