



Kerry E. Johnson

Partner
CO-CHAIR, US REAL ESTATE SECTOR

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Kerry Johnson concentrates on securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance matters and general corporate law. Her primary focus is the real estate industry, particularly exchange-listed real estate investment trusts (REITs) and their underwriters.

A significant portion of Kerry's practice includes representation of exchange-listed REITs in initial public offerings, secondary offerings, at-the-market offerings and follow-on public offerings of debt and equity securities, as well as private securities offerings under Rule 144A and Regulation D. Kerry also represents leading investment banking firms in initial public offerings and follow-on public and private offerings of equity and debt securities.

Kerry regularly advises public companies and boards of directors on corporate governance and general corporate matters, Securities Act and Exchange Act disclosure and compliance matters, NYSE and NASDAQ listing requirements and capital raising, investment and other strategic transactions.

- Finance
- Capital Markets
- Corporate
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Real Estate Finance
- Real Estate Investment Trusts
- Public Company and Corporate Governance

- Real Estate

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented AXA Investment Managers in its US\$1.2 billion acquisition of NorthStar Realty Europe Corp. (NYSE: NRE)
- Represented LaSalle Hotel Properties (NYSE: LHO) in its US\$5.2 billion public merger with Pebblebrook Hotel Trust (NYSE: PEB)
- Represented Hatteras Financial Corp. (NYSE: HTS) in its US\$1.5 billion public merger with Annaly Capital Management, Inc. (NYSE: NLY)
- Represented Highwoods Properties, Inc. (NYSE: HIW) in its Rule 144A debt offering and numerous public offerings of debt and equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$3.7 billion
- Represented STAG Industrial, Inc. (NYSE: STAG) in its formation and initial public offering and numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$3.8 billion
- Represented STORE Capital Corporation (NYSE: STOR) in its US\$377 million private placement of common stock to an affiliate of

Berkshire Hathaway and numerous public offerings of debt and equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$3 billion

- Represented LaSalle Hotel Properties (NYSE: LHO) in numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$2 billion
- Represented Hatteras Financial Corp. (NYSE: HTS) in its formation and Rule 144A offerings, initial public offering and numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$2.5 billion
- Represented NYSE-listed student housing REIT in its public offerings of common and preferred equity securities raising an aggregate of more than US\$130 million
- Represented NYSE-listed retail REIT in numerous common equity offerings raising an aggregate of more than US\$150 million
- Represented the underwriters in numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities for Ashford Hospitality Trust, Inc. (NYSE: AHT), raising an aggregate of more than US\$2.3 billion
- Represented the underwriters in the initial public offering and numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities for Braemar Hotels & Resorts, Inc. (NYSE: BHR), raising an aggregate of more than US\$350 million
- Represented the underwriters in the initial public offering, numerous public offerings of common and preferred equity securities and a 144A convertible debt offering for Innovative Industrial Properties, Inc. (NYSE: IIPR), raising more than US\$1 billion
- Represented the underwriters in numerous public offerings of debt and equity securities for Equity One, Inc. (NYSE: EQY), raising an aggregate of more than US\$1.5 billion
- Represented the underwriters in the US\$20 million common equity offering of Ashford Inc. (NYSE American: AINC)
- Represented the sales agents in the US\$200 million "at-the-market" common equity offering for LTC Properties, Inc. (NYSE: LTC)
- Represented the sales agents in the US\$25 million "at-the-market" common equity offering for CIM Commercial Trust Corporation (Nasdaq: CMCT)
- Represented an urban real estate developer in its Up-C formation transactions and US\$450 million initial public offering

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- Illinois
- New York
- North Carolina

Recognitions

- *Chambers USA* and *Legal 500* recognize Kerry for her national REIT practice, and have noted that clients say she is "deeply knowledgeable in securities laws and corporate governance matters," in addition to being "a problem solver" and "simply excellent to work with." Clients also comment that "Kerry's communication style is clear and direct and her knowledge of the field and its practices and guidelines is fulsome."
- Named to *Crain's Chicago Business* 2020 Notable Women in Law list.
- Named a 2017 *New York Law Journal* Rising Star, an award that recognizes 30 of the region's most promising lawyers under the age of 40 for influence in their practice areas in New York and beyond.

Education

- J.D., Wake Forest University 2005
- B.A., University of Pennsylvania 2002

Memberships

- National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts (NAREIT)

INSIGHTS

Publications

Real Estate sector: Top of Mind COVID-19 sector insights

1 July 2020

Top COVID-19 considerations for the real estate sector.

NEWS

DLA Piper advises SmartRent in US\$2.2 billion business combination with Fifth Wall Acquisition Corp. I

25 August 2021

DLA Piper represented SmartRent.com Inc. in its previously announced business combination with Fifth Wall Acquisition Corp. I.

Katie Hausfeld and Kerry Johnson named to *Crain's Chicago Business* Notable Women in Law list

8 September 2020

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Katie Hausfeld and Kerry Johnson have been named to *Crain's Chicago Business's* Notable Women in Law list.

DLA Piper announces new US and global sector leadership

22 January 2020

DLA Piper is pleased to announce several recent changes to the firm's US and global sector leadership teams. They include:

MEDIA MENTIONS

- "3 Firms Build SPAC Deal For \$2.2B Real Estate Tech Provider," *Law360*, April 22, 2021
- "DLA Piper lawyers and practices ranked in latest Chambers edition," *DLA Piper*, 2019
- "DLA Piper advises LaSalle Hotel Properties in merger with Pebblebrook Hotel Trust for estimated US\$5.2 billion," *DLA Piper*, 2018
- "Kerry Johnson named a New York Law Journal Rising Star," *DLA Piper*, 2017