

# FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES



## **Andrea D. Ascher**

*MTA Deputy General Counsel, Real Estate*  
(212) 878-7255; [aascher@mtahq.org](mailto:aascher@mtahq.org)

Andrea D. Ascher was recently appointed MTA Deputy General Counsel to head the real estate legal group at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and its agencies, including Metro North, LIRR, NYC Transit, Buses & Terminals, Bridges and Tunnels and MTA Capital Corporation.

Prior to joining the MTA, Ms. Ascher was formerly with Schoeman Updike Kaufman Stern & Ascher LLP, a certified woman-owned firm (*Partner*, 2010 to 2014), Proskauer Rose LLP (*Partner*, 2007 to 2010) and Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP (*Counsel*, 1998 to 2007). She began her career in 1977 at Trubin, Sillocks, Edelman & Knapp, a law firm, founded by Senator Jacob Javits and former NYS Assistant Attorney General John Trubin, which firm, with a commercial real estate law department of over 40 attorneys and paralegals, was special real estate counsel to Citicorp at the time.

Ms. Ascher, while in the private sector, had a multi-faceted national transactional real estate law practice focusing on real estate lending and finance, including syndicated and securitized financings, debt restructures and workouts, acquisitions, dispositions and development, construction related and lien law issues, project and property management agreements and commercial leasing, regularly representing institutional lenders and borrowers, owners, and commercial landlords and tenants, involving all types of commercial properties including office buildings, shopping center, hotel, multi-use and multi-family properties. She worked on the construction loan financings of many of our iconic properties, including the South Street Seaport and the Blumberg building.

A recognized leader in her field, Ms. Ascher was named to *Who's Who of American Women* (14th edition; 1985-86), was elected to the American College of Real Estate Lawyers in 1993, is a fellow member of the American College of Mortgage Attorneys, has been listed as a New York SuperLawyer annually since its inception in 2006 and has a Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV Preeminent (5.0 out of 5). She served as Chair of the New York City Bar Association, Real Property Law Committee from 2011 to 2014, and as Co-chair of the New York State Bar Association, Committee on Financing and Liens. Apart from her numerous industry organization memberships, Ms. Ascher is also a frequent lecturer and speaker in her field. She is a graduate of Emory University School of Law and Cornell University, and remains actively involved in her alma maters, having served on the Dean's Advisory Board of her law school and the Dean's Advisory Council of her undergraduate college.

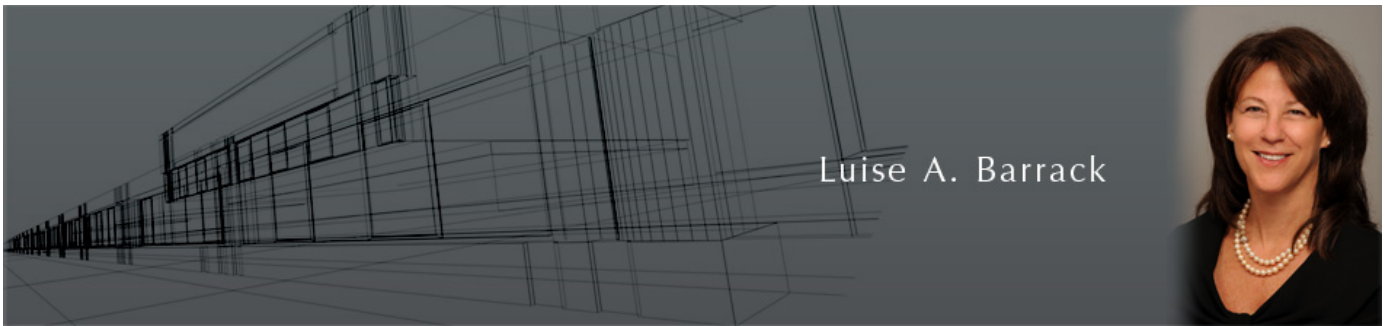
Ms. Ascher and her husband, Paul Ascher, a well-regarded criminal defense attorney, live in the Town of New Castle, New York, and have two sons, Zachary (Cornell '13) and Michael (Cornell '16).



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Luise A. Barrack

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PRACTICE AREAS

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CONTACT

## Luise A. Barrack

**Luise A. Barrack**

Managing Member

**Location:** New York, New York

**Phone:** 212-551-8430

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Brief description of your legal issue

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Luise A. Barrack is the Managing Member of Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. She co-heads the firm's Litigation Department, imparting her trial and appellate experience to the firm. She is a staunch advocate for her clients, many of whom she has represented for almost 30 years. Her no-nonsense approach has helped make Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. the tough and highly respected law firm it is today.

Ms. Barrack's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels. She has substantial expertise in all facets of real estate litigation, and is an experienced practitioner in the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court. Her real estate practice concentrates on representing developers, commercial owners, hoteliers, not for profit corporations and educational institutions. Ms. Barrack is also one of New York City's leading Loft Law experts, handling legalization, valuation of loft fixtures, and the costs of code compliance.

