

Speaker Biographies

BETSY ALLEN is the General Counsel and a Senior Managing Director at Friedman Real Estate in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Friedman is a multi-service, privately-owned real estate company, with a substantial portfolio of owned and managed properties in more than a dozen states, and with an affiliated brokerage company with more than fifty licensed brokers. In her role at Friedman, she provides advice and counsel regarding the acquisition, disposition, financing and development of commercial real estate. Prior to joining Friedman, Betsy was a partner in the real estate department of Honigman LLP, a commercial law firm based in Detroit, Michigan. Betsy received her B.A. from Rutgers University and her J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis.

ANTHONY ANDRICKS, Counsel at Thompson Hine, practices commercial real estate law, focusing his practice on representing shopping center owners and developers in their acquisitions, dispositions, parcelization and subdivision, expansions, and reconfigurations of shopping centers and other retail developments. In the past three years alone, Andricks has counseled purchasers, sellers, owners, and investors in over fifty shopping center parcelization transactions. In addition to practicing law, Andricks is also a published poet whose first book, *Repurposed (Trial by Lineation)*, reached number one on certain Amazon charts and number ten on Amazon's overall poetry charts. His follow-up, *The Age of Something Other Than Reason*, is set for release in March 2026.

ALISON ANDRONIC is a partner at Reed Smith LLP and is based in the firm's Pittsburgh, PA office. She focuses her practice on commercial real estate transactions, with significant experience in the retail industry.

PETER C. BERGAN, JR. is a real estate partner at the law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Peter advises investors, developers and owners on a wide range of real estate transactions, from large-scale commercial developments to complex infrastructure projects. Peter has guided clients through joint ventures, investments, financings and acquisitions/dispositions across commercial, digital infrastructure, industrial, mining, retail, hospitality, and multifamily and single-family assets nationwide. Beyond the office, Peter is an active member of the Urban Land Institute and the International Council of Shopping Centers. Peter is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Loyola University Chicago School of Law and currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

MAUREEN A. BICKLEY, Vice Office Partner-in-Charge, is a trial lawyer who concentrates her practice on the diverse litigation needs of businesses and individuals. Maureen's practice includes national product liability counseling and litigation in a variety of industry sectors, ranging from consumer products to construction and agricultural equipment manufacturers; prosecution and defense of contract disputes, business torts and unfair competition claims; estate litigation; and personal injury and premises liability litigation.

J. JULIUS (J.J.) BOLOCK has been with Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. ("DICK'S) since May 2023 and works closely with the Real Estate, Development and Construction teams with their transactional and business needs, specifically J.J. assists with the acquisition and leasing of DICK'S large format House of Sport stores. J.J. previously worked at Clark Hill in Pittsburgh, PA and J.J.'s practice focused on working with borrowers, developers, lenders and businesses to structure and document real estate acquisitions and dispositions including, but not limited to, drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, contracts and commercial loan financing documents. J.J. also represented clients in business formation, fund formation, joint ventures, governance and the preparation and negotiation of complex business contracts and transactional documents.

JOSH BROCK is a Partner in Frost Brown Todd's Real Estate Practice Group. Josh represents clients on an array of real estate transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, refinancings, joint venture transactions and sale-leasebacks with a focus on hospitality, industrial, and retail assets. Josh also specializes in complex real estate financing transactions, representing both lenders and borrowers on CMBS, balance sheet, life insurance company, debt fund and mezzanine loans across all commercial asset classes. Josh is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law.

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MICHAEL BROCKMAN is Associate General Counsel for Thompson Thrift Development, an Indianapolis-based real estate developer focused on residential, mixed-use, and grocery-anchored retail developments. Michael's main responsibilities include negotiating agreements related to the development and construction of the company's retail and mixed-use properties with a focus on retail leasing. Prior to moving in-house, Michael was an associate in the Real Estate practice group at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP in Indianapolis.

CARRIE BROSIOUS is a partner in the Vorys Cleveland office and a member of the firm's bankruptcy and restructuring subgroup. She represents financial institutions and other creditors on loan restructurings and workouts, bankruptcy proceedings, and other creditors' rights matters, including receiverships, foreclosures and every aspect of collection law. Carrie regularly defends and prosecutes avoidance actions in bankruptcy courts across the country. She also has experience with complex lending transactions and commercial contract matters. Carrie is recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* 2026 for Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law. Carrie received her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and her B.A. with distinction from the University of Virginia.

