**Stuart Kaufman**

**Managing Director**

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Mr. Kaufman is a Managing Director of The Areté Group, based in Chicago. Stuart is a senior advisor with more than 25 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 a 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 e-commerce.

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 my 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 Leaf’s – 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**

**ARETÉ HOLDINGS, LLC Chicago, IL**

*MANAGING DIRECTOR* 05/23 – Current

**Portage Point Partners Chicago, IL**

*MANAGING DIRECTOR* 06/18 – 11/22

**Winter Harbor LLC Chicago, IL**

*MANAGING DIRECTOR 02/16-06/18*

**ERNST & YOUNG** – Restructuring Advisory Services **Chicago, IL**

*MANAGING DIRECTOR 02/15-02/16*

**ALVAREZ & MARSAL, LLC** – US Corporate Restructuring **Chicago, IL**

*DIRECTOR* 12/08 – 01/15

**GRANT THORNTON, LLC** – Corporate Advisory Services **Chicago, IL**

*DIRECTOR* 03/07 – 12/08

**NAVIGANT CAPITAL ADVISORS Chicago, IL**

*DIRECTOR* 08/05 – 03/07

**DIRECT ENERGY LIMITED Toronto, ON**

*TREASURER* 2003-2005

**GROUP TELECOM, INC Toronto, ON**

*DIRECTOR, CORPORATE FINANCE*  2000 – 2003

**GE CAPITAL Toronto, ON**

*ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR*  1997 – 2000

**SCOTIABANK Toronto, ON**

*ASSOCIATE*  1994 – 1996

**BOARD OF DIRECTOR EXPERIENCE**

**Zacks Trust – Publicly Traded ETF 2020 –** **Current**

**Century Support Services 2020**

**SELECT INTERIM MANAGEMENT / TURNAROUND ADVISORY EXPERIENCE**

**Vanderbend Manufacturing** - Financial Advisor to Management 2022

**Friendship Senior Options**- Financial Advisor to Board of Directors 2022

**Teligent, Inc** – Financial Advisor to Management 2022

**Endurance Environmental Solutions, LLC** – Interim Chief Financial Officer 2021

**Ecklers Industries, Inc.**  – Interim Chief Executive Officer 2021

**Alamo Drafthouse Cinemas –** Financial Advisor to Management2021

**CFG Peru Investments** – Financial Advisor to Board of Directors 2021

**Guy & O'Neill Inc**. - Financial Advisor to Management 2020

**Hornbeck Offshore Services** – Financial Advisor to Management 2020

**Melinta Therapeutics, Inc**. – Financial Advisor to Management 2020

**Naylor LLC** - Financial Advisor to Management 2020

**Sendero Midstream Partners, LLC** - Financial Advisor to Management 2020

**Sinai Hospital System** – Financial Advisor to Board of Directors 2019

**Dura Automotive Systems, LLC** – Financial Advisor to Management 2019

**Car Outlet Inc/ Total Finance** – Chief Restructuring Officer & Financial Advisor 2018

**Oil Drilling Safety Consulting** (Private Co.) – Chief Restructuring Officer 2018

**International Glass & Tableware Manufacturer** - Financial Advisor to Management 2016

**A123 Systems, Inc** – Financial Advisor to Management 2012

**Tribune Company** - Financial Advisor to Management 2008

**SELECT ADVISORY EXPERIENCE**

**Dermarite Industries, LLC** – Financial Advisor to Lenders 2022

**Noise and Vibration Technologies, LLC** – Financial Advisor to Lender 2021

**Advanced Converting Works, Inc.**  – Financial Advisor to Lenders 2020

**Jansy Packaging, LLC**- Financial Advisor to Lenders 2020

**Valentus Specialty Chemicals, Inc** – Financial Advisor to Lender 2020

**EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS**

**SCHULICH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS – YORK UNIVERSITY** - *Toronto, ON*  1994
*Masters of Business Administration, Corporate***UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**- *London, ON*  1992
*Bachelor of Arts, Political Science* *Certified Insolvency and Restructuring Advisor (CIRA)*