



M. Christine Graff

Partner

Chicago
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Christi has extensive commercial real estate experience with a unique specialty in project finance and solar and wind development.

Christi has assisted clients throughout the country in a wide range of matters, including: commercial property acquisitions and dispositions; tenant-in-common transactions; real estate development, land use and joint venture transactions; project finance; commercial leasing; secured lending; and energy transactions, including solar and wind development projects.

Recent Experience

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.'s Acquisition of Cadence Insurance, Inc.

Arthur J. Gallagher Acquisition of Clements Worldwide

ClearCompany Sale to Gemspring Capital Management

Recognitions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®—Recognized for Real Estate Law (2025)
 - *Lawdragon* “500 Leading Global Real Estate Lawyers”—Recognized for Real Estate, Project Finance (2024)
 - *The Legal 500 US*—Recognized as a “Key Lawyer” for Real Estate (2021)
 - *Super Lawyer*—Recognized in Illinois (2005 - 2010)
 - Chicago Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section—Recipient of the “David C. Hillard Award” for Outstanding Service as co-chair of the Real Estate Law Committee
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Activities

- Member, American Bar Association
 - Member, Chicago Bar Association
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Credentials

EDUCATION

Christi received a B.A. in Economics and Political Science, *summa cum laude*, from Creighton University in 1991, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1994, where she was the comment editor for the *University of Chicago Law School Roundtable*.

ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Related Insights & News

- Article entitled “Purchases Sales and Closings” co-written with David Siegel and published in PLI’s course handbook for the 13th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (October, 2011)
- Article entitled “Purchases Sales and Closings” co-written with David Siegel and published in PLI’s course handbook for the 12th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2010)
- Article entitled “Purchases Sales and Closings” co-written with David J. Siegel and published in PLI’s course handbook for the 11th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2009)
- Article entitled “Purchases, Sales and Closings” published in PLI’s course handbook for the 10th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2008)
- Speaker on the topic “Borrower Negotiations” at the Practicing Law Institute’s Seminar on Commercial Real Estate Financing 2017 (April, 2017)
- Speaker on the topic “Borrower Negotiations” at the Practicing Law Institute’s Seminar on Commercial Real Estate Financing 2015 (April, 2015)
- Speaker on the topic “Negotiating Today’s Tenant Options” at the Practicing Law Institute’s Seminar on Negotiating Commercial Leases 204 (November, 2014)

- Speaker on the topic “Borrower Negotiations” at the Practicing Law Institute’s Commercial Real Estate Financing 2014 (April, 2014)
- Speaker on the topic “Commercial Mortgages, Security Deeds and Deeds of Trust: Securing Favorable Terms in a Conservative Underwriting Climate” for Stafford Publications webinar (April, 2012)
- Speaker on the topic “Purchases Sales and Closings” with David Siegel at the Practicing Law Institute’s 13th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (October, 2011)
- Speaker on the topic “How to identify Real Estate Issues in Corporate Transactions” - 1 hour CLE presentation to transactional attorneys at Winston & Strawn LLP (June, 2011)
- Speaker on the topic “Purchases Sales and Closings” with David Siegel at the Practicing Law Institute’s 12th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2010)
- Speaker on the topic “Purchases Sales and Closings” with David J. Siegel at the Practicing Law Institute’s 11th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2009)
- Speaker on the topic “How to identify Real Estate Issues in Corporate Transactions” - 1 hour CLE presentation to transactional attorneys at Winston & Strawn LLP (April, 2009)
- Speaker on the topic “Purchases Sales and Closings” at the Practicing Law Institute’s 10th Annual Commercial Real Estate Institute (November, 2008)
- Speaker on the topic “How to identify Real Estate Issues in Corporate Transactions” - 1 hour CLE presentation to transactional attorneys at Winston & Strawn LLP (May, 2008)
- Speaker and Panelist on the topic of “How to Maintain Clean Title to Your Home” – 1 hour presentation to first time home owners and clients of the Chicago Economic Development Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law, Inc. (May, 2008)
- Speaker on the topic “How to Draft a Purchase and Sale Agreement” – 1 hour presentation to transaction attorneys at Winston & Strawn LLP (March, 2008)
- Speaker on the topic “How to Represent Buyers with Housing Choice Vouchers” –training seminar conducted by The Community Economic Development Law Project (August, 2007) Speaker and Panelist on the topic of “Real Estate Finance 101” at Chicago Bar Association seminar entitled “Real Estate Finance 101: An Overview of a Commercial Real Estate Loan Transaction” (June, 2004)

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025

AUGUST 15, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Lawyers Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Real Estate Lawyers List

AUGUST 14, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2021

JUNE 10, 2021

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Christine Graff Discusses Commercial Real Estate Financing at PLI Seminar

APRIL 7, 2017

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Christine Graff Speaks at PLI Commercial Real Estate Financing 2015

APRIL 10, 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Christine Graff Speaks at PLI's Negotiating Commercial Leases 2014

NOVEMBER 17, 2014

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Christine Graff Speaks at PLI Commercial Real Estate Financing 2014

MARCH 20, 2014

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Christine Graff Presents Webinar on Real Estate Loan Documents

MAY 22, 2013

Capabilities

Transactions

Project Finance

Real Estate

Energy