

George Craft, Jr.

Managing Shareholder - Houston

Practices: Real Estate Development & Investments; Real Estate Finance, Default Resolution & Servicing

Industries: Real Estate; Financial Services

With his finger on the pulse of the commercial real estate market, George Craft provides his clients with an elevated level of industry insight and understanding. George began his career as a commercial real estate lender for a national financial institution, putting that invaluable knowledge and experience to work as he embarked on his legal career with a focus on commercial real estate and real estate finance transactions.

His concentration on this specific area of practice has led George to become known as one of the preeminent real estate attorneys in greater Houston and across the county, handling more than \$3 billion in transactions over the past four years alone. Known as a responsive, deal-oriented attorney, George regularly works with developers, investors and institutional lenders on a wide variety of sophisticated commercial real estate transactions.

George's real estate finance practice includes the representation of institutional lenders in connection with debt and equity structured financing, including construction, mezzanine, and permanent loans, as well as representation of borrowers and lenders in workouts of distressed assets, including debt restructuring and non-judicial foreclosures.

He also provides counsel to investors in the acquisition of unimproved and income producing commercial real estate, as well as developers in all stages of the development cycle for numerous asset classes, including multi-family, office, retail, industrial and age-restricted living projects.

Additionally, he represents sponsors and equity investors in the structuring and formation of various types of real estate entities, including joint ventures.

As the Managing Shareholder of our Houston office, George is dedicated to preserving and cultivating the culture of our firm and the family feel we have always worked towards. He is also focused on strategic areas of expansion within the Houston market to complement our attorneys and the needs of our clients.

Representative Experience

Real Estate Development, Acquisitions and Dispositions

- Represent multi-family development company in connection with all aspects of its development projects throughout Texas, including site acquisition, debt and equity arrangements, and disposition
- Represent industrial development company in connection with the development of logistics centers in Houston and Dallas
- Represent investors in all aspects of the acquisition of value add investments in multi-family, retail and industrial projects throughout Texas
- Represent owners in sale leaseback transactions



Houston Office

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Education

University of Houston Law Center

– J.D., 2008

– Articles Editor, *Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy*

Connecticut College

– B.A., Economics, 2003

– with honors

Real Estate Lending, Workouts and Restructuring

- Represent state and national banks in connection with the construction of multi-family, industrial, student housing and mixed use projects in over 20 states
- Represent state and national banks in connection with the construction of over 1.5 million square feet of Class A office space in Houston's Energy Corridor
- Represent Sole Administrative Agent and Sole Syndication Agent in connection with construction financing for a 600,000 square foot Class A office tower in downtown Denver, Colorado
- Represent borrowers and lenders in connection with the restructuring of distressed real estate assets
- Represent lenders in connection with the foreclosure of commercial real estate developments throughout Texas

Professional & Community Service

- State Bar of Texas
- Houston Bar Association
- Houston Young Lawyers Association
- Methodist Hospital's Young Leaders for Medicine (Founding Member, Steering Committee, 2007-2008)
- Fellowship In Discipleship (FinD)

Awards & Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, (BL Rankings, LLC), 2018-2025
- Texas Rising Star, Thomson Reuters, 2017, 2018
- Houston's Top Lawyers, *H Texas*, 2014, 2016, 2018-2020

Admissions

- Texas, 2008