JOSH BROWN is chair of Taft's Franchise and Distribution group and a certified franchise mediator. He combines his legal experience, business background, and entrepreneurial skills to help clients grow their businesses with a particular focus on franchising and other licensing opportunities. He is passionate about helping entrepreneurs make smart franchise decisions and prepare for growth and expansion. Josh counsels franchisors and franchisees through legal challenges and helps identify and pursue potential franchise opportunities. As a certified franchise mediator, Josh also provides specialized dispute resolution services, enabling him to facilitate resolutions between franchisors and franchisees outside of costly litigation. In between private practice, Josh was a law clerk for the Honorable Nancy H. Vaidik of the Indiana Court of Appeals. Prior to that, Josh worked in business management, sales, marketing, and operations for several businesses, including two franchise systems. Clients partner with Josh because he understands the industry and the challenges with starting, managing, and growing a small business. Josh is the creator and host of Franchise Euphoria, a top-rated podcast, and a frequent author and presenter on topics related to franchising. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and playing golf.

ANGELA CECCARELLI is a Partner in the Real Estate Practice Group at Thompson Hine LLP. Angela focuses her practice on commercial real estate acquisitions and sales, development, leasing and corporate transactions. Her practice has a particular focus on shopping center deals and retail, office and industrial leasing. Angela is a frequent attendee and speaker on real estate topics at the regional and national ICSC conferences. She received her B.S., *magna cum laude*, from Eastern Kentucky University and her J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Dayton. Angela is licensed to practice in Ohio.

KYLE CHAMBERS is an associate in Taft's Real Estate practice group. He assists clients with commercial real estate transactions, including financing, acquisitions, dispositions, and commercial leasing. Kyle earned his undergraduate degree from the Indiana University – Bloomington, Kelley School of Business, where he majored in Finance, Entrepreneurship, and Corporate Innovation. He obtained his J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. In law school, Kyle was a student mentor in the Southern District of Indiana's R.E.A.C.H. program, where he served as a legal resource and liaison to recently released state prison offenders. As part of this, he was a founding member of the McKinney Second Chance Re-Entry and Assistance Program (S.C.R.A.P.). Kyle was also a member and tutor in the Dean's Tutorial Society.

JENNIFER CLARK is Associate General Counsel – Real Estate at Meijer, where she leads a team focused on advising business clients on development, leasing, and complex transactions across multiple jurisdictions. Previously, she held associate general counsel roles focused on real estate development at Academy Sports + Outdoors and Walmart Stores, Inc. Jennifer and her family make their home in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

HAL D. COFFEY, ESQUIRE, is a Member of the international law firm Clark Hill, PLC, based in Pittsburgh, PA, where he is a member of the real estate and corporate business units and is co-leader of the firm's Affordable Housing Development group. Mr. Coffey is licensed to practice law in Ohio and Pennsylvania and is a licensed title agent in Pennsylvania as well. He assists parties seeking to acquire, develop, maintain and sell commercial property. Such commercial properties include affordable housing developments, data centers, apartment buildings, hotels, shopping centers, parking garages and a combination of such. Mr. Coffey's clients include developers, franchisees, hotel operators, commercial property managers, brokers, affordable housing organizations, non-profit corporations, community development companies and individuals. As a member of Clark Hill's Real Estate group he concentrates his practice in all aspects of commercial real estate, including acquisition, disposition, leasing, liquor and tobacco licensing, financing, property taxes, land use and zoning.

KARI BALOG CONIGLIO is a partner in the Vorys Cleveland office and currently serves as chair of the firm's bankruptcy and creditors' rights practice group. Kari has extensive experience representing financial institutions and other secured lenders, unsecured creditors, trustees, debtors, and committees in chapter 11 and 7 bankruptcy cases, and in related litigation on a national basis. Kari also regularly represents clients in loan restructurings and workouts and other creditors' rights matters including receiverships, foreclosures, and dissolution proceedings. Kari is also a member of the firm's finance practice group where she negotiates and structures intercreditor and subordination agreements for the firm's lending clients. Kari has served as a Chapter 7 Panel Bankruptcy Trustee for the Northern District of Ohio since 2017. Kari received her J.D. *summa cum laude* from the Cleveland State University College of Law, where she was the managing editor of the *Cleveland State Law Review*. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Cleveland State University.

AMANDA M. DAQUELENTE serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Corporate Practice Group, and a is member of the Real Estate & Lending Practice Group. Amanda's practice focuses primarily on a wide range of business and corporate transactions, where she regularly counsels and represents clients both in general and sophisticated business transactions, mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, reorganizations, and other major transactions both in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Additionally, Amanda's corporate practice consists of advising clients on a variety of corporate issues, including, but not limited to, entity formation, corporate governance, business succession planning and other day-to-day business and corporate matters. Amanda has a great breadth of experience representing business owners in complex business succession transactions, including sales to employee stock ownership plans (ESOPS) and trusts where she works collaboratively with ERISA counsel and trustee counsel on behalf of selling business owners. Additionally, Amanda also has experience representing companies acquiring ESOPS. Amanda's work also focuses on all aspects of commercial and residential real estate transactions, including buy-side and sell-side representation in real estate acquisitions and dispositions, drop and swap transactions, 1031 exchanges, leasing and financing, and the representation of individuals and closely-held companies in a broad range of complex general corporate and real estate-related transactions.

