

Press Release

Akerman Continues Expansion of New York Office with Real Estate Partner Steve Chudnow

January 21, 2022

Top 100 U.S. law firm Akerman LLP today announced the continued growth of its largest office, New York, with the addition of [Steven Chudnow](#) who joins as a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group from Wachtel Missry LLP. He previously spent 12 years as in-house counsel to the real estate investment management and real estate finance divisions of a Fortune 100 financial services company.

Chudnow will also contribute to Akerman's Real Estate Financing Practice. He joins two weeks after the practice welcomed [Bruce Meyerson](#) in New York. With more than 150 lawyers and business professionals, including former in-house counsel from major multinational banks, the national team is spread across key business centers like Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, D.C. and throughout Florida.

"Steve is an important addition at a time when our team is incredibly active advising on large scale real estate finance transactions," said [Eric Rapkin](#), Chair of Akerman's Real Estate Practice Group.

"The New York real estate market remains robust for our clients, and they are in need of highly skilled lawyers like Steve who have technical expertise in the financing of complex real estate projects across

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sectors,” said Alan Cohen, a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group and Co-Office Managing Partner of the New York Office. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Steve previously on complex matters and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to continue our work at Akerman.”

Chudnow focuses his practice on commercial real estate and real estate finance. He advises lenders (banks, funds, REITS, and family offices), owners, and developers on a diverse range of complex real estate matters, ranging from complex mortgage, mezzanine, permanent, bridge and construction loans, preferred equity, acquisitions and sales, development matters, and joint ventures. Chudnow routinely negotiates inter-creditor agreements for both senior and junior lenders.

In addition, Chudnow handles acquisitions and sales across all traditional asset types. He has extensive experience with the formation and operation of insurance company separate accounts for ERISA investors and has also represented a nationally recognized insurance company in connection with the regular securitization of its loan portfolios.

Chudnow also dedicates pro-bono time to Advocates for Children, a nonprofit, in defending the interests of at-risk children before the New York City Department of Education.

About Akerman

Akerman LLP is a top 100 U.S. law firm recognized among the most forward-thinking firms in the industry by Financial Times. Its more than 700 lawyers and business professionals collaborate with the world’s most successful enterprises and entrepreneurs to navigate change, seize opportunities, and help drive innovation and growth.

Akerman’s Real Estate Practice Group offers comprehensive and fully integrated project counsel services to clients across the United States and Latin

America. With substantial industry experience and local market insights, the firm represents clients in complex real estate transactions and financings, development and redevelopment projects, public-private initiatives and litigation. Recognized as a national tier one law firm for real estate law by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*, the group advises investors, developers, builders, lenders, retailers, owners and corporate end users, often in high profile matters.