Matters handled by Ms. Barrack include: defeating a claim that a developer was required to conduct an environmental study prior to filing an administrative proceeding for permission not to renew rent stabilized tenants' leases in order to demolish a Central Park South building; reaching a multimillion dollar deal and property exchange with Columbia University; representing New York Law School in recovering a site essential to building its new urban campus; and defeating a party claiming an option to purchase an interest in a High Line building containing a chic and extremely high profile nightclub.

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SUBMIT

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#### IN-DEPTH INFORMATION:

- ◀ **Administrative Law / Rent Regulations**
  - ◀ **Appellate Law**
  - ◀ **Litigation**
  - ◀ **Transactional Law**
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#### CONTACT

**Rosenberg & Estis, P.C.**

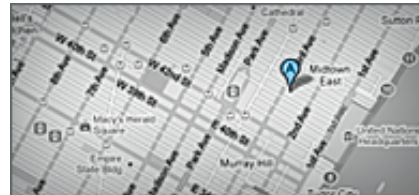
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#### NEW YORK LAW OFFICE



Ms. Barrack also represents owners and developers in construction litigation, developments, demolitions and assemblages, and disputes including succession rights, non-primary residence, and owner occupancy. In addition, she is seasoned in cooperative, condominium, and shareholder disputes. In one such matter, Ms. Barrack obtained a judgment for maintenance withheld by a real estate attorney shareholder for his Park Avenue co-op and an order requiring him to pay the bulk of the attorneys' fees he caused his co-op to incur.

### **Year Joined Firm**

1984

### **Areas of Practice**

Litigation (Commercial)

Litigation (Real Estate)

Landlord Tenant Law

Loft Law

### **Bar Admissions**

New York, 1981

U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York, 1981

U.S. District Court Southern District of New York, 1981

### **Education**

#### **New York Law School**

J.D. - 1980

Honors: Member, Moot Court

Association, 1978-1979

Law Review: New York Law School Law Review, Member, 1978 - 1979

Law Review: New York Law School Law Review, Research Editor, 1979 - 1980

**State University of New York at Stony Brook**

B.A. (*Cum Laude*) - 1977

**Representative Cases**

*Matter of 220 CPS "Save Our Homes" Assn. v. New York State Div. of Hous. & Community Renewal*, 60 A.D.3d 593, 877 N.Y.S.2d 21 (2009)

**Classes/Seminars**

R&E's 2013 In-house Lecture Series: Attorney Client Relations 101 (Ethics), May 1, 2013

PLI - Catastrophe and the Law: What Lawyers Need to Know to Advise Clients to Prepare and Respond to Disasters 2013 (Real Estate Litigation, Property Law and Landlord-Tenant Law), April 4, 2013

2nd Annual 2013 Real Estate Weekly Women's Forum - Women Who Rule: CEO and Founder's Round Table, February 27, 2013

NYSBA 2012 Advanced Real Estate Transactions - Careful What You Say: Ethics in Real Estate, December 6, 2012

IMN-2nd Annual Real Estate General Counsel's Forum (What is on your Checklist? Property Acquisitions & Due Diligence), September 10-11, 2012

SL Green - Residential Rent Law Seminar, April 20, 2012

Commercial Summary Proceedings -

Landlord Representation for the Civil Court  
in the County of Kings, March 2, 2012

Current Real Estate Leasing Issues  
(Including Ethics and Civility), New York  
State Bar Association, Real Property Law  
Section – Annual Meeting, January 26,  
2012

CLE - “Hot Topics Affecting Cooperatives &  
Condominiums- Cases & Marketplace  
Developments in the Last Six Months”,  
October 2014

## **Honors and Awards**

Selected for inclusion in New York Super  
Lawyers, 2006 - 2014

AV Rated by Martindale Hubbell

Honored by Real Estate New York as a  
"Woman of Influence" in its November  
2008 Edition

Joseph Solomon Scholar, University of  
Bologna School of Law, Italy

Honored by Real Estate Weekly as an  
Industry Leader, August 2010 Edition

Selected for inclusion in New York Super  
Lawyers Top Women Attorneys in the New  
York Metro Area, 2012 - 2014

Honored by Real Estate Forum as a  
"Woman of Influence" in its July/August  
2011 - 2014 Edition

## **Professional Associations and Memberships**

New York City Bar Association, Member,  
Committee on the Judiciary, Class of 2010-  
2013

New York City Bar Association, Member,



Committee on Cooperative and  
Condominium Law Committee, 2013-2015

Member of the Irvington Village Zoning  
Board, 2014-2018

### **Pro Bono Activities**

YMCA Development Committee,  
Leadership Council



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Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. is located in New York City. Our attorneys practice in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Island, Westchester County, Nassau County, Suffolk County and the Tri-State Area. We have appeared in connection with litigation, transactions and leasing throughout the country.

