

Press Release

Connect CRE Honors Two Akerman Partners with Lawyers in Real Estate Award

December 12, 2022

Akerman Real Estate Financing Practice Co-Chair Beau Baker in Jacksonville and Real Estate Practice Group Co-Deputy Chair Allison Nelson in Denver have been selected as recipients of 2022 Lawyers in Real Estate Awards by *Connect CRE*. The third annual award recognizes 110 lawyers from around the U.S. who excel in their practices as well as in their contributions to the community.

Only 10 lawyers were recognized in each of 10 geographic areas chosen by *Connect CRE*. Baker was awarded in the Florida and Gulf Coast region and Nelson was in the Phoenix and Southwest region.

Baker focuses his practice on real estate capital markets, securitizations, financial services, structured and commercial finance, creditors' rights, loan portfolio management and servicing, and financial restructuring. He represents lenders in such transactions as warehouse/repo lending facilities, secondary market portfolio and single asset loan sales/acquisitions, joint venture and preferred equity investments, and bank and non-bank mezzanine, bridge, CMBS and life insurance company loan originations. In connection with these originations, Baker oversees the servicing, portfolio management, workout, and related functions and makes it his goal to nurture his client's valuable relationships with each borrower group. Baker also

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Allison Nelson

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represents funds and banks in the startup and growth of high-volume debt and equity investment platforms across various asset classes. [Click here to view his profile in *Connect CRE*.](#)

Nelson focuses her national practice on representing healthcare systems in complex real estate transactions and mergers and acquisitions. In the healthcare sector, Nelson negotiates compliant sales and acquisitions, joint venture developments, and leases, ground leases, and subleases. She partners with clients to build and improve systems to manage real estate portfolios to ensure compliance with federal and state healthcare regulatory laws. She is also experienced in navigating clients through real estate compliance investigations by the U.S. Office of Inspector General (OIG). In addition, Nelson guides lenders, landlords, and tenants in retail, industrial, office, mixed-use, and home builder sectors, through all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including acquisition, entitlement, development, financing, and disposition. [Click here to view her profile in *Connect CRE*.](#)

Connect CRE is a commercial real estate news and information service provider. Its editorial team solicited nominations for the 2022 Lawyers in Real Estate Awards from real estate industry participants and conducted independent research to determine awardees.

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.