STEVE DAVIS is Counsel in the Dayton, Ohio office of Thompson Hine LLP. In 37 years of practice, he has represented clients in all aspects of selling, purchasing, financing and leasing commercial real estate. He is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars and has been named to Best's Lawyers in America. He is a graduate of Oberlin College and Duke University School of Law.

CHRIS GANT is an associate at Kayne Law Group in Columbus, Ohio. He advises clients on a wide range of matters, including real estate transactions, development projects, leasing, and general corporate law. A proud Buckeye and Cincinnati native, Chris holds a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from The Ohio State University.

KEVIN GARVEY is Senior Vice President and Director of Managed Assets at Peoples Bank, a diversified financial services holding company headquartered in Marietta, Ohio, where he leads the bank's workout, special assets and commercial collections functions. He is responsible for formulating and executing strategies to improve asset quality, manage credit risk, and maximize recoveries. A licensed Ohio attorney, Kevin brings experience in bankruptcy, commercial law, and restructuring to complex credit situations, enabling disciplined decision-making and improved outcomes for the bank. He is a trusted advisor to executive management and serves on senior risk committees focused on enterprise risk management, regulatory readiness, and portfolio performance.

ADITYA GHATPANDE is an attorney at Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis and works in the firm's Real Estate and Business and Corporate practice groups. Aditya focuses his practice on a wide range of real estate and corporate matters such as drafting leases, lease amendments and subleases for residential, office, industrial, and retail spaces. He is experienced in assisting clients with drafting operating agreements, real estate purchase/sale agreements, acquisition and disposition of asset agreements and easement agreements as well as maintaining organizational documents, corporate and business filings, and general contract documents. Aditya also assists in the review and analysis of due diligence materials, including disclosure schedules, surveys, title commitments, and related documents.

CATHRYN GREENWALD is a partner in the real estate practice group at Thompson Hine LLP and focuses her practice on the representation of lenders in all types of real estate financing. Cathryn is a fellow in the American College of Mortgage Attorneys (ACMA) and is a member of ACMA's Board of Regents, a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and a member of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) where she currently serves as the Governance Chair of the Cleveland chapter. Ms. Greenwald received her B.S in Business Administration from Miami University, magna cum laude, her M.S in Environmental Studies from Cleveland State University and her J.D. from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, magna cum laude.

DONALD GROESSER is a professional land surveyor with more than 40 years of extensive experience. He is licensed in six states, including IL, WI, KY, PA, NY, AZ, and FL. Don is a Vice President in the Survey / Geospatial Practice for Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (CEC) based in Moon Township, PA. An active member of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors, Chair of several committees, currently the Vice President of the Executive Board. He was awarded "Surveyor of the Year" in 2023 and is also a Past President of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association.

MARCY E. HAMILTON is a partner in Meyer, Unkovic & Scott's Real Estate and Lending group. Although she advises a wide array of clients in all aspects of commercial real estate, including acquisitions, dispositions, development, and renewable energy projects, her practice is focused on retail and office leasing for both landlords and tenants. Marcy received her B.S. degree in Business (Finance) from Virginia Tech, and her J.D. degree from West Virginia University College of Law. Following graduation from law school, Marcy practiced real estate law for a firm in Charleston, West Virginia and subsequently worked as a federal judicial law clerk for the Honorable John T. Copenhaver, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. Upon moving to Pittsburgh, Marcy practiced real estate law with a 500-lawyer law firm for 14 years before joining Meyer Unkovic & Scott in 2018. Some of her representative experience includes handling the real estate aspects of a 75-turbine wind energy project in northwest Ohio that produces sufficient clean power to electrify more than 60,000 homes; advising a developer and negotiating leases and sales agreement in connection with a 400-acre mixed-use development in North Carolina that is anticipated to provide 3 million square feet of retail, medical, office, hospitality, entertainment, senior living, single family and multi-family use; and handling the leasing for an owner of approximately 500,000 square feet of commercial office and warehouse space in the southwestern Pennsylvania region.

MASAKO HASHIMOTO is a Senior Legal Project Manager at Frost Brown Todd, where she leads the firm's legal project management strategy. A certified Project Management Professional (PMP®) and Accredited Legal Project Management Professional (ALPM), Masako is passionate about transforming how legal teams manage matters—making them more efficient, effective, and future-ready. She specializes in streamlining workflows, aligning cross-functional teams, and introducing technologies such as generative AI to enhance legal service delivery. Masako also designs and delivers LPM training for legal teams and leads the development of client-facing tools and reporting that promote transparency, collaboration, and measurable value. Her collaborative, people-centered approach empowers teams and drives scalable, tech-forward solutions across the firm.

