

Kathryn Kramer Gaydos

Cleveland
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Overview

Kathryn focuses her practice exclusively on retail leasing, bringing specialized experience within this niche area of commercial real estate. She advises institutional landlords and developers on lease negotiations, title review, due diligence, and complex development and ground lease matters, including national anchor tenants and inline shops.

Known for her practical, solutions-oriented approach, Kathryn helps clients navigate the complexities of retail leasing by balancing legal precision with business strategy. She is a strong negotiator and advocate, with a deep understanding of how lease documents reflect the business terms and commercial objectives of each deal. Clients value her clear drafting, thoughtful problem-solving, and guidance that is both legally sound and commercially realistic.

Kathryn stays current on evolving trends and issues in the retail leasing space, allowing her to anticipate challenges facing landlords and provide proactive, strategic counsel. She is recognized for being a steady, responsive partner who helps move deals forward efficiently while maintaining a focus on broader investment goals.

Prior to entering private practice, Kathryn worked at a commercial REIT, adding meaningful depth to her practice. This experience gives her firsthand insight into the operational and strategic challenges faced by property owners, enabling her to step into her clients' shoes and offer counsel aligned with their day-to-day realities and long-term objectives.

An active member of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Kathryn regularly speaks at the ICSC Law Conference and the ICSC+ OKIMP Law Symposium and serves on the planning committees for both events. She has been recognized for her work in real estate by *Best Lawyers®* and *Ohio Super Lawyers®*.

Outside of her legal work, Kathryn serves on the board of Goods Bank NEO, a nonprofit focused on connecting community organizations with essential goods. She also enjoys rowing on the Cuyahoga River, racing sailboats on Lake Erie, and spending time with her family.

Representative Matters

- In 2020, Benesch exclusively represented Site Centers Corp. on all lease amendments throughout Site's portfolio required as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Represented a multi-faceted redevelopment of an existing shopping center located in the Chicago, IL area that encompasses nearly 700,000 square feet. The project includes a land sale to a prominent national retailer that owns an adjacent parcel to allow for a store expansion by that retailer, as well as significant related site work. Benesch is coordinating all aspects of the redevelopment and transaction for the client.
- Represented the owner/developer in the leasing of an enclosed regional mall into an urban, mixed-use project, including experiential retail, office, parking, and a multifamily apartment project.
- Represented several of the largest shopping center owners in the United States in the negotiation and documentation of rent relief amendments due to COVID-19. This included the negotiation and documentation of over 1,000 lease amendments representing hundreds of millions of dollars in annual rent.
- Served as retail leasing counsel in several regions (including West, North, and Midwest) for an owner and operator of grocery-anchored shopping centers.
- Ongoing representation of a global real estate investor in all leasing transactions, asset management work, and multiple redevelopment projects across an 11 million square foot portfolio of malls and shopping centers throughout the U.S.
- Ongoing representation of multiple owner/developers (including publicly held REITs) in numerous leasing transactions nationwide with national, regional, and local tenants.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Cleveland State University College of Law, 2009, J.D., *summa cum laude*
  - Executive Editor, *Journal of Law and Health*
- Denison University, 2006, B.S., Psychology

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio

Memberships

- Member, ICSC+US Law Program Planning Committee
- Member, ICSC+Law Symposium (OH/KY/IN/MI/PA) Planning Committee
- Member, ICSC
- Board Member, Goods Bank NEO

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Real Estate Law, 2024-2027
- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers “Up and Coming,” Real Estate, 2025-2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, Real Estate, 2025-2026

Beyond the office

Did you know?

In her free time, Kathryn rows on the Cuyahoga River and races sailboats on Lake Erie.

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- 48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized in Chambers USA 2025 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2025 | Press Releases

- 49 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  December 17, 2024 | Press Releases
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- Benesch Ranks in Midwest Real Estate News
  October 30, 2023 | Press Releases
- Best Lawyers in America® Rankings 2024
  August 17, 2023 | Press Releases
- My Benesch My Team - Shopko Optical
  February 10, 2021 | My Benesch My Team: Client Feature Ads

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Insurance Assurance Lessons for Today's Changing Insurance Market | Kathryn Kramer Gaydos
  March 7, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- Peer to Peer 06 | Administrative Horror Stories of Lawyers Negotiating CAM Costs & Audits: What's Practical & What Is Not
  October 14, 2024 | Speaking Engagement
- When Negotiating the Lease, Let's Not Win the Battle Just to Lose the War | Kathryn Kramer Gaydos
  October 25, 2023 - October 27, 2023 | Speaking Engagement
- Risking Business: Negotiating Lease Insurance Provisions in Order to Protect Your Client | Kathryn Kramer Gaydos
  October 26, 2022 - October 28, 2022 | Speaking Engagement
- Whose Fault is it Anyway? - Current Issues in Liability Insurance | Kathryn Kramer Gaydos
  November 5, 2021 | Speaking Engagement