

Michael Pignato

Partner

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Minneapolis – 612.340.5643



Mike helps clients with tribal finance transactions, commercial lending (including gaming), energy project finance, development and acquisitions and derivatives.

Mike is a partner in Dorsey's Finance and Restructuring group, former co-chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Industry Group and co-chair of the Banking and Financial Institutions Industry Group.

Mike represents lenders, tribes and other participants in tribal finance transactions, including in connection with the construction and expansion of casino, lodging and entertainment facilities, energy projects and tribal infrastructure projects. This expertise extends to the representation of lenders and other participants in commercial gaming transactions, including in connection with casinos, gaming equipment manufacturers and vendors and gaming development and management companies, throughout the United States.

A significant part of Mike's practice also includes the representation of investor owned utilities, municipal power agencies, generation and transmission cooperatives, developers, lenders and investors in the development, construction, financing, acquisition, disposition and restructuring of electric generation facilities (wind, solar, biomass, hydro, geothermal, cogeneration, gas, coal, other), mining projects, water desalinization facilities, biofuel facilities and other similar projects.

Mike's commercial lending practice includes the representation of lenders and borrowers in syndicated and participating loans, revolving and term loan facilities, letter of credit facilities, construction and real estate loans, acquisition financings, leveraged lending and asset-based financings.

Mike also devotes a portion of his practice to representing corporate end-users, energy companies, borrowers and others in derivatives transactions, primarily in connection with interest rate, foreign exchange and commodities swap and hedging transactions.

Education

- University of California, Santa Cruz (B.A., 1991)
- University of California, Hastings College of Law (J.D., 1994)

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota
- California

Select Experience

Representative Tribal Lending and Commercial Gaming Transactions

- Counsel to administrative agent in connection with \$500 million senior secured credit facility for expansion of a tribe's gaming enterprise in California.
- Counsel to administrative agent in connection with \$38 million senior secured credit facility for a tribal gaming authority in Washington.
- Counsel to lender in connection with a \$36 million senior secured credit facility for a tribe in Oregon.
- Counsel to lender in connection with an \$85 million senior secured credit facility for a tribe in Michigan, including a convertible tax-exempt loan facility.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern and Eastern Districts of California

Professional Affiliations

- Board of Directors, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Native American Law: Finance, National, 2025-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2021-2026
- *Minnesota Lawyer*, Legal 250, 2026
- *Minnesota Monthly*, Top Lawyer in Banking & Financial Service Law, 2024
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2012-2014, 2016, 2018, 2020-2022, 2024
- Minnesota Lawyers of the Year, 2012

Insights

November 3, 2020

2020 Election Protection

September 14, 2020

Dorsey lawyers gear up for vote

September 19, 2019

Preparing for LIBOR Substitution-Commercial and Consumer Lending Considerations