LEIGH HELLNER. Having spent twenty-five years in private practice and as in-house counsel to a real estate developer, Leigh has negotiated and closed all types of complex commercial real estate transactions. She is able to focus on the fine legal details while keeping the client's larger business objectives in mind, thereby offering both advanced legal advice and practical, savvy business counsel. Leigh has negotiated retail, office and industrial leases and acquisitions and dispositions of office buildings, shopping centers and industrial and multi-family properties. She advises lenders and borrowers in a broad range of financing transactions. She has been privileged to represent private companies, not-for-profit corporations, and institutions of higher learning in all aspects of real estate operations, including public-private partnerships and urban redevelopment projects. Leigh lives in Shaker Heights and has two adult children. Her interests include music, art and hiking with her two Labrador Retrievers.

AUDREY HORNISHER counsels financial institutions and businesses in protecting their rights in corporate restructurings and secured transactions in a range of industries including energy, finance, insurance, manufacturing, retail, and technology. Audrey regularly represents financial institutions, commercial landlords, trade suppliers and vendors, secured and unsecured creditors, and other parties in interest to assess and resolve issues faced in bankruptcy cases. Both large lenders and small businesses have engaged her to help navigate the path to protect their collateral during a debtor's bankruptcy, including filing a proof of claim, lifting the automatic stay, negotiating the treatment of lease agreements, and negotiating the use of cash collateral. She has also represented clients in multiple national bankruptcy sales and understands the process of selling distressed assets. Additionally, she defends creditors in adversary proceedings including fraudulent transfer and voidable preference litigation. While representing a national energy company, she assisted in the negotiation of settling a preference action for .15% of the alleged damages.

PATRICK J. JOHNSON is an experienced real estate attorney who focuses his practice on construction transactions and litigation matters. He has broad experience providing strategic counsel to a wide range of owners, developers, general contractors and subcontractors pertaining to construction contract drafting and negotiation, as well as project delivery methods and claim resolution. His practice is focused on commercial and residential developments, data centers and bitcoin mining facilities and energy and infrastructure projects. Pat's experience includes negotiating, preparing and reviewing EPC agreements, design-build and construction contracts, master service agreements, installation contracts and other various project-related documents. He also has experience managing potential commercial litigation claims throughout the course of development projects, working directly with owner and clients to resolve potential claims relating to delay, additional compensation, and extensions of time, among others.

JEFF JUNSTROM serves as Vice President and National Commercial Counsel for Chicago Title's Pittsburgh National Commercial Services (NCS) operation. Joining the NCS in 2021, he provides support to the myriad residential and commercial real estate transactions coming through the office each year. Jeff has over 15 years in the title industry, including both mineral and surface title experience, including five years in various management roles. Jeff is a past trustee of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation, past president of the Northern Appalachian Landman's Association, and past executive board member of the West Virginia Chapter of American Association of Professional Landmen. He has a B.A. in Political Science from Penn State University, and received his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

EMI D. KANEKO is Regional Underwriting Counsel for First American Title Insurance Company. Ms. Kaneko has underwritten residential and commercial transactions throughout Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois with her primary focus on commercial transactions. Prior to joining First American, Ms. Kaneko was in private practice representing banks and loan servicers in foreclosure and civil litigation. Ms. Kaneko is a member of the Michigan Land Title Association, Indiana Land Title Association, and the State Bar of Michigan. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School and currently resides in Michigan.

JENNIFER L. KATZAKIS is a Partner at Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP, an Am Law 200 business law firm with offices in Cleveland, Chicago, Columbus, New York, San Francisco, and Wilmington. Jennifer has successfully negotiated deals involving offices, shopping center and store leases, industrial properties, multifamily housing, mixed-use facilities and raw land. She also has advised on and negotiated deals for the development and redevelopment of properties and property parcelizations, including the impact of preexisting agreements, easements and other rights and restrictions on property use or development. Prior to joining Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP, Ms. Katzakis was an-house counsel at SITE Centers Corp. She is a graduate of Cleveland State University College of Law, and currently resides in Cleveland.

JEFF KISER is an associate attorney at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, in the firm's Columbus, Ohio office. Jeff's practice covers a wide variety of commercial real estate matters including drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, drafting land use agreements and advising clients on title and survey matters, with a particular focus on shopping center and retail transactions. In addition to his legal practice, Jeff is a licensed title agent in Ohio. Jeff earned his B.S. from Ohio University and received his J.D. from Capital University Law School.

