



Jordan H. Peters

Of Counsel | Chicago

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Areas of Practice

Distressed Debt | Real Estate Law | Real Estate Leasing

Jordan H. Peters is Of Counsel in the Real Estate Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Mr. Peters was a Founding Partner of Freeborn & Peters, which combined with SGR in 2023.

For most of his legal career, Mr. Peters has engaged in a commercial real estate practice and has more than 30 years of experience representing parties to real estate transactions. His current practice is focused on acquisitions and dispositions, real estate-based financings, and leasing. His clients include developers, lenders, investors, and corporate owners and lessees of office, industrial, and retail properties. He also has a background in transactions involving specialized real estate interests such as mineral estates and railroad rights of way. Mr. Peters also has participated in and supervised many transactions in which the Firm has acted as issuer's counsel and underwriter's counsel in government financings. He regularly acts as local counsel in large, multi-jurisdictional financings where loan parties or collateral are located in Illinois. He works closely with lawyers in the Firm's Corporate Practice representing clients in mergers, acquisitions, and dispositions where significant real estate assets are involved.

Mr. Peters is also active in real estate professional societies and in legal education relating to real estate, and provides pro bono representation to charitable organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area with needs in areas of real estate, project finance, and corporate governance.

Mr. Peters is an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Center for Real Estate Law at The John Marshall Law School, where he is currently teaching Real Estate Finance. Mr. Peters earned his B.A. from Brown University. He received his J.D. from UIC John Marshall Law School, *with highest honors*, and graduated first in his class. He served as Editor-in-Chief of The John Marshall Journal of Practice and Procedure (now known as The John Marshall Law Review).

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Representative Experience

- Development of mixed-use commercial, hotel, and residential project in downtown Chicago. Represented the developer in acquiring the site and amending an existing declaration of covenants, easements and restrictions to enable development of the project and in connection with the site plan approvals.
- Sale of a large residential portfolio in the Chicago metropolitan area. Represented the sellers in negotiating the listing agreement for the properties, negotiating the purchase and sale agreement, closing the sale transaction, and resolving a number of transition/post-closing issues.
- Purchase and partial sale of a tract of airport land. Represented client in a complex transaction involving the purchase of a tract of land adjacent to an airport and negotiating with the airport authority an access agreement, a ground lease, a road easement, and the sale to the authority of part of the purchased land.
- Acquisition of vertically subdivided office parcel. Provided local counsel assistance for the acquisition of an existing, vertically separated, office parcel in downtown Chicago, including an analysis of the zoning and other entitlements applicable to the site. Also provided an analysis of the vertical subdivision, including the respective rights of the office parcel. Also provided assistance with the closing, including an opinion of counsel for the assumed financing.
- Sale of air rights. Provided local counsel assistance to the seller of air rights for a development project in downtown Chicago, including advice concerning the agreement for the sale of air rights and the potential impact of the zoning approvals being sought by the developer.
- Purchase of an operating railroad. Represented Canada's largest freight railroad and intermodal transportation provider's purchase of a railroad operating in the suburbs surrounding Chicago, from a major integrated steel producer.
- Development of a church and community center on Chicago's west side. Represented a church, pro bono, in connection with the assembly of a development site in Chicago and the financing and construction contracts for development of a church building and community center.

Admissions

Illinois

Memberships

Former Board Member and President, Ely Chapter, Lambda Alpha International, an honorary land economics society

Former Member, Lambda Alpha International Board of Governors

Board of Trustees, The John Marshall Law School

Board of Directors, The John Marshall Law School Foundation

President and Member of the Board of Directors, Chicago Bar Association Condominium Association

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Recognitions

The Best Lawyers in America® - Real Estate Law, 2022.

Leading Lawyers Network Magazine - Top 100 Real Estate-Related Lawyers - 2019 (cited in multiple years).

Martindale-Hubbell legal ability/ethical standards rating ("A-V") - Highest possible rating.

Illinois Leading Lawyers - 2020 (cited in multiple years).