



Karen M. Nelson

Managing Partner, Charlotte

Real Estate

Charlotte Office | +1.704.444.2035

karen.nelson@katten.com

With an emphasis on the origination and restructuring of debt secured by real estate assets, Karen Nelson, managing partner of Katten's Charlotte office, advises on a range of commercial real estate finance matters. Recognized as a leading lawyer by *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* and the *Charlotte Business Journal*, Karen represents commercial banks, investment banks, insurance companies and REITS. She handles matters related to real assets of all types, including office, retail, hotel, apartment, homebuilder, condominium and industrial properties. Karen is also a LEED Accredited Professional.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Real Estate Law, 2019–2026
 - Lawyer of the Year
 - Real Estate Law, 2025
- *Charlotte Business Journal*
 - 40 Under 40, 2014
 - Women in Business Achievement, 2021
- *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly*
 - Leader in the Law, 2015
- *Real Estate Forum*
 - Southeast Woman of Influence, 2015

News

- Mike Shaffer Rejoins Katten as a Partner in Structured Finance (March 27, 2026)

Practices

- Real Estate
- Real Estate Acquisitions, Dispositions and Joint Ventures
- Real Estate Finance and Lending

Education

- JD, Northwestern University
- BA, University of Notre Dame

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina

Karen M. Nelson

Managing Partner, Charlotte

- Katten Expands Noted Private Credit Group With Complex Financing Pro R. Kader Crawford (September 10, 2025)
- Katten Celebrates 101 Attorneys Honored by *Best Lawyers*® (August 21, 2025)
- Katten and Cushman & Wakefield Host Industry Leaders at 2025 Commercial Real Estate Outlook (January 27, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Co-Hosts 17th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market in Charlotte (January 29, 2024)
- Katten, Cushman & Wakefield Gather Thought Leaders in Charlotte for 2024 Commercial Real Estate Outlook (January 26, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten, Cushman & Wakefield Mark 15th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (March 22, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Karen Nelson Profiled by *Law.com* on How She Made Office Managing Partner (July 27, 2021)
- Karen Nelson Featured in *Charlotte Business Journal* for Receiving Women in Business Award (March 23, 2021)
- *Charlotte Business Journal* Selects Karen Nelson for Women in Business Achievement Award (February 11, 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)
- Karen Nelson Featured in *Charlotte Business Journal* as New Head of Katten's Charlotte Office (January 19, 2021)
- Katten Taps Karen Nelson to Lead Charlotte Office (January 15, 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)

Karen M. Nelson

Managing Partner, Charlotte

- 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)
- Karen Nelson profiled in *The Glass Hammer* about success as commercial real estate finance attorney (July 29, 2019)
- Partner Karen Nelson Named One of "Leaders in the Law" by *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* (October 12, 2015)
- Partner Karen Nelson Named a Southeast Woman of Influence (May 18, 2015)
- *Charlotte Business Journal* Names Partner Karen Nelson to 40 Under 40 List for 2014 (March 31, 2014)

Publications

- 18th Annual Outlook on the Commercial Real Estate Market (March 21, 2025)
- How Will Rising Interest Rates and Economic Uncertainty Impact Real Estate Industry in 2024? (March 1, 2024)