



John A. Goldstein

Partner

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Chicago - 312.658.6606

John counsels and advises clients on commercial real estate and finance transactions nationwide. He handles diverse real estate transactions, including secured lending, land acquisitions and dispositions, development work, contract drafting and negotiation, and commercial leasing. John represents businesses, banks and other lending institutions, insurance companies, museums, developers, professional firms, not-for-profit organizations, landlords, and tenants.

In addition to guiding clients through the complexities of multi-state loan transactions, John has extensive experience drafting and negotiating commercial leases, as well as developing leasing forms. John frequently helps developers structure and negotiate acquisitions, dispositions, development, and financing transactions for office buildings, shopping centers, and industrial sites. He also represents landlords and tenants in leasing transactions involving office, retail, and industrial space in Chicago and throughout the country.

John has more than 40 years of experience as a real estate partner in Chicago, including more than a decade as a name partner at Harris Kessler & Goldstein. Outside of the office, he is an avid theater goer and enjoys playing and teaching the game of contract bridge.

Education

- Washington University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1981)
- Northwestern University School of Law (J.D., 1984)

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Mortgage Attorneys Association (*Past President*)

Practices & Industries

- Business Law
- Banking & Commercial Finance
- Joint Ventures & Strategic Alliances
- Private Equity
- Private Wealth Services
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Finance
- Leasing & Hospitality
- Real Estate Industry

Community Involvement

- Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee for Chicago Theater (*Member 2004-present*)
- American Contract Bridge League (*Silver Life Master*)

Awards & Honors

- Leading Lawyer, Real Estate Law (2008-present)
- AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings
- Illinois Leading Lawyers (2020-2022)

In the News

- *Law360*, "[Attorneys Shift Gaze To Contracts As Trade Tensions Escalate](#)," (March 4, 2025)
- *Law360*, "[Real Estate In 2024 By The Numbers](#)," (December 18, 2024)
- *Law360*, "[Blackstone's Chicago Bet Backfires Post-Pandemic](#)," (May 1, 2024)
- *Law360*, "[Chicago Real Estate Tax Change Would Have 'Chilling' Effect](#)," (October 3, 2023)
- *Law360*, "[What Real Estate Attys Have Learned About Force Majeure](#)," (August 8, 2022)
- *Law360*, "[What We Learned About Malls In 2021](#)," (December 16, 2021)
- *Law360*, "[Rent Abatement Clause Frequency Up Nearly 50% Since 2019](#)," (June 23, 2021)
- *CommercialCafe*, "[Expert Insights: Chicago Real Estate Attorney John Goldstein Discusses Office Leasing in the Current Marketplace](#)," (May 5, 2021)
- *Law360*, "[3 Ways The Pandemic Is Reshaping Commercial Real Estate](#)," (April 16, 2021)
- *Above the Law*, "[Over-Communicating, Renegotiating, Looking Ahead](#)," (January 29, 2021)
- *Above the Law*, "[Government Hurdles, Parking Lot Dealmaking, Pent-Up Energy](#)," (January 15, 2021)
- *Law360*, "[3 Considerations As Amazon Eyes JC Penney, Sears Spaces](#)," (September 1, 2020)
- *WBEZ*, "[Chicago Movie Buff Shares His Favorite Things To Read, Watch And Do](#)," (May 6, 2020)
- *Law360*, "[4 Things To Keep In Mind When Negotiating Retail Leases](#)," (January 18, 2018)
- *ABA Journal*, "[Indiana Jones at Law: Attorney discovers business opportunities during his travels](#)," (December 2016)
- *Law360*, "[3 Ways Malls Are Repositioning Amid Anchor Store Departures](#)," (October 20, 2016)
- *WBEZ*, "[The Movie That Made Me: John Goldstein On 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'](#)," (June

29, 2016)

- *Law360*, "4 Ways Malls Are Reacting To The Ride-Hailing Economy," (April 14, 2016)
- *Leading Lawyers*, "The Bridge Builder," (January 2016)
- *Law360*, "4 Things Retail Developers Will Watch For On Black Friday," (November 24, 2015)
- *Law360*, "4 Ways Suburban Office Landlords Are Luring Tenants," (October 16, 2015)
- *Law360*, "4 Needs For Brick-And-Mortar Tenants In The Digital Age," (August 28, 2015)
- *Law360*, "Investors Chasing Trophy Malls Turn To JV Deals," (April 8, 2015)
- *Law360*, "5 Key Factors For Retail Tenants In Property Upgrade Talks," (January 30, 2015)
- *Chicago Real Estate Daily*, "Legal battle brewing over new Rosemont mall," (June 11, 2014)

Publications & Presentations

PUBLICATIONS

- "Keeping Up in a Changing World," *Shopping Center Business* (July 2022)
- "Bridge becomes lawyer's passion," *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* (December 2012)