KENNETH S. LAMY, is Founder, President & CEO of The LAMY Group and DPI EXETER™. Mr. Lamy has 40 plus years of deep experience in CRE | Retail Real Estate | Transportation Hubs | Airports and considered a global subject matter expert on retail leases, including rent, sales analysis, benchmarking, revenue | data verification, tenant sales audits, data analytics, restaurant consulting, financial analysis, and compliance examinations. Mr. Lamy is a trusted advisor to clients who include private and public companies and REITs that own or manage thousands of properties including 1.5 plus billion square feet of GLA. As a highly engaged ICSC member over 40 years, Lamy is a recipient of ICSC's prestigious Trustee Distinguished Service Award, holds the Certified Retail Real Estate Professional (CRRP) and Certified Retail Property Executive (CRX) designations and a member of numerous global committees. He is an author, serves as an ICSC Ambassador, faculty member of various ICSC schools, Universities, featured speaker at conferences including ICSC Las Vegas, ICSC + U.S. Law Conference, ICSC New York, ICSC + OAC, judge, ICSC International Case Competition, and ICSC Foundation mentor. Most recently, Lamy co-chaired the ICSC Task Force on the new retail study lease model. Mr. Lamy has been admitted as an expert witness in court proceedings at the state, county, and federal level. Mr. Lamy has published and contributed to numerous articles, blogs and technical books internationally. Board member, volunteer, and speaker roles: National Association of Real Estate Companies (NAREC), Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM), Urban Land Institute (ULI), and National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT). He has served as a member and chair of various Boards (Trustee |Regent | Director) of secondary and higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. Mr. Lamy is a graduate of Tulane University (MBA), Finance and Business Law, and St. Edward's University (Magna Cum Laude).

JEFF LANE is the founder and CEO of Prodigy Properties. He has been appointed by state, federal and bankruptcy courts more than 3,000 times to serve as Receiver, Keeper, Private Selling Officer, Special Master, Partition Commissioner, Private Auctioneer and other fiduciary roles. His expertise is focused on the distressed real estate world, having been involved in the management and disposition of more than 10,000 foreclosed and REO properties across 22 states.

PATRICK MANNING specializes in retail, commercial, and various other leasing transactions. With experience in both law firms and in-house roles for a national commercial retail developer, Patrick excels in negotiating leases, drafting agreements, and handling related documentation for a wide variety of properties. His clients range from large national entities to local businesses, covering various industries such as retail, automotive, entertainment, and healthcare. Additionally, he has conducted research projects in collaboration with landlords on topics such as easements, restrictive covenants, and related issues. Patrick received his B.A. from John Carroll University, his M.A. from the University of Galway (Ireland), and his J.D. from Duquesne University.

BRIAN MCALLISTER is Contract Manager of BlastOne International, a privately owned, Columbus, Ohio-based global industrial and commercial consultant and supplier of blasting abrasives and equipment for the protective coating and corrosion control industry. Mr. McAllister main responsibilities include the review and negotiation of commercial and industrial contracts in projects throughout North America. Prior to joining BlastOne International, Mr. McAllister served as the Senior Director, Leasing Counsel at Washington Prime Group ("Glimcher Realty) where he was responsible for negotiation and management of retail leases across their portfolio. Prior to Glimcher Realty, Mr. McAllister served as Senior Attorney/Senior Negotiator at Simon Property Group. He is a graduate of Dickinson School of Law in Pennsylvania and currently resides in Columbus Ohio.

NOELLE MCCALL, CIC, CRM, CCIP, CRP, ACRA, CISR serves as the National Practice Leader for Contract Review at Howden and has over two decades of experience in contractual risk transfer and insurance compliance. She previously created and led national contract review practices at Marsh and Aon and co-founded Contract Risk Academy, developing widely used tools and training programs for reducing contractual risk. Ms. McCall holds a Bachelor's degree in Contracts and Acquisitions with a minor in International Business. A frequent industry speaker, she is currently focused on advancing the use of Artificial Intelligence to improve contract review efficiency and accuracy. She resides in South Carolina.

RALPH M. MONICO, ESQUIRE is a Member of the regional law firm Burn White LLC, based in Pittsburgh, Pa, where he is a member of the firm's complex and commercial, insurance coverage and extra-contractual, and sexual misconduct & physical abuse litigation groups. Mr. Monico is licensed to practice law in Pennsylvania. He represents a diverse range of clients, including insurance companies, real estate investment trusts, publicly traded companies, closely held businesses, public entities and individuals. He routinely defends complex and high-exposure claims. His expertise spans numerous areas, including all aspects of tort defense litigation/premises liability, breach of contract, non-compete, and franchise agreement disputes, e-commerce transactions, institutional sexual misconduct and physical abuse claims and complex issues pertaining to insurance and indemnity coverage. Before beginning his legal career in 1993, Ralph spent over seven years in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked as an ELINT/Electronic Intelligence Analyst.

