

FaegreBD Boosts Chicago Financing Team With Ungaretti Atty

By **Stephanie Russell-Kraft**

Law360, New York (February 21, 2014, 4:56 PM ET) -- Faegre Baker Daniels LLP said Friday it has added experienced finance and restructuring attorney George R. Mesires, formerly of Ungaretti & Harris LLP, as a partner to lead its Chicago financing and restructuring team as it expands throughout the region.

Mesires — who joined the firm in early February and was co-chair of Ungaretti & Harris' finance and restructuring practice — focuses on finance, corporate restructuring, bankruptcy, distressed mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate matters, according to FaegreBD.

“We’re very excited that George has joined FaegreBD’s strong and growing Chicago office,” the firm's Chicago office leader, Rick Michaels, said in a statement Friday. “His wealth of experience in finance, corporate restructuring, bankruptcy, and distressed mergers and acquisitions will be a valuable addition to our firm and will bolster the Chicago presence of our national finance and restructuring team.”

Aside from his extensive restructuring background, Mesires has experience advising directors and officers on corporate governance, fiduciary duties and strategic matters, as well as representing private equity firms, lenders, debtors, receivers, trade creditors and landlords in a variety of insolvency and distressed situations, according to FaegreBD. He also has significant experience in the senior housing industry, the firm said.

Before entering private practice, Mesires was general counsel for a startup telecommunications company, handling all its legal matters, FaegreBD said. During his time there, he counseled the board of directors, led the company through a distressed sale process, and negotiated the sale of substantially all the company’s assets to a regional telecommunications company, according to FaegreBD.

Mesires told Law360 on Friday that his love for the finance and restructuring practice and his knowledge of the local market will mesh seamlessly with FaegreBD’s goal to expand its work in Chicago, the nation’s “Midwestern money center.”

“FaegreBD’s sterling reputation, award-winning commitment to customer service, deep industry experience in finance and restructuring, and national reach provide the perfect platform to capitalize on Chicago and grow the finance and restructuring practice here,” Mesires said. “But the factor that carried the day are its people, who reflect the sincerity and values of a firm that is rooted in the Midwest.”

Mesires, who began his legal career as an assistant attorney general in the New York AG’s office after completing both a law degree and MBA at Syracuse University, has been named among the Illinois Super

Lawyers and the Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

He has also been an associate editor of the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal since 2010, is a contributor to the Distressed Debt Investing blog and is the legal columnist for Senior Housing News, according to FaegreBD.

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