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**Gerald W. Blume** is Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Rockefeller Group Development Corporation. His practice includes all aspects of ownership and development of commercial office and industrial properties and mixed use properties around the country. He has been with the company since 1990. He has been involved with the development of Flushing Commons since the project's inception in 1995. Among his other transactions, he has been involved in the acquisition and development of The Green at Florham Park, a large multi-use project in Florham Park, New Jersey that is home to the New York Jets and the North American

headquarters of BASF Corporation; the operation of over 2 million square feet of first class office space in midtown Manhattan, and the acquisition, financing and operation of office properties in Washington DC, San Francisco, LA and Boston on behalf of an institutional fund. Prior to joining The Rockefeller Group, Mr. Blume was an Associate at the New York City law firm of Willkie Farr Gallagher. Mr. Blume holds a BA degree from the University of Connecticut and a JD degree from Columbia Law School.



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Practice Groups:  
[Corporate Transactions; Real Estate;](#)  
[Private Practice](#)

Honors and Awards:  
Fellow, American College of Real Estate Lawyers; New York Superlawyers (2008-2014); Former Chair, New York City Bar Association Real Property Law Committee; Former Chair, New York City Committee on Cooperatives and Condominiums

Education:  
B.A., Douglas College, 1968;  
M.A., UCLA, 1971;  
J.D., Rutgers University, 1978, *with honors*; *American Jurisprudence Award in Constitutional Law*

Admissions:  
New York  
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

## Nancy Ann Connery, Partner



Nancy Connery's area of concentration is real estate law. She has a general real estate practice and has represented individuals, public and private companies, utilities, and not-for-profit entities in a variety of real estate matters, including:

***Leasing and Other Space Transactions:*** Ms Connery has negotiated office, loft, retail, and industrial space leases, garage leases, ground leases, easements, and licenses.

***Purchases and Sales:*** As part of her commercial practice Ms. Connery also has represented clients in the purchase and sale of office buildings, loft buildings, industrial buildings, and other commercial space; negotiated tenant buyouts in connection with such acquisitions; and overseen the real estate aspects of government-granted economic benefits. Ms. Connery also represents her private and corporate clients in the purchase and sale of residential real estate, including cooperative apartments, condominiums, and houses.

***Lending:*** She has represented both lenders and borrowers in residential and commercial mortgage loans.

***Cooperatives and Condominiums:*** Ms Connery's practice includes conversions of buildings to cooperatives, and the general representation of both cooperatives and condominiums.

***General:*** Ms. Connery's real estate practice involves her in a variety of real estate related matters, including brokerage issues, construction issues, trespass claims, partition litigation, and other matters.

Before practicing law, Ms. Connery taught high school biology, chemistry and physics.

### Professional Recognition:

- Member, American College of Real Estate Lawyers
- New York *SuperLawyers*, 2008-2014

### Professional Activities:

New York State Bar Association

- Member, Executive Committee of Real Estate Section
- Member, Cooperative and Condominium Law Committee, and Commercial Leasing Committee
- Ms. Connery has participated in the drafting of a model form of mortgage opinion, model contract of sale for cooperative apartment, model form of sublease and overlandlord consent, model form of office lease, model form of

contract of sale for a commercial office building, and a model form of ground lease. She also chaired a Task Force that evaluated proposed cooperative disclosure legislation

#### The Association of the Bar of the City of New York

- Former Chair, Committee on Real Property Law
- Former Chair, Committee on Cooperative and Condominium Law
- Member

#### National Association of Women Lawyers

- Member

#### American Bar Association

- Chair - Assignment and Subletting Committee, Leasing Group
- Member, Leasing Group

### Publications and Speaking Engagements:

- "Tips for Negotiating the Small Office Space Lease," The Practical Real Estate Lawyer's Manual On Commercial Leasing in Troubled Times (ALI ABA 2009).
- "Tenant Buyouts," NYSBA N.Y. Real Property Law Journal, Winter 2008, Vol. 36, No. 1.
- Chapter Author, "Negotiating and Drafting Office Leases" (Law Journal Seminars-Press).
- "Courtesy, Professionalism and Ethics: E-mail, the Internet and Computers," Fall 2002 New York Real Property Law Journal (New York State Bar Association).
- "Evicting Defaulting Sponsors and Investors and Terminating Their Interests," Metes and Bounds (publication of Real Property Law Committee of the The Association of the Bar of the City of New York).
- Chapter Author, Practising Law Institute Handbook series (chapters on security deposits, bankruptcy boilerplate leasing concepts; subleases; letters of credit, leasehold mortgage financing, and construction issues).
- Speaker, programs on commercial leasing and other aspects of real estate law sponsored by the Practising Law Institute, ALI-ABA, the New York State Bar Association, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Topics she has covered include compliance with laws, construction issues, bankruptcy, security, letters of credit, the Americans with Disabilities Act, ground leases, and assignment and subleasing. She has also participated in panels on residential transactions and lending transactions.