MATT REPOGLE Over the course of two decades in the risk, insurance, and consumer & retail industries, Matt has built a deep and diverse leadership career spanning brokerage, corporate risk management, and national practice development. Beginning his professional journey in risk and safety roles for major grocery and retail organizations, he steadily progressed into management positions overseeing in-house risk, insurance, and claims functions across large, multi-state retail operations. His experience includes leading teams of varying sizes, transitioning organizations through major structural changes, and managing complex risk functions for companies with hundreds to thousands of locations across the U.S. and Canada. This foundation shaped Matt into a seasoned advisor capable of operating at the intersection of operations, finance, and enterprise-level risk strategy. Matt's tenure in the insurance brokerage sector includes significant leadership roles at global brokerage & consulting firms, where he guided regional and national casualty practices and partnered closely with some of the largest companies in the world across multiple industries. He later expanded into executive leadership as Managing Director and Head of the U.S. Consumer & Retail Practice at Howden. Today, Matt leverages his cumulative experience—from leading risk teams inside Fortune-level enterprises to steering national brokerage & consulting practices—to help organizations strengthen risk governance, elevate operational resilience, and navigate complex exposures with assurance.

RON REYNOLDS is a Shareholder at Hilger Hammond PC where he has a diverse litigation practice which includes litigating real property, land use and eminent domain matters. Ron has served as Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Real Property Law Section and is currently Co-Chair of its Condemnation & Eminent Domain Committee. Recognized by Best Lawyers in America in Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, Land Use and Zoning Law, Real Estate Litigation, and Real Estate Law, Ron Reynolds was admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers in 2022. He holds degrees from Hillsdale College and Northwestern University School of Law.

MARK RIFFLE is an associate in Taft's Real Estate practice group in the Indianapolis office. He primarily provides counsel in connection with the acquisition, development, financing, construction, leasing, and disposition of commercial properties. Mark also assists landowners in navigating the negotiation of solar and wind leases. Prior to joining Taft, Mark worked at a well-known regional firm where he represented developers in connection with the acquisition, financing, leasing, and disposition of multiple commercial properties. He also has experience litigating business, personal injury, professional liability, premises liability, and transportation disputes. Mark earned his J.D., *cum laude*, from the Indiana Maurer School of Law and his bachelor's degree in history, *magna cum laude*, from Wabash College. While in law school, Mark was a judicial intern for the Hon. Sarah Evans Baker, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, and served as a managing editor of the *Indiana Law Journal*.

MEGAN ROBERTS acts as the Associate General Counsel, Global Real Estate at The Wendy's Company, based in Dublin, Ohio. At Wendy's since 2018 and leading a team of counsel and paralegals, Megan leads Wendy's physical growth across the US, Canada and UK. She is the primary legal advisor to the Company's U.S. and International Capital Committees, directs all legal aspects of new development (from LOI, through internal budgeting and financial analysis, contract or lease negotiations, due diligence, planning, zoning and entitlement processes, construction and opening, franchise leasing or subletting) and portfolio administration through and until disposition. Prior, she was a Partner at Ulmer & Berne (*nka* UB Greensfelder) where she practiced for 16 years representing another QSR brand, property owners and tenants, charitable institutions and local school districts.

HARLAN ROBINS assists clients in real estate transactions and structured finance including the acquisition of land acquisitions, joint venture formations, development and leasing for office, hotel, retail and shopping centers. He represents lenders in complex, multi-state workouts, deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure and foreclosure of real estate-secured loans, loan modifications and loan origination for permanent and construction financings, as well as mezzanine financing. Harlan has extensive experience in debtor-in-possession financing and performs real estate-related counseling in corporate bankruptcies and reorganizations. A lifelong Bexley, Ohio resident, Harlan serves as president of the Columbus Jewish Foundation, an affiliate organization of Jewish Columbus. He is also a member of the Collections Committee of the Columbus Museum of Art.

JESSICA ROSE is a partner in Reed Smith's real estate group. Jessica assists clients in developing the places people live, work, eat, play, and shop. Her practice focuses on the acquisition and disposition of real estate together with other governing documents, such as development agreements, ground leases, retail leases, restrictive covenants, and mall agreements. Jessica has extensive experience advising real estate investment trusts (REITs) on financing and sale leaseback transactions and regularly represents clients' real estate interests in stock purchase and asset purchase deals. In all cases, Jessica utilizes a solution-oriented, practical approach to help her clients achieve their business goals.

JUSTIN ROSS brings 20+ years of experience in civil engineering, land development, and infrastructure leadership to his position as Principal and Co-Founder of LIVIC Civil, a Pennsylvania-based engineering firm. A Professional Engineer licensed in eight states, he holds degrees from Penn State and the University of Delaware. He also serves as Chief Operating Officer and Head of Engineering for Pennsylvania Data Center Partners, overseeing operations and multidisciplinary teams through the entitlement, design, and construction lifecycle of next-generation hyperscale data center campuses. Justin has spent his career strengthening Central Pennsylvania's economic and technological base and was recognized by *Engineering News-Record* for excellence and growth.

