

JAMES H. FRIEND, ESQ.
OF COUNSEL

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Primary Areas of Practice

All contractual and legal aspects relating to the real estate and hotel development process, including land acquisition and entitlement, environmental remediation, municipal bond financing and other government incentives for development, architecture and engineering, space planning, interior design, F.F.&E, purchasing, debt and equity finance, mezzanine finance, entity formation, partnership structuring and documentation.

Professional Experience

Mr. Friend has over 25 years of hands-on development and legal experience throughout the United States and the world. He has worked in more than 15 states and diverse areas of the world including Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean; the South American countries of Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Brazil; China, Hong Kong, Southeast Asia; Mexico; numerous European countries including Italy, France and Belgium; and Russia and the Baltic States of Latvia and Lithuania

Mr. Friend practiced law with a major Wall Street law firm, worked in the real estate finance and sales division of Lehman Brothers Kuhn Loeb, worked in a commercial bank in South America, practiced law in Paris, France and was a Project Manager for Stanford University in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has extensive experience traveling and working overseas and speaks fluent Spanish.

As a successful hotel and real estate developer he brings a unique blend of practical experience and deep market knowledge to his practice. He has raised more than \$500 million of debt and equity for complex and diverse real estate projects nationwide and has extensive experience working with institutions, banks, insurance companies, sovereign government lenders and investors, family investment entities and hedge funds.

Education

- Northwestern University, School of Law, JD,
- Stanford University, BA with Honors

Professional Affiliations

- National Board of Directors, Stanford Alumni Association
- Adjunct Professor, New York University