#### EDUCATIONAL:

- Faculty Member, Real Estate Institute, New York University (1987-1990)

# RICHARD S. FRIES

Partner

New York

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## PRACTICES

- Global Finance
- Real Estate

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Real Estate Litigation
- Acquisition and Disposition
- Construction and Real Estate Development
- Corporate and Institutional Real Estate
- Debt Financing
- Financial Institutions Litigation
- Private Equity and Joint Ventures
- Real Estate Workouts and Restructurings

## ADMISSIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

- U.S. Supreme Court, 1981
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims, 1981
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit, 1980
- U.S. District Court, E.D. of New York, 1978
- U.S. District Court, S.D. of New York, 1978
- New York, 1978

## EDUCATION

- New York University School of Law (J.D., 1977)
- Brooklyn College (B.A., 1974)

RICHARD FRIES is well-known throughout the New York and national legal, real estate and finance communities. According to *Chambers USA*, “true master negotiator” Richard Fries is a “superstar” who is regarded as “one of the premier real estate litigators in the City.” *Chambers* notes that he is “extremely well respected for his collaborative approach and expertise in complex workout and restructuring matters.” This year, *Who's Who Legal* acknowledged Richard as one of the ten “Most Highly Regarded” real estate lawyers in the Americas.

As a member of the Real Estate team, Richard focuses his practice on a wide array of complex real estate financing transactions, in which he represents national and global institutional lenders, investment banks and private equity firms.

Richard has been involved in the financing, foreclosure and restructuring of permanent, construction, acquisition and mezzanine loans of all types, including agented and syndicated facilities, secured by office buildings, land development projects, healthcare complexes, hotels, mixed-use projects, apartment buildings, shopping centers, franchise operations and automobile dealerships, among other real estate and business assets.

Richard is particularly distinguished for his work in high-profile distressed commercial loan workouts and restructurings, mortgage foreclosure, distressed portfolio and asset sales, creditors’ rights and insolvency. He has developed a unique market-leading practice using litigation tools to restructure real estate loans, projects and businesses. His experience and reputation in loan workouts has been acknowledged by *Chambers* as “legendary.”

He also has extensive experience representing private equity investors, property owners and developers in real estate joint ventures, commercial real estate litigation, construction, hospitality and partnership disputes, asset disposition, loan portfolio sales and project development.

Richard also represents national lending institutions in the purchase and sale of performing and underperforming loan portfolios, real estate assets and participation interests in loans, and the

implementation of national standard loan and workout programs and documentation for real estate, commercial and private banking loan products.

Richard has been highly recognized by *Chambers USA* as one of the country's leading real estate lawyers. He has been ranked by *Chambers* in "Band 1" in Real Estate Nationwide for 2013 (the year such rankings began) and 2014 and in "Band 1" for Real Estate Finance in New York each year from 2009 through 2014. He has also been recognized as a Leading Lawyer in *Legal 500* for Real Estate and was named by *Best Lawyers* as its Real Estate Litigation Lawyer of the Year in New York City in 2013.

### **Awards & Honors**

- *Chambers USA*, Real Estate Finance, New York, Band 1 (2009-2014)
- *Chambers USA*, Real Estate, Nationwide, Band 1 (2013-2014)
- *Legal 500*, Real Estate (2007, 2009, 2011, 2013)
- *Best Lawyers*, New York City Litigation - Real Estate Lawyer of the Year (2013)
- *Best Lawyers*, Real Estate (2008, 2010-2015)
- *International Who's Who of Real Estate Lawyers* (2010-2014)
- *Who's Who Legal*, Real Estate (2010-2014)
- *Law360*, Real Estate MVP (2011)
- *NY Super Lawyers*, Top 100 list (2011-2014)
- *NY Super Lawyers*, Real Estate (2006-2014)
- *Guide to the World's Leading Real Estate Lawyers* (2008, 2010, 2012)
- *Real Estate Weekly's* "All Stars in Real Estate" (2008)

### **EXPERIENCE**

Recent Representative Transactions Include:

- Representation of several financial institutions in the origination and syndication of numerous acquisition, construction and development loans secured by existing real estate projects and new development sites located throughout the New York metropolitan area.
- Representation of a group of European financial institutions in the recapitalization and restructuring of a real estate loan secured by a high-profile office building located in San Francisco.
- Representation of a private equity investor in the recapitalization of more than \$2 billion of distressed multi-site development projects located in Southern and Central California (each consisting of several thousand residential land development lots), as well as hotels and apartment complexes located nationwide.

- Representation of several financial institutions in distressed real estate loan workouts, mortgage foreclosures, restructures and insolvency proceedings involving several hotels and related hospitality assets located throughout the country.
- Representation of a lender syndicate, as senior lender, in the foreclosure, workout and ultimate disposition of a multi-tiered, multi-lender loan secured by The Ritz Carlton Club and The Residences at Kapalua Bay, Maui, Hawaii, a development consisting of hundreds of condominium units and fractional time shares managed, operated and controlled by Ritz Carlton.
- Representation of a financial institution in the workout, through a future transfer (secured by springing guaranties) of title in lieu of foreclosure, of a first mortgage loan on the Verizon Building, a vacant 800,000 square foot property located in lower Manhattan.
- Representation of a global financial institution in the sale, disposition and liquidation, over the past several years, of several portfolios of commercial real estate loans and hundreds of individual loans, each secured by real estate assets located throughout the country.
- Representation of private equity firms in the acquisition of distressed real estate loans and the subsequent enforcement of remedies to facilitate the transfer of ownership of the loans into ownership of the underlying assets.

