

People



Paul J. Russo

Partner, Real Estate

Chicago

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vCard

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” He’s very quick to respond...
and is thoughtful in his
responses without being
overly pushy or unrealistic.

- *Legal 500*

Paul Russo focuses his practice on commercial real estate matters. He has experience in multi-jurisdictional transactions involving the acquisition, sale, financing, leasing, and development of retail, office, and industrial properties, as well as standalone data centers and data center campuses. Paul represents REITS, real estate funds, real estate joint ventures, and developers throughout the country.

Notable Work

- Representation of real estate funds and national REITS in connection with office, retail, and industrial leasing.
- Representation of commercial developer in connection with acquisition, financing, leasing and development of various properties in the Fulton-Randolph Market District of Chicago.
- Representation of a national restaurant franchisee in connection with the acquisition and leasing of various properties throughout the country.
- Representation of national environmental services company on various real estate matters throughout the country.
- Representation of commercial developer in acquisition of mixed-use development for \$40 million.
- Representation of real estate holding company in connection with portfolio sale of shopping centers for over \$50 million.

Areas of Experience

Real Estate
Real Estate Acquisitions and Sales
Commercial Leasing and Development
Real Estate Financing
Distressed Property
Lease Restructuring and Workouts
Japan
Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure

Education

J.D., Washington University School of Law, 2011,
Global Studies Law Review, Primary Editor
B.A., Truman State University, English, 2008, Blue Key
Honor Society, Member

Admissions

Bars

Illinois

Related Content

- Akerman Represents Trivest Partners, L.P. in Its Sale of HighGround Restoration
March 19, 2025
- Akerman Represents Fourshore in Palm Coast Sales Acquisition
February 28, 2025
- Akerman Represents Yingling Aviation in Acquisition of Global Engineering & Technology, Inc.
January 14, 2025

- Representation of commercial developer in sale of mixed use development for \$80 million.
- Representation of various institutional lenders in construction and permanent loan transactions secured by real property.
- Representation of a joint venture in connection with a \$151 million financing of a self-storage portfolio.
- Representation of a real estate fund in connection with a \$193 million portfolio mortgage loan secured by Class A office buildings in Chicago and Miami.

Affiliations

- Chicago Bar Association, Member
- International Council of Shopping Centers, Member
- Urban Land Institute (ULI), Member

Honors and Distinctions

- *The Legal 500*, 2024, Recommended for Real Estate - Real Estate
- *GlobeSt.*, 2024, “Aspiring Leaders in CRE” Honoree
- *GlobeSt. Real Estate Forum*, 2023 “Influencers in Retail Real Estate” Honoree
- *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022, Listed in Illinois for Real Estate Law as “One to Watch”