

Lawrence Ferris

Associate

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Lawrence Ferris is a real estate attorney focused on land use, zoning, and historic preservation matters throughout Washington, D.C. He assists clients in the development of mixed-use, multifamily, retail, office, institutional, and hospitality projects. Lawrence provides advice and representation for all stages of the land use approval process including due diligence, special exception and variance applications, design review, planned unit developments, community outreach, and permitting.

Lawrence has experience working on projects of all sizes, from large mixed-use developments to single-family homes, and has worked on matters through all phases of development, from initial concept, feasibility study, and site acquisition to securing entitlements and permitting, and related litigation at both the trial and appellate level.

Lawrence's practice encompasses projects requiring review before the Zoning Commission, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, the Historic Preservation Review Board, the Mayor's Agent for Historic Preservation, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Public Space Committee. Lawrence also has experience with projects undergoing Large Tract Review and with obtaining Building Code Modifications, including for projections, and documenting compliance with Inclusionary Zoning during permit review, as well as a variety of other transactional land use matters. His practice involves working extensively with various District government agencies and staff, as well as with local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) and other community groups.

Accolades

- Best Lawyers in America® Ones to Watch (2021-2025): Real Estate
- GW Law Pro Bono Recognition (2014)

Affiliations

- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Urban Land Institute

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland

Education

- The George Washington University Law School (J.D., 2014)
- University of Tennessee (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2008)

Representative Matters

Building Code Modification for Multifamily Redevelopment in DC

Secured approval of a building code modification for a multifamily redevelopment in DC's Eckington neighborhood.

Variance & Special Exception Approval for Mixed-Use Development in DC

Secured variance and special exception approval for a mixed-use development in DC's H Street NE corridor.

Favorable Settlement in Dispute Over Demolition of Historic Structure in DC

Assisted in appellate litigation leading to a favorable settlement in dispute over demolition of a historic structure in DC's Chinatown neighborhood.

Favorable Summary Judgment Ruling Concerning DC's Inclusionary Zoning Law

Assisted in federal court litigation leading to a favorable summary judgment ruling in a lawsuit concerning DC's Inclusionary Zoning law.

Variance Approval for Renovation of Dupont Circle Home

Represented a homeowner in securing a variance approval for extensive renovation of a Dupont Circle home.