

People



**Chris A. Leach**

Partner, Real Estate

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vCard

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With more than two decades of experience in zoning and land use matters, Chris Leach represents property owners, developers, and business owners in obtaining approvals of planned developments, zoning changes, special uses, variations, subdivisions, vacations, and dedications. Chris also works with clients in real estate, liquor, and business licensing-related matters.

Having represented clients before municipal plan commissions, planning departments, zoning board of appeals, zoning committees, and community groups and organizations, Chris brings complex negotiation and strategic thinking skills to tackle his clients' most intricate business challenges.

**Notable Work**

**1000 S. Michigan Avenue:** Represented 1000 South Michigan Equities, LLC in securing approval of a 805-foot tall, 71-story multi-unit residential building containing 738 dwelling units and 325 on-site accessory parking spaces designed by the late world renowned architect, Helmut Jahn, for the property located at 1000 S. Michigan Avenue.

**Tribune Tower:** Represented Golub & Company and CIM Group in obtaining the zoning approval to convert the Landmarked Chicago Tribune Tower from an office building into a 162 unit luxury condominium building with ground floor retail and 252 on-site parking spaces and the approval for the development of the adjacent site with a new mixed use tower measuring 1,442 feet in height containing 564 residential units, 200 hotel keys, retail space on the ground floor and 426 on-site parking spaces.

**150 N. Riverside Plaza:** Represented Riverside Investment & Development in approval of a 53-story office tower measuring 747 feet in height and containing approximately 1.2 million square feet of office space, 25,000 square feet of retail / restaurant space, and 77

**Areas of Experience**

Real Estate  
Land Use and Development  
Illinois Land Use and Entitlements  
Eminent Domain and Property Rights  
Alcohol Beverage  
Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales  
Residential Land Acquisitions and Development  
Restaurant  
Equine Law  
Construction

**Education**

LL.M. in Taxation, The John Marshall Law School, 2002  
J.D., The John Marshall Law School, 1991  
B.S., Indiana University, 1987

**Admissions**

**Bars**

Illinois

**Courts**

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

**Related Content**

Akerman Represents H2 Health in Partnership with Valir Outpatient Clinics  
January 27, 2025

Akerman Represents Hidden Harbor Capital Partners in Strategic Investment in Quaker Valley Foods  
January 24, 2025

Akerman Represents Seaport Capital in Acquisition of CyberlinkASP  
August 21, 2023

on-site parking spaces for the property located at 150 N. Riverside Plaza. The building has been completed and is open for occupancy.

**110 N. Wacker Drive:** Represented The Howard Hughes Corporation in approval of a 52-story office tower with a height of 800 feet containing approximately 1.5 million square feet of office and retail space with a 22,000 square foot landscaped river walk and 66-foot high arcade and below grade parking and loading for the property located at 110 N. Wacker Drive. The project is estimated to exceed \$500 million.

## Affiliations

- Cary Grove High School Baseball Association, President

## Honors and Distinctions

- *The Legal 500* 2018, 2021, Recommended for Real Estate & Construction - Land Use/Zoning