

Practices

Illinois Land Use and Entitlements

Real estate development in Illinois is complicated by ever-changing regulations issued by a host of governmental bodies. With zoning relief and entitlements at stake, compliance is critical. Achieving success requires sophisticated legal counsel with the right mix of experience, knowledge of the state and local regulatory regimes, and the ability to work collaboratively with government agencies.

Akerman represents clients developing properties throughout Illinois—helping developers and institutions obtain zoning relief and entitlements so they can turn their projects into reality. As part of a national team named a leader in land use, zoning, and real estate law (*U.S. News – Best Lawyers*), we have a strong track record of successfully handling some of the most complex, high-profile projects in the Chicago metropolitan area. Our work has—literally—shaped the Chicago skyline.

Using a comprehensive approach that balances the interests of our clients, the community, and governmental agencies, we assist in the development of commercial, mixed-use, residential, institutional, and industrial projects. Our team provides counsel throughout the entire entitlement process—from site evaluation and selection to project approval and opening.

We routinely conduct due diligence and entitlement analyses and assess site development options to determine the highest and best use of a property. Once a site is selected, our team guides clients

Connect With Us



**John J.
(‘Jack’)
George**

Of Counsel, Real
Estate
+1 312 870 8022



**Meg E.
George**

Partner, Real
Estate
Member,
Executive
Committee
+1 312 870 8021

Our Team

Related Work

California Land Use and
Entitlements
Economic
Development and
Incentives
Environment and
Natural Resources
Florida Land Use and
Entitlements
Land Use and
Development
New York Land Use and
Zoning
Real Estate

through the land use and entitlement process with local jurisdictions and advises on local, state, and federal regulatory compliance matters. In addition, we provide land use guidance and analyses related to the acquisition, disposition, and financing of properties. Our team also drafts and negotiates agreements between governmental agencies and private parties to secure development rights and advance our clients' interests.

What We Do

- Acquisitions and assemblages of real property
- Land use entitlements
- Development incentives
- Zoning and concurrency matters, including zoning map amendments
- Planned development applications and amendments
- Condemnation matters
- Building licenses and permits
- Land use litigation
- Project and public finance
- Environmental regulations and compliance
- Construction contracting and litigation
- Green building certification