

People



## John J. ('Jack') George

Of Counsel, Real Estate

Chicago

T: +1 312 870 8022

[jack.george@akerman.com](mailto:jack.george@akerman.com)

[vCard](#)

” Jack is knowledgeable and an excellent zoning and land use attorney.

- *Chambers USA*

Having served as a former Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois and Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, Jack George is a valued leader who possesses a deep knowledge of real estate law. Jack focuses his practice on real estate, land use, and zoning matters. He is instrumental in shaping the Chicago skyline, and has worked on numerous notable development projects consisting of complex elements such as zoning map amendments, planned development application applications, and condemnation matters.

Jack is adept at navigating city and state laws, and routinely litigates before state and federal courts, as well as in proceedings before administrative tribunals and arbitrations.

### Notable Work

**Wanda Vista:** Represented Lakeshore East LLC on a highly complex land entitlements approval process for the construction of the 1,200-foot Wanda Vista Tower in Chicago, currently under construction. There will be 410 condominium units as well as 210 hotel keys. Work included an amendment to the existing Planned Development, an amendment to the existing Lakeshore East Master Plan, an approval under the Chicago Lakefront Protection Ordinance, the vacation and dedication of public rights of way and air rights, various easements for a new roadway system, and the expansion of Upper Wacker Drive. The total development cost is \$1 billion.

### Areas of Experience

Real Estate  
Land Use and Development  
Illinois Land Use and Entitlements  
Eminent Domain and Property Rights  
Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales  
Residential Land Acquisitions and Development  
Commercial Leasing and Development  
Brownfields Redevelopment  
Public-Private Partnerships  
Lease Restructuring and Workouts  
Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure

### Education

J.D., DePaul University College of Law, Nu Beta Epsilon  
B.S., Xavier University

### Admissions

#### Bars

Illinois

#### Courts

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit  
U.S. Supreme Court  
Illinois Supreme Court

### Related Content

Akerman Sponsors Annual Little City's Masterpiece Gala  
May 03, 2025  
*Chambers USA* Ranks Akerman Among the Nation's Best Law Firms in 2024  
June 06, 2024  
Akerman Lawyer Jack George Honored by Maryville Academy for Land Use Advocacy

**330 North Clark:** Represented Friedman Properties related to a new building addition on to the Chicago landmark Reid Murdoch Building for construction of a new hotel tower. Work included adoption of a new Planned Development and approval by the Chicago Landmarks Commission for a building addition to a designated Chicago landmark. As part of the development, there will be a vacation of air rights.

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

**110 North 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.

**Clark and Addison:** Represented M & R Development in approval of an 8-story mixed-use development with a height of 108 feet containing 148 apartments, 169,000 square feet of commercial space, and 493 on-site parking spaces for the property located at Clark and Addison across the street from Wrigley Field.

**Old Chicago Post Office:** Represented client to secure the entitlements to renovate the Old Chicago Post Office and construct three adjacent high-rise towers. This project also included negotiation of the release of an 80-year old building restriction over the Eisenhower Expressway to create the development site, which includes 1,200 hotel rooms, 6,750 residential units, 800,000 square feet of retail space, and approximately 4,500 parking spaces.

**Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago:** Represented client on planned construction for a new state-of-the-art hospital. Project included advancing a planned development that satisfied the goals of this innovative and important hospital, while also working within the development requirements of the City of Chicago, and surrounding community that would be affected by the development. The team worked with the Chicago Department of Planning and Department of Transportation, and successfully secured all zoning rights.

**Mariano's Fresh Markets:** Represented client to bring them into the Chicago retail market with three separate developments. One of the locations includes retail space in a two-story, 60-foot tall building, amassing approximately 155,000 square feet.

**805 North LaSalle:** Represented client to gain ownership of land to allow for expansion of the development site before construction. Project became 805 North LaSalle Street, a 295-unit luxury apartment building.

**Wolf Point:** Represented client to secure zoning rights on this mixed-use development site that includes more than 100,000 square feet of park land, landscaped planting beds, 400 square feet of riverwalk space, and the development of three mixed-use towers.

- 18th Annual Commercial Real Estate Forecast Conference, Speaker, January 9, 2020

## Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- St. Ignatius College Prep, Life Trustee
- Little City Foundation, Board Member and General Counsel
- Lambda Alpha International (honorary land economics society), Member
- Celtic Lawyers Association, Past President
- Xavier University, Advisory Board, Member
- Catholic Lawyers Guild, Member of the Board
- Old St. Patrick's Church, Board of Regents, Member
- Hinsdale Hospital Civic Board, Former Member
- The Stenning Foundation, Trustee

## Honors and Distinctions

- *Maryville Academy*, 2024, Honored for land use advocacy in Chicago
- *Chambers USA*, 2019-2024, Ranked in Illinois for Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use
- *Leading Lawyers* Magazine, Recommended by Peers in: Land Use, Zoning and Condemnation Law, Real Estate Law: Commercial
- *Best Lawyers*, 2019-2025, Listed in Illinois for Litigation – Land Use and Zoning, Litigation – Real Estate, and Real Estate Law
- *The Legal 500* 2018-2022, Recommended for Real Estate and Construction – Land Use/Zoning