*\*Includes matters handled prior to joining Sidley.*

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Author, “Commercial Division’s Rocket Docket,” [\*New York Law Journal\*](#) (August 18, 2014)
- Co-author, “Distressed Real Estate Loan Dispute Resolution in 2012: Latest Developments, Trends and Strategies,” *Inside the Minds: Real Estate Dispute Resolution* (April 2012)
- Co-author, “Residential Mortgage Foreclosure: It’s A Whole New Ballgame,” *New York Law Journal* (March 14, 2011)
- Co-author, “A Primer on Today’s Commercial Loan Forbearance Agreement,” *New York Law Journal* (March 15, 2010)
- Preparation of Practice Commentaries on New York’s Non-Judicial Foreclosure Statute Matthew Bender (May 2005)
- Non-Judicial Foreclosure Legislation in New York (enacted July 7, 1998)
- “Legal Counsel” (formerly known as “It’s The Law”), *Real Estate Forum*, monthly, and then quarterly, column (1982-2000)

## **MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES**

- American College of Real Estate Lawyers
- New York State Bar Association (Executive Committee, Real Property Law Section, Co-chair of its Finance Committee and Former Co-chair of its Workouts and Bankruptcy Committee; Past Delegate to the House of Delegates)

- New York Bankers Association
- New York City Bar Association
- American Bar Association

## **EVENTS**

- “Lending Workshop: Today’s New Issues in Structuring and Negotiating Loan Documents,” Mortgage Bankers Association of New York, Inc. (October 2014)
- “Distressed Loans and Lender Remedies - Latest Trends and Insights,” *Negotiating the Sophisticated Real Estate Deal*, Practising Law Institute (June 2014)
- “Advanced Issues in Loan Enforcement,” *2014 Commercial Real Estate Financing Seminar*, Practising Law Institute (February 2014)
- “Distressed Commercial Real Estate Loan Workouts and Remedies - Latest Trends and Insights,” *Negotiating Real Estate Deals 2013*, Practising Law Institute (June 2013)
- Presenter and co-chair, *New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting for the Real Property Law Section’s Finance Committee’s Program* (January 2013)
- “Distressed Commercial Real Estate Loan Workouts and Remedies - Today’s Issues,” *New York State Bar Association’s Advanced Topics in Real Estate Program* (December 2012)
- CLE presentation: “Loan Workouts,” *First American Title Insurance Company Program* (November 2012)
- “Distressed Loan Workouts and Lender Remedies,” *PLI’s Negotiating Real Estate Deals 2012* program (June 2012)
- “Latest Developments in the Enforcement of Guaranties,” *New York Real Property Law Section’s Financing and Workouts Committees’ Joint Program, New York State Bar Association’s Annual Meeting* (January 2012)
- “Distressed Real Estate Loan Workouts and Remedies,” *New York State Bar Association Advanced Real Estate Program* (December 2011)
- “The Landscape of Loan Workouts Updated - Out of the Woods or a Bridge to Nowhere?,” *2011 ICSC U.S. Shopping Center Law Conference* (October 2011)
- “Distressed Loan Workouts and Lender Remedies,” *Practising Law Institute’s Negotiating Real Estate Deals 2011 Program* (June 2011)
- “Legal Experts Perspective on Restructuring and Distressed Debt,” *The Stoler Report Broadcast* (February 2011)
- “Advanced Real Estate Workouts and Restructurings,” *New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting* (January 2011)
- “Distressed and Troubled Real Estate Loans,” *New York State Bar Association Advanced Real Estate Practice Program* (December 2010)



- “Minefields, Sheer Cliffs and Rough Roads: The Landscape of Loan Workouts in 2010,” *ICSC’s 40th Annual U.S. Shopping Center Law Conference* (November 2010)
- “Distressed Loans - The Lender’s Remedies,” *PLI Commercial Real Estate Program* (April 2010)
- “Troubled Mortgage and Mezzanine Loans and Workouts - After Acceleration,” *PLI Commercial Real Estate Financing Program* (March 2010)
- “Cutting Edge Real Estate Workout Strategies,” *New York State Bar Association Real Property Law Section Annual Meeting* (January 2010)
- “Distressed Loan Workouts, Mortgage Foreclosure and Remedies,” *New York State Bar Association Advanced Real Estate Practice* (December 2009)
- “Commercial Real Estate Loan Workouts - Strategies After Default in the Current Economy,” *American College of Real Estate Lawyers* (October 2009)
- “Basics of Commercial Foreclosure and Beyond in Today’s Market,” *New York Bar City Bar Association* (October 2009)
- “Distressed Loans, Workouts and Mortgage Foreclosure Strategies and Remedies after Default,” *First American Title Insurance Company of New York, CLE program* (July 2009)
- “New World of Loan Restructuring,” *Real Estate Finance Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York* (June 2009)
- “Hot Topics in Workouts, Restructuring and Remedies,” *Mortgage Bankers Association of New York* (May 2009)
- “Commercial Real Estate Financing 2009: How the World Changed,” *Practising Law Institute* (February 2009)
- “Commercial Real Estate Financing - Judicial and Non-Judicial Foreclosure and Distressed Loan Workouts,” *Practising Law Institute* (numerous occasions)
- “Distressed Loans, Workouts and Mortgage Foreclosure - Strategies and Remedies After Default,” *Ninth Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute, Practising Law Institute* (November 2007)
- “Strategies and Remedies for Breaches of Real Estate Contracts and Loan Documents,” *Practising Law Institute* (several occasions)
- “Advanced Real Estate Practice - Foreclosures and Distressed Loan Workouts,” *New York State Bar Association* (November 2007 and December 2008)
- “Distressed Loans, Workouts, and Mortgage Foreclosure - Strategies and Remedies after Default,” *First American Title Insurance Company Seminar* (May 2007; July 2009)
- “Current Loan Enforcement Issues,” *New York State Bar Association Real Property Law Section Annual Meeting* (January 2005)
- “Distressed Loan Workouts,” *Citibank-Chicago Title Program* (August 2003)

