

Press Release

# Akerman Senterfitt Announces Fourth Annual U.S. Real Estate Summit

March 5, 2013

National Real Estate Elite to Gather in Miami to Discuss Latest Trends Impacting Investment in the Industry

Akerman Senterfitt today announced its fourth annual U.S. Real Estate Summit, a forum for the nation's industry elite to exchange insights on the latest trends impacting investment in U.S. real estate. The exclusive gathering of an anticipated 300 leaders in commercial real estate development, investment and financing will feature discussions on the greatest challenges still affecting the industry; the state of the global markets; opportunities presenting value for investors; the outlook for the capital markets; and the role of private equity investment.

The annual day-long event takes place in downtown Miami on Friday, April 12 at the J.W. Marriott Marquis. This year's Akerman Summit will begin with a discussion lead by CNBC personality and real estate correspondent Diana Olick. Top industry executives, including President and CEO of Rockefeller Group International, Kevin Hackett; President of FEI, Vincent Signorello; and CEO of CNL Financial, Thomas Sittema, will offer their perspectives on the current economic climate, emerging opportunities and lessons learned. The discussion will break into a conversation with Dr. Peter Linneman, founding chairman of Wharton's

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Richard Bezold

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Real Estate Department at the University of Pennsylvania, where he will share his insights on the direction of the U.S. market and expected trends of the industry.

A series of conversations will follow throughout the day, spotlighting a wide range of issues within urban redevelopment, the hospitality industry, and real estate investment with an emphasis on some of the nation's most sophisticated markets, including New York and Miami. Among the list of speakers are Stephen Owens, President of Swire Properties; Len O'Donnell, President & rising CEO of USAA; Dale Anne Reiss, Managing Director of Artemis Advisors; Lee Pillsbury, Co-Chairman & CEO of Thayer Lodging Group; and Patricia Goldstein, Vice Chairman & Head of Commercial Real Estate at Emigrant Bank. The day will also include a session on international investors and alternative financing options lead by Crain's New York Business commercial real estate reporter Daniel Geiger. The discussion will focus specifically on the advantage of the EB-5 Visa program, which allows international investors to obtain green cards in exchange for U.S. investment and job creation.

“The commercial real estate industry is undergoing significant change as it continues to recover from the global financial crisis, and companies are seeking to put together and finance deals in new and different ways,” said Richard Bezold, chair of Akerman's Real Estate Practice Group. “The Akerman U.S. Real Estate Summit allows some of the most influential leaders in the industry to engage in peer-to-peer discussions about these important issues.”

For members of the media who are unable to attend, the Summit will be viewable via live video stream. The Akerman Summit can also be followed live on Twitter via @akerman\_law with the hashtag #AkermanREsummit13.

For more details about the Akerman Real Estate Summit 2013, including a complete agenda and a full

list of speakers, visit

<http://www.akerman.com/resummit2013/>.

The Akerman Real Estate Practice Group represents clients in complex real estate transactions, development and redevelopment projects, public-private initiatives, loan recovery and litigation matters. Recognized nationally by The Legal 500, the group offers substantial industry experience and prominent local presence, advising corporations, developers, investors and governmental entities, often in high profile matters.

### **About Akerman Senterfitt**

Akerman is a leading transactions and trial law firm known for its core strengths in middle market M&A, within the financial services and real estate industries, and for a diverse Latin America practice. With more than 550 lawyers and government affairs professionals and a network of 19 offices, it is ranked among the top 100 law firms in the United States by *The National Law Journal* NLJ 250 (2012). Akerman also is ranked among the top 100 law firms for diversity by *MultiCultural Law Magazine* (2012) and recognized as the Law Firm of the Year for Diversity – South by *Benchmark Litigation* (2012). More information can be found at [akerman.com](http://akerman.com) or [twitter.com/akerman\\_law](https://twitter.com/akerman_law).