JEFFREY SABATINE is Associate General Counsel with Chase Properties Ltd in Beachwood, Ohio. Jeff's practice includes retail leasing, financing and transactional matters. Prior to joining Chase, Jeff was Associate General Counsel for Brookfield Properties where he handled various operations and real estate matters for its multifamily portfolio; Associate General Counsel for Forest City Realty Trust where he handled a broad range of real estate matters including leasing, development and transactional matters for its retail/commercial portfolio and managed its uninsured litigation program; and Senior Corporate Counsel at Giant Eagle/Riser Foods where he handled various real estate, transactional and corporate law matters. Jeff received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

ALAN SABLE is a Partner in the Real Estate & Lending practice group at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr. Sable is a graduate of Colgate University and Penn State Dickinson Law. He is a member of the Pennsylvania bar and has over 33 years of experience offering legal advice in all areas of commercial real estate law, including purchases and sales of office, retail, multifamily and affordable housing properties, office and retail leasing transactions, and real estate development transactions. Mr. Sable's experience also includes zoning, land use and permitting matters, and acting as counsel to receivers in retail and other commercial real estate receivership matters. In addition, Mr. Sable has served as an expert witness on real estate title issues in federal and state court litigation, and is a licensed title insurance agent.

ANGELA ALEXANDER SAVINO joined Perez Morris in 1998. A veteran attorney, she focuses her practice on business litigation in the global supply chain & logistics, transportation/trucking and commercial real estate industries. In addition, she has broad practice area expertise including labor and employment, administrative, business and real property litigation, liquor regulation, corporate commercial transactions and cargo law. A registered nurse for more than 10 years, Angela brings a unique perspective to her practice. She understands illness and bodily injury allegations as well as care protocols and expectations. She was a member of nursing associations for many years and served on national committees shaping policies and standards applicable to American nurses. Angela was an Ohio Senate appointee to The Public Employment Risk Reduction Advisory Commission where she served for five years and actively participated in the development of the program's administrative practices to protect Ohio's public workplace employees from dangers and disease. Angela and her husband own an historic diner in Canal Winchester, Ohio, called Canal Wigwam. She has three children and two grandsons.

STEVE SCHAIN. ST2019 National Law Journal “Finance, Banking, & Capital Markets Trailblazer” award winner, Senior Counsel Steve Schain runs National Cannabis, Hemp and Psychedelics law firm [Smart-Counsel, LLC's](#) PA and NJ practices and its Financial Services Group Chair. Admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Steve represents entities, governments and individuals in litigation, regulation, compliance, preparing and submitting license applications, entity formation, and drafting legislation. A nationally recognized consumer finance litigation, banking law and cannabis law expert, Steve is an *American Lawyer Media* columnist, frequent Pennsylvania Bar Institute and National Bar Institute author and lecturer and serves as a court appointed judge *pro tempore* and arbitrator. Steve is also an Adjunct Faculty Member of, and teaches “Cannabis Law” at, Stockton University, one of only 12 universities offering a major in Cannabis Studies. A Psychedelic Bar Association founder, Steve serves on, and makes regular presentations to, the American Society of Testing and Measurement, the National Cannabis Industry Association, the International Cannabis Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Credit Union Association, Bank Secrecy Act Compliance Group, Cannabis Professional Advancement Series, and Marijuana Business Daily. Steve also serves on both Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia County administrative committees charged with drafting and revising state and local cannabis related regulations. Steve earned his B.A. degree from Pennsylvania State University and his J.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where he served as an editor of the Law Review and graduated with honors. Before entering private practice, Steve served as law clerk to a U.S. District Court judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

MICHAEL SCHOTTENSTEIN leads Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter’s celebrated Real Estate + Finance team, which is consistently recognized by Chambers USA for its work advising top real estate investors and developers on projects across the country. As outside general counsel to some of Central Ohio’s most recognizable developers, Michael guides projects from diligence, to acquisition and through financing, development and leasing. Honored by Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America, he brings deep experience in residential and commercial real estate law. Michael is a graduate of Syracuse University and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and resides in Bexley, Ohio, with his wife, three children, two cats and a dog.

JIM H. SCHWARZ represents real estate developers in the acquisition, development, financing, leasing and sale of real estate. He served as developer’s counsel in connection with the development and financing of the largest shopping mall in the United States, the Mall of America. Jim also has experience negotiating leases for regional developers, as well as ground leases for hotel sites adjacent to retail developments.

