



TAMPA BAY BANKRUPTCY CENTER, P.A.

PHONE: (813) 200-4133

TOLL FREE: (800) 965-5074

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## Giordano's files for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection

Giordano's the pizza chain famous for its stuffed pizzas has filed for bankruptcy protection. But the Chicago-based pizza chain will continue to remain open after the bankruptcy court allowed the company to borrow \$36 million in bankruptcy loans.

The pizza restaurant's financial problems were mainly the result of the property market crash in 2007. Giordano's is owned by the Apostolou family who also owns a real estate company called Randolph Partners LLC which operates primarily in Illinois and Florida. Randolph Partners owes the Fifth Third Bank \$45.7 million after it defaulted on its loans due to its inability to lease or sell properties for the last few years.

Giordano's had its beginnings in 1974, being founded by Efren and Joseph Boglio, two brothers from Italy. In 1988, the restaurant was bought over by John and Eva Apostolou. Five years ago, the Apostolous expanded their business outside Illinois when they opened 6 restaurants in Florida. There are presently more than 55 Giordano's restaurants in Illinois and Florida. 12 of the restaurant's premises are owned by Randolph Partners

<http://tampabankruptcy.pro/blog/>

while the others are leased from third party landlords. At the same time, Giordano's owns American Foods in Mount Prospect from where the restaurant buys its food products. The Apostolous filed 33 bankruptcy petitions on all their businesses.

Giordano's bankruptcy filing came the same week as Borders who also filed for Chapter 11 recently. But unlike Borders, Giordano's will remain open after receiving a \$36 million loan from the Fifth Third Bank. The money will be for paying employees and vendors and was given on condition that the Apostolou family must restructure its companies, sell off Randolph Partners assets and possibly sell Giordano's as well.

If you or your business are interested in filing for bankruptcy protection, call us at (813) 200 4133 for a free consultation. Bankruptcy is not the end of the road for your business but can be the beginning of a new chapter.