

STUART KAUFMAN

Senior Managing Director

Professional Summary

Mr. Kaufman is a Managing Director at Areté Partners, based in Chicago. Stuart is a senior advisor with more than 30 years of experience advising businesses during periods of distress and transition. Stuart has proven success advising clients through operational and financial improvements, developing and implementing value creation plans, balance sheet restructurings (both in and out of court), interim management, capital markets, and lender advisory services.

Stuart has served as both a financial advisor and interim senior executive, including as an Independent Board Member, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Chief Restructuring Officer for portfolio companies of various asset managers, including private equity, private credit, commercial banks, and family-owned businesses.

Mr. Kaufman has experience across various industries, including automotive, hospitality, healthcare, oil & gas, power generation & distribution, manufacturing, logistics, financial services, aviation, telecommunications, and ecommerce.

Prior to joining Areté, Mr. Kaufman was a Managing Director at Portage Point Partners, a boutique business advisory firm based in Chicago, where he was a leader in the build-out of the performance improvement and restructuring service lines as the firm grew from 5 to 50 employees over a 4-year period. Prior to Portage Point, Stuart worked at other advisory firms, including seven years at Alvarez & Marsal, where Stuart advised clients through complex restructurings. Prior to a career in consulting, Stuart spent several years in industry at various corporate finance positions, and at the start of his career, Stuart worked in corporate banking at large global finance companies and banks, including GE Capital.

Prior to moving to Chicago in 2005, Stuart spent his formative years in Canada. After attending college and earning a bachelor's degree in political science, which he paid for by running his own street vending business, Stuart spent a year living and working in Tokyo, Japan, before moving back to Canada to obtain a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Corporate Finance. Stuart and his wife have three children, Maya, Max and Jaime and are looking forward to being empty nesters after their youngest child goes off to college in the fall.

Being a Canadian, Stuart of course has a lifelong passion for ice hockey and his long-suffering Maple Leafs—although he finally had to face reality recently and hang up his skates for good. He is an avid golfer, cyclist, and gardener and looks forward to continuing to travel with his family.

Professional Biography

Career Experience

COMPANY	ROLE	LOCATION	DATES
Areté Partners	Managing Director	Chicago, IL	05/23 – Current
Portage Point Partners	Managing Director	Chicago, IL	06/18 – 11/22
Winter Harbor	Managing Director	Chicago, IL	02/16 – 06/18
Ernst & Young – Restructuring Advisory Services	Managing Director	Chicago, IL	02/15 – 02/16
Alvarez & Marsal, LLC – US Corporate Restructuring	Director	Chicago, IL	12/08 – 01/15
Grant Thornton, LLC – Corporate Advisory Services	Director	Chicago, IL	03/07 – 12/08
Navigant Capital Advisors	Director	Chicago, IL	08/05 – 03/07
Various	—	Toronto, ON	1994 – 2005

Board of Directors Experience

- Merit Distribution Inc. – Independent Board Member
- Polyventive LLC – Independent Board Member
- Razor Group Inc. – Independent Board Member
- Domino Equipment Co. – Sole Independent Board Member
- Spectrum Solutions LLC – Chair of Board of Directors
- Mann Lake Acquisition, Inc. – Independent Board Member
- Zacks Trust – Publicly Traded ETF – Independent Board Member
- Century Support Services – Independent Board Member

Select Interim Management / Turnaround Advisory Experience

- Merit Distribution Inc. – Chief Restructuring Officer
- Spectrum Solutions LLC – Chief Restructuring Officer
- Domino Equipment Co. – Chief Restructuring Officer
- Outfox Hospitality – Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Endurance Environmental Solutions, LLC – Interim Chief Financial Officer
- Ecklers Industries, Inc. – Interim Chief Executive Officer

- Car Outlet Inc/ Total Finance – Chief Restructuring Officer & Financial Advisor
- Oil Drilling Safety Consulting (Private Co.) – Chief Restructuring Officer

Select Advisory Experience

- Merit Distribution Inc. – Financial Advisor
- Mann Lake Acquisition, Inc. – Financial Advisor to Senior Lender
- China Fisheries Group Limited – Financial Advisor to Trustee
- Dermarite Industries, LLC – Financial Advisor to Lenders
- Vanderbend Manufacturing – Financial Advisor to Management
- Friendship Senior Options – Financial Advisor to Board of Directors
- Teligent, Inc – Financial Advisor to Management
- Noise and Vibration Technologies, LLC – Financial Advisor to Lender
- Alamo Draffhouse Cinemas – Financial Advisor to Management
- CFG Peru Investments – Financial Advisor to Board of Directors
- Guy & O’Neill Inc. – Financial Advisor to Management
- Hornbeck Offshore Services – Financial Advisor to Management
- Melinta Therapeutics, Inc. – Financial Advisor to Management
- Naylor LLC – Financial Advisor to Management
- Sendero Midstream Partners, LLC – Financial Advisor to Management
- Advanced Converting Works, Inc. – Financial Advisor to Lenders
- Jansy Packaging, LLC – Financial Advisor to Lenders
- Valentus Specialty Chemicals, Inc – Financial Advisor to Lender
- Sinai Hospital System – Financial Advisor to Board of Directors
- Dura Automotive Systems, LLC – Financial Advisor to Management
- International Glass & Tableware Manufacturer – Financial Advisor to Management
- A123 Systems, Inc – Financial Advisor to Management
- Tribune Company – Financial Advisor to Management

Education / Certifications

- York University, Schulich School of Business – Toronto, ON — Masters of Business Administration, Corporate
- University of Western Ontario – London, ON — Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
- Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor (CIRA)

** References Available Upon Request **