

Michael J. Klein

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Overview

Michael has significant experience representing clients in commercial real estate transactions and business transactions. He counsels and represents clients in both domestic and international acquisitions, dispositions, lending, leasing, sale-leasebacks, build to suits, separation of real estate assets, restructurings, construction, zoning, utility agreements and development work.

Michael further assists clients with his knowledge in business and commercial matters. Prior to joining the firm, he was a partner with another prominent law firm and senior counsel for real estate for a Fortune 100 company.

Representative Matters

- Represented a client in the $11.25 million sale of a 26-acre lakefront residential property in Illinois.
- Max Guggenheim and Mike Klein negotiated a headquarters lease for over 127,000 square feet of space on behalf of a client's newest spinoff. The Lease negotiation lasted almost a year, and was particularly challenging as the landlord was foreclosed during the negotiation, and involved the negotiation of the early termination of a Ground Lease Nondisturbance Agreement, an SNDA and an Escrow Agreement with the Receiver, the Lender, the Ground Lessor and the Escrow Agent. The headquarters will have office and pharmacy operations, and the client was awarded an EDGE tax credit by the State of Illinois as part of the incentive package, in connection with Vantive's $23 million investment and creation of 50 new full time jobs as part of this project.
- Represented a consumer goods manufacturer in the purchase of 125,000 sf warehouse in Woodridge, IL.

- Represented a public relations firm in the lease of 20,000 sf office lease in Atlanta, GA.
- Represented a consumer goods manufacturer in the lease of 100,000 sf warehouse in Woodridge, IL.
- Represented an alternative energy company, as tenant, in the negotiation of 22,000 sf office lease at 200 W Madison, Chicago, IL.
- Represented a medical device and nutrition company in the purchase of 25 acres of land assembled from 8 property owners for future development in Cherokee County, GA.
- Represented a law firm, as tenant, in the negotiation of 164,000 sf office lease in Key Tower, Cleveland, OH.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois College of Law, 1994, J.D.
- University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, 1991, B.A.
  - with distinction

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Memberships

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Illinois State Bar Association
- Vice President, University of Illinois Law Alumni Association (2009-2012)
- Coach, Batavia Youth Baseball and Football Teams (2009-2014)
- Board Member, Finance Committee, Aspire Chicago (2022-present)

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Legal 500: City Elite, Real Estate, 2026
- “AV” Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell

- Listed, Illinois Super Lawyers (2010-2011)

News & Insights

- 16 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Legal 500 City Elite Rankings
  July 28, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Welcomes New Partners in Chicago
  October 30, 2023 | Announcements
- Michael Klein quoted in Commercial Observer | “Leases are Getting Shorter and Rents are Dropping with U.S. Office Market in Turmoil”
  July 20, 2020 | Media Mentions
- My Benesch My Team - LeafFilter
  November 4, 2019 | My Benesch My Team: Client Feature Ads
- Benesch Increases Chicago Office Footprint to Accommodate Rapid Expansion
  July 18, 2019 | Press Releases