

Anna Maria Pukszto

Partner



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Warsaw

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Overview

Anna Maria Pukszto heads Warsaw' Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy practice team and is also a co-head of the Litigation and Arbitration practice group.

She is a recognized expert in restructuring and insolvency, including cross-border bankruptcies and distressed asset acquisitions.

She was a World Bank consultant in a project involving assessments of the Polish Bankruptcy and Rehabilitation Law and instruments serving to protect creditors' rights under Polish law. She has authored or co-authored numerous publications, including reports issued under the auspices of the European Parliament concerning proposals for harmonization of insolvency laws at EU level. In May 2015 she was appointed a member of the Commercial Law Team set up by the Ministry of Economy. She is the President of the Polish Association of Restructuring Professionals (*Stowarzyszenie Praktyków Restrukturyzacji, SPR*), an organization seeking to promote good practices and best standards in restructuring processes in Poland.

In her litigation practice, she concentrates on insolvency related matters including challenging transactions to the detriment of creditors, as well as infrastructure and commercial disputes.

In her arbitration practice, she has been involved in several high-profile disputes regarding foreign investments in Poland and commercial transactions under LCIA, ICC and VIAC rules and in post-arbitration proceedings.

Experience

- **Owner of a major drugstore chains in Poland:** Comprehensive restructuring advice, including advice on existing €50 million credit facilities, bridge financing of €12 million, standstill and workout with >100 suppliers, bankruptcy filing, day-to-day operational issues (relations with landlords, trade unions etc.). As a result of a successful out-of-court restructuring and fresh cash injection, the company regained liquidity and withdrew its bankruptcy petition.
- **Key provider of solutions for the power generation industry:** Providing legal assistance with regard to five turn-key contracts with an aggregate value of €400 million.
- **Confidential client:** Providing comprehensive advice on ways to limit the potential adverse impact of the

bankruptcy of a consortium member and parent company on pending public procurement procedures and the performance of contracts, the total value of which stood at PLN 1 billion.

- **Confidential clients:** Representing in bankruptcy proceedings of numerous aggregates suppliers.
- **Confidential clients:** Advising in respect of cross-border bankruptcy proceedings initiated vis-à-vis Polish companies in France, United Kingdom and Italy.
- **Confidential client:** Representing in an LCIA arbitration – the client was awarded €1.9 billion in damages plus interest. According to GAR 100 it was “the *largest single award handed down by a tribunal (...) in recent years*”.
- **Confidential client:** Representing in several precedential cases regarding a challenge to the jurisdiction of the LCIA Tribunal based on Polish insolvency law, which provides that bankruptcy triggers discontinuation of pending arbitrations, and in particular in recognition proceedings in Poland of LCIA awards issued in England after the bankruptcy of a Polish company.
- **Confidential clients:** Representing in a settlement transaction with inter alia, a company in bankruptcy based on which the client received payment of €1.25 billion.
- **Private investor:** Advising on various aspects connected with a contemplated debt-for-equity swap in bankruptcy proceedings.
- **Polish bank:** Representing in the financial restructuring of a portfolio of credits extended to a group of companies (including two companies in bankruptcy).
- **Confidential client:** Representing in a Polish Chamber of Commerce arbitration regarding the payment of contractual damages arising from a public procurement project worth €18 million.
- **Confidential client:** Involved in an ICC arbitration regarding claims for damages for breach of a settlement agreement in the amount of €2 billion.

Recognition

Anna Maria Puksztó and the Warsaw’s Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy team led by her are highly regarded and consistently recognized by international legal directories and highly regarded by clients, business partners and peers.

Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy

- *Chambers Europe* 2019: Anna Maria Puksztó was ranked in Band 1. She was praised for her expertise in this area.
- *Chambers Europe* 2018: Anna Maria Puksztó was ranked in Band 1.
- *Chambers Europe* 2017: Anna Maria Puksztó was ranked in Band 1. She was named the “restructuring law guru” and praised for “incredible ability to remember details, whilst still keeping the big picture in mind.”
- *Chambers Europe* 2016: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized in Band 1 and valued for “perfect understanding of clients’ needs, and available for immediate responses.”
- *Chambers Europe* 2015: Anna Maria Puksztó was ranked in Band 1. Her team was praised for the ability to adapt to client needs and taking the initiative.
- *Legal 500* 2019: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized as a “Leading individual”. Her team was classified in Tier 1.
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Tier 1.

- *Legal 500* 2016: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized as a “Leading individual” and praised by clients for being “practical but also very well versed in theory.”
- *Legal 500* 2015: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized as a “Leading individual”. Her team was recommended in Tier 1.
- *Who’s Who Legal* 2017 (by *Euromoney*): Anna Maria Puksztó was recommended in “Insolvency and Restructuring” in Poland.
- *Expert Guides: Women in Business Law* 2015 and 2016 (by *Euromoney*): Anna Maria Puksztó was recommended in “Insolvency and Restructuring” in Poland.
- *Best Lawyers* 2014 and 2016: Anna Maria Puksztó was recommended in Poland in the categories: “Insolvency and Reorganization”, “Arbitration and Mediation” and “Litigation.”

Dispute Resolution

- *Chambers Global and Chambers Europe* 2017: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized in Band 4, clients appreciate her “very thorough and precise advice”.
- *Chambers Global and Chambers Europe* 2017: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized in Band 4 and valued for “deep knowledge.”
- *Chambers Global and Chambers Europe* 2016: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized in Band 4 and praised for providing quick and detailed responses.
- *Chambers Global and Chambers Europe* 2015: Anna Maria Puksztó was recognized in Band 4, valued for providing “straightforward advice”, having “an excellent reputation for representing clients in insolvency proceedings” and being “very commercially driven.”

Insights

- Co-author, “Contingency Planning at the Coalface,” *Mining Journal*, June 19, 2015

Activities and Affiliations

Memberships

- Deputy President of the Court of Arbitration of the Polish Confederation of Private Employers Lewiatan.
- Member of the Polish Arbitration Association.
- Member of the INSOL Europe (a European association of insolvency law practitioners).

Prior and Present Employment

- Partner, Dentons (formerly Salans), Warsaw, 2008 to date
- Associate, Salans, Warsaw, 2000–2007
- Associate, Leszek Zgutka Law Office, 1999–2000
- In-house lawyer, 1998–1999

Areas of focus

Practices

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Arbitration
- Banking and Finance
- Commercial Litigation
- Competition and Antitrust Litigation
- Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Real Estate Litigation and Dispute Resolution
- Restructuring, Insolvency and Bankruptcy

Industry sectors

- Automotive
- Distressed Asset Investors
- Financial Institutions
- Infrastructure and PPP
- Private Equity
- Retail

Education

- Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 1998, Master of Laws

Admissions and qualifications

- Attorney-at-law, Poland, 2002

Languages

- English
- Polish