- Chair and lecturer, various New York state, New York City and Westchester County Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Programs
- “Distressed Loan Workouts,” *First American Title Insurance Company Seminar* (2003)
- Programs and numerous client presentations, seminars and training sessions on mortgage foreclosure, real estate, workouts, bankruptcy and asset-based finance (various dates)



**MEREDITH J. KANE**  
Partner  
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**New York**  
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New York, NY 10019-6064

A partner in the Real Estate Department and a member of the firm's Management Committee, Meredith J. Kane regularly represents developers, equity investors, institutional and entrepreneurial owners and government agencies in all aspects of development, finance, acquisitions and sales, equity joint ventures, restructuring, leasing and securitization of real estate.

#### EXPERIENCE

Ms. Kane's experience includes all aspects of the finance and development of complex public/private joint venture projects including:

- ▶ the long-term lease acquisition of New York's **World Trade Center** complex;
- ▶ the development of **MTA's 26-acre Hudson Yards** on Manhattan's far west side for over six million square feet of office space and 5000 residential units; and of **Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn** for a sports arena and up to 16 residential and commercial buildings;
- ▶ the representation of the **Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association** in the ownership and debt restructuring of the 11,000-unit residential complex;
- ▶ the transaction between the **City of New York** and **Cornell University** and **Technion-Israel Institute of Technology** to develop a world-class **Engineering and Applied Sciences** graduate school in New York City;
- ▶ the representation of **Time Warner, Inc.** in its program to relocate up to four million square feet of corporate office space in the New York area;
- ▶ the retail redevelopment and historic restoration of **Grand Central Terminal**;
- ▶ the development and securitized financing of **Brooklyn Renaissance Plaza** and the **Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge**, a 1.2 million square foot office and hotel complex in downtown Brooklyn;

#### PRACTICES

Real Estate

#### EDUCATION

J.D., Harvard Law School,  
1982  
*cum laude*  
B.A., Yale College, 1976  
*magna cum laude*

#### RECOGNITIONS

Woman of the Year –  
*WX New York - Women Executives in Real Estate*  
*Euromoney* Legal Media Group – “Best in Real Estate”  
Americas Women in Business Law Awards  
*Real Estate Weekly*  
“Top 50 Women in Real Estate” and “25 Current Leaders in the Industry”  
*Grid* “Top 10 American Women in Real Estate Development”  
*Chambers USA*  
*Who's Who Legal USA*  
*The Legal 500*  
*The Best Lawyers in America*  
Member, *American College of Real Estate Lawyers*

- ▶ the development and financing of **Avalon Chrystie Place**, a 5-building, 720-unit housing, retail and community facility development in Manhattan's Cooper Square area;
- ▶ the development and financing of the 76-story **Trump World Tower** luxury condominium;
- ▶ the development and financing of **over 5 million square feet of major mixed-use retail and residential projects** in Flushing, Queens;
- ▶ the development of **multiple new facilities for City University of New York**, including a new headquarters, new building for Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, and new academic facilities for CUNY senior colleges;
- ▶ the acquisition and development of **multiple new facilities for North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical System**, including medical offices, hospital facilities, and administrative headquarters;
- ▶ the development and financing of major proposed new and expanded cultural venues, including the **Park Avenue Armory, New York City Opera, New York Public Library, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Poets House, and Little Shubert Theatre**;
- ▶ the redevelopment of nine historic theaters in the **42nd Street Development Project**;
- ▶ the development and financing of a new arena for the **Miami Heat** basketball team; and
- ▶ the development and financing of numerous office, residential and mixed-use complexes.

She has represented **Avalon Bay Communities, The Lefrak Organization, Vornado Realty Trust, Time Warner, Inc., Muss Development Company, Daewoo Corporation, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Rockefeller Group Development Corporation, Carnival Corporation, City University of New York**, and others in major real property acquisitions, sales, financings and developments.