CARI SHEEHAN serves as the firm’s Assistant General Counsel of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP. In this role, she advises firm attorneys with respect to ethics compliance, risk prevention, and conflicts of interest. In addition, she assists in the review and negotiation of outside counsel guidelines, conflict waivers and engagement letters, and other items with ethical implications. In addition, she assists in providing ethical training and education within the firm to its attorneys and staff. Cari is also an Adjunct Professor at the IU Robert H. McKinney School where she teaches Professional Responsibility. She is also a former Assistant Clinical Professor of Business Law and Ethics at the Kelley School of Business. She is passionate about promoting ethical awareness, integrity, and professionalism in the legal and business fields and contributing to the advancement of knowledge and practice in these domains. Cari is a frequent presenter and author on ethics and professionalism in the legal industry. She is a reoccurring author with the Res Gestae regarding the Ethics Curbstone and has been quoted in publications for her knowledge on ethical topics. Cari is also an avid speaker having given over 200 seminars on ethics and professionalism for various local and national platforms. Her primary area of research is regarding the ethics of AI and how it affects the legal and business community.

REED SIRAK. A trusted advisor to private equity firms, REITs and middle-market businesses, Reed guides clients in assessing, structuring, and managing risks associated with acquiring and disposing of businesses and real property while helping them develop and implement transformative growth strategies. Reed advises on environmental issues in the context of corporate and real estate transactions, litigation, regulatory compliance, and government investigations and enforcement matters. He provides strategic counsel to businesses nationwide throughout the investment lifecycle, from mitigating environmental liabilities during due diligence to ensuring regulatory, reporting and permit compliance in portfolio management and transaction structuring. As a member of Benesch's Environmental, Corporate, Real Estate, Energy, and Transportation & Logistics groups, Reed possesses uncommonly broad knowledge and experience. With a nuanced understanding of sophisticated environmental, health, and safety laws, an interdisciplinary approach, and a big-picture perspective, he identifies issues and delivers comprehensive solutions tailored to each client's needs.

JENNIFER T. SOMMA is Senior Underwriting Counsel for the Pittsburgh Office of the National Commercial Services Division of First American Title Insurance Company. She underwrites commercial real estate transactions in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States. Before joining First American, she practiced real estate law at firms in Eastern Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia. She received her law degree from The University of Pittsburgh School of Law and her B.A. from Colgate University.

CHRISTINA SPRECHER is the Practice Group Leader for Real Estate at FBT Gibbons and serves on the firm's Compensation Committee. As Practice Group Leader, she leads a team of approximately 80 real estate practitioners who handle all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, development, and financing. With respect to her own practice, spanning more than 20 years, Christina has advised clients on complex and multi-faceted deals involving various project types, such as shopping center, retail, restaurant, office, data center, telecommunications, manufacturing, industrial/warehouse, multifamily, and mixed-use projects. She has represented global, national, and regional clients, including real estate investment trusts, developers, and operators, in major financial transactions, including sale/leaseback arrangements. Her mission is to provide effective and innovative solutions for her clients' real estate needs and challenges. Christina has extensive experience representing clients in the data center and telecommunications industries, including data center operators and owners, high-speed internet, video, voice and data providers, as well as third-party users of such services, with respect to data center, fiber network, and cell site leases, Colocation Agreements, MSAs, SLAs, license and marketing agreements, easement agreements and revenue sharing agreements. In connection with her data center work, Christina provides "soup to nuts" solutions working with her team across practice areas important to such projects, including, but not limited to, land use and zoning, economic incentives, state and local tax, environmental, including Brownfields, and construction. Christina is a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL), a prestigious national organization of real estate attorneys. Admission to ACREL is by invitation only after a rigorous screening process. She was also named a "Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer" in 2024 and 2025 as a result of being one of the three most outstanding lawyers one (or more) of her global clients worked with in the last three years as part of Thomson Reuters' global research with senior in-house counsel.

MICHAEL W. WARD is a transactional lawyer and deal maker. His practice is focused on commercial real estate, financing and corporate matters, including, without limitation, real estate joint venture work, sale/leasebacks, traditional and mezzanine financing, fund formation matters, acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, and real estate development in various asset classes (i.e., Office, Retail, Multi-Family and Industrial). Michael acts as general outside counsel to a number of clients, including, real estate owners and developers. Michael advises and counsels clients on a wide variety of legal issues in commercial real estate transactions and corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, real estate acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, construction, and financing. Michael also frequently handles real estate transactions in healthcare, including for medical office, dental offices, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities. His unique approach to client matters emanates from Michael's adherence to practical solutions from a business perspective. What's best for the client is at the heart of what's best for the deal.



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JASON WRONA's practice centers on complex, transformative real estate projects requiring innovative legal strategy, political insight, and effective stakeholder engagement. With a strong foundation in real estate and municipal law, Jason counsels on a variety of real estate transactions across all asset classes, with a particular focus on development and redevelopment. He frequently represents clients before elected officials and community leaders, guiding high-profile transactions through every stage. Regarding the data center industry, Jason presently represents a joint venture party to a \$15 billion project with three hyperscale data center campuses in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The new AI data hub, Pennsylvania Digital 1 (PAX-1), will deliver 1.35 GW of capacity with expandability up to 1.8 GW. His client and their partner are aggressively pursuing similar opportunities in surrounding states.