

## Michelle M. McAtee

**Partner**

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**Areas of Focus**

Real Estate Transactions

Bankruptcy and  
Restructuring

Real Estate and Hospitality

Corporate

Hedge, Investment, and  
Private Equity Funds



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### Overview

**From real estate acquisitions and finance deals through project construction, development, and dispositions, Michelle McAtee handles it all. Academic institutions, airport operators, real estate developers, railroad operators, lenders, borrowers, and real estate private equity sources all seek her counsel. She has guided them through every aspect of their transactions, advising on joint ventures, negotiating complex commercial loans and capital market transactions, and handling restructurings and workouts.**

With extensive leasing experience, landlords and tenants rely on Michelle to represent them regarding airport ground leases and other lease arrangements, as well as in their office, retail, warehouse, and industrial leases. Counsel of choice for clients across the United States and in cross-border transactions, her international practice includes clients in Japan and South Korea.

Dubbed a Real Estate/Construction Law Trailblazer by the *National Law Journal* and honored by *Bisnow* as one of Chicago's Power Women in Real Estate, Michelle has also repeatedly made the *Illinois Real Estate Journal's* list of the state's leading women in commercial real estate and has frequently been profiled in numerous legal publications. In 2024, Michelle was named a Woman of Influence by *GlobeSt.*, one of only 24 women nationwide recognized in the Commercial Real Estate (CRE) Legal Counsel category. *GlobeSt.*, an ALM platform that provides timely, original real estate news and insights, also named Michelle as Woman of the Year in its prestigious recognition of women leaders in real estate, a tradition spanning more than four decades. A former chair of the Chicago Bar Association Real Property Law Committee, Michelle is a member of the Commercial Real Estate Executive Women Chicago and has written extensively on real estate-related legal topics.



Real estate deals are like puzzles, with lots of parts. I make sure all the parts fit together and help my clients get their deals done”

## Areas of Focus

- Real Estate Transactions
- Bankruptcy and Restructuring
- Real Estate and Hospitality
- Corporate
- Hedge, Investment, and Private Equity Funds

## Credentials

### Admissions

- Illinois, 2003
- Massachusetts, 1999

### Education

- University of Iowa College of Law, JD, 1998
- Marquette University, BS, *cum laude*, 1995

## Service / Recognition

### Awards

- *Chambers USA*, Real Estate (Illinois), 2023-2025
- *GlobeSt*. Woman of Influence, CRE Legal Counsel, 2024
- *GlobeSt*. Woman of the Year, Real Estate, 2024
- Connect CRE, Lawyers in Real Estate Award, Chicago and Midwest Region, 2023, 2025
- BisNow Media, Chicago's Power Woman in Real Estate, 2014
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, Real Estate, 2011-2013
- Illinois Real Estate Journal, Women in Commercial Real Estate, 2010-2018

### Community

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Member, Legal Advisory Committee, Member, Board of Advisors, Member, Executive Committee of Legal Assistance Office

- CREW Chicago (Commercial Real Estate Women), Member

### **Service to the Bar**

- American Bar Association, Member
- Chicago Bar Association, Chair of the Real Property Law Committee
- Illinois State Bar Association, Member