Ms. Kane has received numerous honors and awards for her work. She was honored as the 2009 Woman of the Year by WX - New York Women Executives in Real Estate, and was named one of the Top 50 Women in Real Estate and one of 25 Current Leaders in the Industry by *Real Estate Weekly* and The Association of Real Estate Women. *Euromoney* Legal Media Group named her Best in Real Estate at the 2012 inaugural Americas Women in Business Law Awards and *Grid Magazine* named her one of the top 10 American women in real estate development. She is cited as one of the leading real estate lawyers in the United States in *Chambers USA 2014*, sources describe her as a "*fantastic lawyer*" who is "*immensely valuable*" during negotiations. She is recognized for advising New York City Economic Development Corporation on the \$2 billion development of an applied sciences and engineering graduate

campus. Sources particularly highlight her *"deep understanding of transactional matters with a focus on tax issues."* Ms. Kane is also recognized in *Who's Who Legal USA*, *The Legal 500*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and numerous other peer-review publications. She is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers.

Ms. Kane served as a commissioner of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission from 1995 to 2004. She was a member of the World Trade Center Memorial Center Advisory Committee. She was a lead official from 1985-87 of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development in charge of the planning and development of 8,000 new housing units, and a City Planning official for the City of New Haven from 1977-79 in charge of mixed-use retail and commercial districts. She is a regular speaker at professional forums on real estate development and finance. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Avenue of the Americas Association (Chair, 1999-2007), and is a member of the Real Estate Board of New York, WX-Women Executives in Real Estate, the New York Women's Forum, the ULI-Urban Land Institute, the Forum for Urban Design and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (former Chair, Economic Development Subcommittee). She serves on the boards of several civic and not-for-profit organizations.

**HOWARD J. LEVINE**

**Partner, Roberts & Holland LLP**

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Howard J. Levine is a partner in Roberts & Holland LLP in Washington, D.C. and New York, N.Y., which is the largest law firm in the United States that is devoted exclusively to tax and tax related matters. He is a former Assistant Branch Chief, Litigation Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service (1972-1976). Mr. Levine served as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law School (LLM Tax) and George Washington University Law School (LLM Tax). He is a Contributing Editor of The Journal of Real Estate Taxation, a Member of the Advisory Board of BNA Tax Management, and a past member of the advisory board of the CCH Journal of Global Transactions. Mr. Levine is an author of over 100 articles and publications including BNA Tax Management Portfolio #567-5th, Tax Free Exchanges Under Section 1031 and (co-author of) BNA Tax Management Portfolio #936, Limitation on Benefits of US Income Tax Treaties. A frequent speaker at numerous Tax Institutes around the country, Mr. Levine is a member of the American Bar Association Tax Section (Former Chairman, Committee on Sales, Exchanges and Basis; Former Subcommittee Chair on Like Kind Exchanges; Former Subcommittee co-chair on U.S. Activities of Foreigners and Tax Treaties), the New York Bar, and the District of Columbia Bar.

Mr. Levine received a B.A. from Hunter College, his J.D. *cum laude* from SUNY at Buffalo, and LL.M. (Taxation) from Georgetown.

NYSBA Fall 2014 Program  
Advanced Real Estate  
Current Tax Issues Affecting Real Estate  
Howard J. Levine  
Joseph Lipari

Joseph Lipari received his A.B. degree from Columbia University in 1975 and his J.D. from Boston University, *magna cum laude*, in 1978. He joined Roberts & Holland in 1978 and became a member of the firm in 1987. For more than 35 years, he has counseled U.S. and foreign clients on complex business transactions, including the purchase and sale of businesses and structuring their investments. He has represented developers of hotels, shopping centers and assisted living facilities, as well as institutional real estate investors, in a wide variety of real estate transactions, from the formation and restructuring of partnerships for the acquisition, development and operation of real property, to UPREIT transactions, sales, tax-free exchanges, co-op and condominium developments, and workouts and foreclosures, including mortgage restructurings, property exchanges, short sales of real property and other forms of debt relief.

He is a member of the American and New York State Bar Associations. He is a member of the Economic Affairs Committee of the International Council of Shopping Centers



**Benjamin Weinstock** is co-chair of the Real Estate Department of Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C. in Uniondale, New York, where he concentrates on transactional real estate matters. Mr. Weinstock received his law degree (cum laude) in 1978 from Brooklyn Law School. In 2001, Governor Pataki appointed him to the New York State Real Estate Board, where he served as Secretary through 2009. Mr. Weinstock is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and a founding member of the Institute of Real Estate at Hofstra University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers, has been included in New York Magazine's Best Lawyers in New York since 2009 and in Super Lawyers since 2007. Mr. Weinstock is a frequent lecturer for continuing legal education programs sponsored by the New York State Bar Association and several other CLE providers. He is the author of the chapter on Lease Guaranties in the New York State Bar Association's desk book on Commercial Leasing and has published numerous legal articles. Mr. Weinstock also serves as Deputy Mayor of the Village of Cedarhurst and is the immediate past Chairman of the Real Property Law Section of the NY State Bar Association.



