



Frank E. Arado

Partner and Co-Chair, Global Real Estate Department

Real Estate

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Frank Arado has a broad-based, national practice with extensive experience in closing diverse real estate transactions, including the origination, modification and restructuring of commercial mortgage loans, the sale of loan pools and the leasing and sale of office buildings, data centers and all other types of assets. Frank also serves as a trusted advisor to developers and equity sources for the development and ownership of a variety of real estate assets.

Understands lending and leasing for diverse assets

When debt funds and institutional lenders need to close complex real estate finance deals or negotiate and document corporate or real estate loan restructurings, they turn to Frank. Frank's lending experience includes a focus on construction lending for various types of assets, secured and unsecured loans in hospitality and retail and negotiating and documenting loan and corporate restructurings secured by real estate, primarily as counsel to senior lenders and lender groups. He also represents commercial banks in their sale of individual loans and pools of loans secured by real estate.

In addition to his deep lending experience, Frank has nearly 25 years of leasing experience and began his career handling the leasing of the "Amoco Building" in Chicago. He continues to represent various corporate entities and their owners in the leasing and ownership of their assets. Frank has negotiated some of the largest leases across the country and has experience in the leasing and sale of office, financial center, data center and ground leased assets. He has also developed strong experience in lease financing and represents clients in a number of credit-tenant leases, synthetic leases, sale-leasebacks and other lease financing transactions.

Focused on the end game

Frank makes it a goal to close his complex deals on his client's desired timeline. To accomplish this, he keeps a rigorous focus on the end game. He emphasizes his client's key objectives without wasting time negotiating irrelevant provisions. That approach allowed him to close a large portfolio loan of 10 assets in just 15 business days for one of the world's largest

Practices

- Private Equity
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Acquisitions, Dispositions and Joint Ventures
- Real Estate Development
- Real Estate Finance and Lending
- Real Estate Leasing Transactions
- Structured Products and Derivatives

Industries

- Construction
- Data Centers
- Finance and Financial Markets
- Hospitality
- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, University of Illinois
- MBA, University of Illinois
- BA, The University of Chicago

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- North Carolina

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Charlotte Chamber of Commerce
- Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Charlotte
- Leadership Charlotte

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banks. Executing the deal in such a short timeframe was all the more impressive because it was his client's first deal with the borrower and it involved numerous legal issues of first impression.

Creativity and determination help Frank overcome obstacles to his clients' financings and transactions, whether he is finding innovative ways around restrictive transfer requirements or creating unique solutions to difficult title issues. As head of the firm's Real Estate Finance and Lending practice, he has the full resources of his group to aid in any deals that demand them.

Representative Experience

- Represented a commercial bank in connection with a \$125 million credit facility and construction loan for Toringdon Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Represented a commercial bank as the anchor tenant in the construction and leasing of 555,000 square feet in a newly constructed Class AA office tower in Chicago, Illinois.
- Represented a commercial bank in the sale and leaseback of three data center facilities for \$185 million located in three states.
- Represented a commercial bank in the restructuring of a \$7 billion credit facility for a large casino/hotel operator secured by casinos and hotels in multiple states.*
- Represented a commercial bank in the restructuring of a \$3 billion construction loan for a casino and resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, which remains the largest private construction project in the United States.*
- Represented a commercial bank in connection with a \$200 million credit facility to a national homebuilder for the construction of various projects throughout the United States.*
- Represented a commercial bank in connection with a \$100 million credit facility to a regional homebuilder for the construction of five projects throughout North Carolina.*
- Represented a commercial bank in connection with the forbearance of over 100 homebuilder loans throughout North Carolina and South Carolina.*

*Experience prior to Katten

- Queens University of Charlotte, McColl School of Business Board of Advisors
- Toastmasters, Charlotte Chapter
- American College of Mortgage Attorneys
- Urban Land Institute

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Real Estate Law, 2018–2026
- *Chambers USA*
 - Real Estate: Finance, 2012–2026
- *Charlotte Business Journal*
 - 40 Under 40, 2010
- Connect CRE
 - Annual Lawyers in Real Estate, 2023
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Recommended Attorney, 2011, 2020–2021, 2023–2026
- *Super Lawyers*
 - North Carolina, 2017–2026

News

- Katten Earns Top Rankings in the Legal 500 US 2026 Guide (June 10, 2026)
- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Katten Attorneys Named to North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (February 18, 2026)
- Katten Celebrates 101 Attorneys Honored by *Best Lawyers*® (August 21, 2025)
- Katten Receives High Marks in the Legal 500 US 2025 Guide (June 11, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2025 North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (March 14, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)

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- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (February 9, 2024)
- Katten Co-Hosts 17th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market in Charlotte (January 29, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Lauded in The Legal 500 United States 2023 (June 9, 2023)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide* 2023 (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Real Estate Leader Frank Arado Named to 2023 North Carolina Super Lawyers List (January 25, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Ranked Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2022 (June 1, 2022)
- Katten, Cushman & Wakefield Mark 15th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (March 22, 2022)
- Katten Real Estate Finance Leader Named to 2022 North Carolina Super Lawyers List (January 18, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA* 2021 (May 20, 2021)
- Katten Discusses Outlook of Commercial Real Estate Industry in Annual Outlook on Commercial Real Estate Market Event (January 29, 2021)
- Katten, Cushman & Wakefield to Hold 14th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (January 26, 2021)
- Katten Real Estate Finance and Litigation Leaders Named to 2021 North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 14, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Rated Top Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2020 (April 23, 2020)

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- Katten Earns Spot on 2020 North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 23, 2020)
- Katten co-sponsors 13th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (January 14, 2020)
- Katten, Cushman & Wakefield to Host 13th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (January 8, 2020)
- Katten Lauded Top Ranked Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2019 (April 25, 2019)
- North Carolina Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists Spotlight Katten Trio (January 24, 2019)
- Katten Rated as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2018 (May 3, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2018 North Carolina Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2018)
- Katten Recognized as Leading Law Firm by *Chambers USA* 2017 (May 30, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2017 North Carolina *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Lists (January 20, 2017)
- *Chambers USA* 2016 Distinguishes 22 Katten Practices and 50 Attorneys (May 27, 2016)
- Frank Arado Quoted on Apartment Market Growth (January 29, 2016)
- Economist, Real Estate Professionals To Examine 2016 Charlotte Outlook (January 26, 2016)
- Katten Attains 22 Practice and 58 Attorney Rankings by *Chambers USA* 2015 (May 20, 2015)
- *Chambers USA* 2014 Distinguishes 24 Katten Practices and 54 Attorneys (May 23, 2014)
- *Chambers USA* 2013 Recognizes 24 Katten Practices and 49 Attorneys (May 24, 2013)
- *Chambers USA* 2012 Distinguishes 19 Katten Practices and 45 Attorneys (June 7, 2012)

Publications

- 18th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (March 21, 2025)
- Real Estate Covid-19 Resource Center (April 1, 2021)

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- The COVID-19 Pandemic: Impacts on Real Estate Transactions (March 23, 2020)

Presentations and Events

- ALIS Law 2026 (January 25–26, 2026)
- IMN's Borrower & Investor Forum on Real Estate Mezzanine Financing & Subordinated Debt (November 27–28, 2012) | Moderator | *Hotel: Where Does This Market Now Stand? Worth a Closer Look?*