

People



Richard Bezold

Of Counsel, Real Estate

West Palm Beach
T: +1 305 982 5657

Miami
T: +1 305 982 5657
F: +1 305 374 5095

richard.bezold@akerman.com
vCard

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Richard Bezold immerses himself in the details of a deal, helping clients maximize their investments and advance their business objectives. *Chambers USA* notes that he is sought after for his “considerable experience advising on real estate acquisitions and dispositions, joint ventures, financing and litigation, among other matters.” He has represented The Rockefeller Group, North American Properties, Crocker Partners, Wells Fargo, and other clients in complex commercial real estate transactions across a variety of asset classes. He is Board Certified in Real Estate Law by The Florida Bar.

His broad range of experience includes acquisitions and dispositions, public-private partnerships, infrastructure development, commercial landlord and tenant representation, distressed loan and property workouts. In addition, he represents investment funds and global investors buying income producing property in the United States.

Rich served as the alumni advisory board chairman to the Kelley A. Bergstrom Real Estate Center at the University of Florida, and has been recognized by both *Chambers USA* and *The Legal 500* as a leading lawyer in real estate.

Notable Work

Crocker Partners: Represented real estate and management firm and affiliated entities in the closing of more than \$100 million in office building acquisitions and related joint venture and loan transactions.

Colonial Life Insurance Company (Trinidad): Represented insurance company in the \$234 million sale of the luxury W Hotel and Residences with 346 hotel units and an additional 171 condominium hotel units managed by Starwood.

Published Work and Lectures

Areas of Experience

Real Estate
Automotive Retail
Commercial Leasing and Development
Corporate Finance and Lending
Distressed Property
Energy and Infrastructure
Environment and Natural Resources
Financial Services
Healthcare Real Estate
Hospitality
Investment Management
Public-Private Partnerships
Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales
Real Estate Financing
Residential Land Acquisitions and Development
Restaurant
Senior Living and Care
Water Task Force
Qualified Opportunity Zones
Renewable Energy and Electric Power

Education

J.D., University of Miami School of Law, 1981, cum laude
B.S., University of Florida, Real Estate, 1977

Admissions

Bars

Florida

Related Content

Akerman Sponsors 2025 UF Bergstrom Trends & Strategies Conference
March 06, 2025

Akerman Lawyers Ranked in Florida by *Super Lawyers* Magazine

July 16, 2024

The Legal 500 Ranks Akerman Among Top National Firms
June 14, 2024

- University of Florida, Presenter, “Presentation for Graduate Students for the Masters of Science in Real Estate Program,” April 1, 2021
- University of Miami, Presenter, “Presentation for Graduate Students for Real Estate Development and Urbanism Program,” March 10, 2021
- [2018 Akerman U.S. Real Estate Sector Report](#), Contributor
- [2017 Akerman U.S. Real Estate Sector Report](#), Contributor
- 2016 Akerman U.S. Real Estate Sector Report, Contributor
- 2015 Akerman U.S. Real Estate Industry Outlook Report, Contributor
- BNY Mellon Wealth Management Commercial Real Estate Investing Panel Discussion, Panelist, “Commercial Real Estate Investing,”
- Debtwire North America Distressed Debt Forum, Panelist, “Continuing Trends - Distressed Commercial Real Estate”
- IMN 3rd Bank and Special Asset Forum on Distressed Real Estate, Panel Moderator, “Mezzanine Loans, CMBS and Special Servicing”
- The Florida Bar, Steering Committee, Co-Editor, “Florida Real Property Complex Transactions Manual,” Fourth Edition, Fifth and Sixth Edition
- Environmental Liability in Leasing, 6 The ACREL Papers
- National Conference of the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, Lecturer, “Closing the Deal with Thorny Environmental Issues”
- National Business Institute, Inc., Lecturer, Advanced Real Estate Law in Florida

Affiliations

- Urban Land Institute (ULI), Florida Product Council Steering Committee, Member
- Bergstrom Center for Real Estate Studies, University of Florida, Executive Committee Member, Past Chairman of the Advisory Board
- The Florida Bar, Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section, Environmental and Land Use Law Section, Member
- Dade County Bar Association, Environmental Law Committee, Past Chairman
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center, Past President and Board Member

Honors and Distinctions

- Board Certified in Real Estate, The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education
- *Best Lawyers*, 2013-2025, Listed in Florida for Real Estate Law
- *The Legal 500*, 2011-2024, Recommended for Real Estate - Real Estate
- *Chambers USA*, 2012-2020, Ranked in Florida (South Florida) for Real Estate
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2006-2011, 2016-2024, Listed in Florida for Real Estate: Business
- *South Florida Legal Guide* Top Lawyers, 2011-2012, 2014-2018, Listed for Real Estate
- *The Legal 500*, 2008-2009, Recommended in Florida for Real Estate Transactions and Finance

- *Law and Leading Attorneys*, Recognized as a Leading Florida Attorney in Commercial Real Estate Law