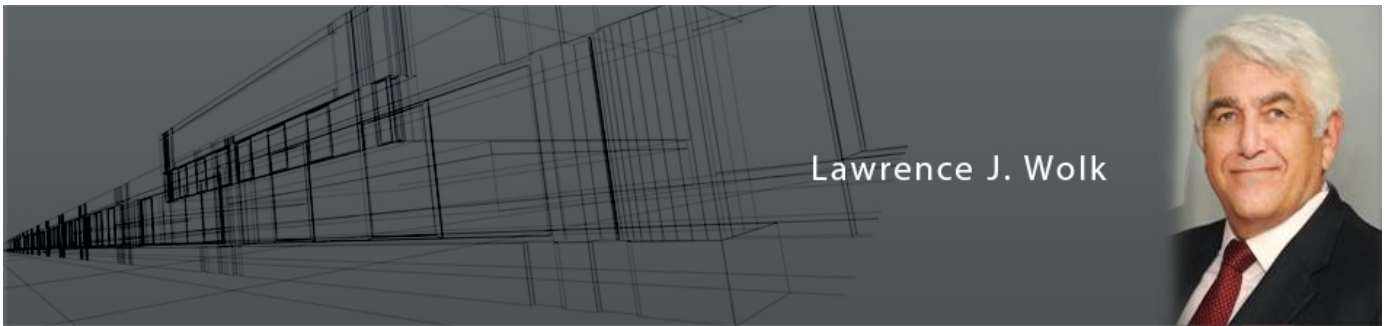




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Lawrence J. Wolk

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CONTACT

## Lawrence J. Wolk

Member

Location:



New York, New York

Phone: 212-551-1270

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Name

**Email Address**

Phone

Brief description of your legal issue

**Fax:** 212-551-8484

**E-mail:** [lwolk@rosenbergestis.com](mailto:lwolk@rosenbergestis.com)

Lawrence J. Wolk joined Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. in 2014 as a Member of its Transactional Group. He is experienced in complex commercial real estate transactions, mortgage financing and public/private transactions.

Prior to joining Rosenberg & Estis, Mr. Wolk was a Partner and Counsel with Holland & Knight LLP for 18 years. His responsibilities included representing national life insurance companies and banks in numerous single asset and multi-state, multi-asset mortgage and acquisition transactions. Mr. Wolk also oversaw numerous commercial acquisitions, dispositions and mortgage financings for clients headquartered outside of the United States and served as outside Real Estate Counsel to a number of State of New York agencies. He also frequently provided advice as local New York counsel on multi-state mortgage financing transactions.

Earlier, Mr. Wolk served as Assistant General Counsel for real estate and asset disposition at the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, where he had senior agency legal and management responsibility for the real estate, affordable housing, environmental, and workout sections of the RTC's legal division. He implemented and closed multi-asset sales programs disposing of billions of dollars of real estate and real estate loan assets.

Prior to his service with the RTC, Mr. Wolk was in private practice in the New York area, focusing on complex real estate mortgage financing and lease transactions.

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- ◀ [Litigation](#)
- ◀ [Transactional Law](#)

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## CONTACT

### Rosenberg & Estis, P.C.

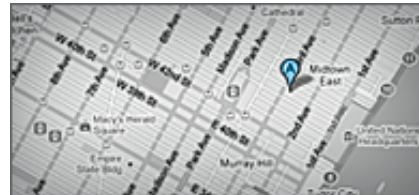
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### NEW YORK LAW OFFICE



The notable transactions in which Mr. Wolk has played a leading role include the \$735 million financing of the World Financial Center at Battery Park City; the sale of 350 Park Avenue and the acquisition of 270 Park Avenue; the acquisition of 1,200 cellular towers comprising Motorola's North American cellular tower portfolio; the sale of the Indian Point and Fitzpatrick nuclear power plants; the ground leasing of nine (9) residential towers in Southtown, Roosevelt Island; and Phase 1 of the Moynihan Station development project. He is a frequent lecturer on real estate law topics at CLE presentations.

### **Year Joined Firm**

2014

### **Areas of Practice**

Transactional Law

Real Estate Financing

Real Estate Development

Real Estate Leasing

### **Bar Admissions**

District of Columbia, 1995

New York, 1975

### **Education**

#### **New York University School of Law**

J.D. - 1974

Law Review: New York University

Review of Law & Social Change, Editor

#### **Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland**

B.A. - 1971

## **Published Works**

Following the meeting of the G-7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. outlined broad principles, Holland & Knight Alert, October, 2008

## **Honors and Awards**

Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, 2007 - 2014

Selected for inclusion in International Who's Who of Real Estate Lawyers, 2013 - Present

Selected for inclusion in Who's Who Legal, 2011 - 2013

Selected for inclusion in New York Super Lawyers, 2009 - 2014

## **Professional Associations and Memberships**

American College of Mortgage Attorneys,  
New York State Chair

American College of Real Estate Lawyers,  
Member

District of Columbia Bar Association,  
Member

New York State Bar Association, Real Property Section, Co-Chair, CLE Committee, Member, Executive Committee



Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. is located in New York City. Our attorneys practice in Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Long Island, Westchester County, Nassau County, Suffolk County and the Tri-State Area. We have appeared in connection with litigation, transactions and leasing throughout the country.

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