

Max Friedman

Of Counsel

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Max Friedman is a real estate lawyer who handles complex real estate transactions, including development arrangements, ground leases, condominium structures, financing arrangements and public/private partnerships.

He counsels a broad range of private, public and tax exempt organizations on both purpose-built and mixed use projects (including office, multi-family, community facility and hospitality components).

Max's prior experience includes serving as law clerk to Honorable Irving R. Kaufman, Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (1977-1978) and Luce Scholar, Member of Law Faculty, National University of Singapore (1979-1980).

Accolades

- Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Rated AV Preeminent™
- *Who's Who Legal*, Global Leader, Real Estate, 2022
- "Volunteer of the Year," The Nature Conservancy, Adirondack Chapter, 2007
- New York Super Lawyer, 2006-2012

Affiliations

- Urban Land Institute

Admissions

- New York

Education

- Columbia University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1974)

- Phi Beta Kappa
- Yale Law School (J.D., 1977)

Representative Matters

New York City Economic Development Corporation Strategic Land Swap Agreement

Represented the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) and the City of New York in connection with a strategic land swap agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The agreement granted NYCEDC control over 122 acres of Brooklyn's coastline, paving the way for the revitalization of the Brooklyn Marine Terminal into a dynamic maritime port and vibrant community hub of housing, retail, and green space. In return, the Port Authority will acquire the City's 225-acre section of the Howland Hook Marine Terminal on Staten Island, consolidating full control of Howland Hook for future expansion.

New York City Economic Development Corporation Redevelopment Projects

Representation of The New York City Economic Development Corporation in connection with numerous notable projects, including the redevelopment of Times Square, the development of the nine sites comprising "Essex Crossing" on the Lower East Side, the sale of 49-51 Chambers Street and 346 Broadway in lower Manhattan and the development of East River Science Park on the campus of Bellevue Hospital.

YMCA of Greater New York Real Estate Matters

Multi-decade representation of the YMCA of Greater New York in the development of numerous facilities, including new branches in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, various financings, the sale of development rights and other real estate matters (including leases, construction agreements and consulting agreements.)

Forest City Ratner Cornell-Technion Campus

Successful advocate for Forest City Ratner in connection with Forest City's role as master developer of the Cornell-Technion campus on Roosevelt Island and as developer of the "Bridge", a co-location building located on the Cornell-Technion campus, including the negotiation of a master lease and condominium structure for the building.

Fortune 500 Company Condominiumization of Commercial Buildings in Midtown

Representation of a Fortune 500 company in connection with the condominiumization of numerous commercial buildings in mid-town Manhattan and the sale of condominium units for office and other uses.

Various Family Interests in Ground Leasing of Sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens

Representation of various family interests in the ground leasing, for development, of sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, on both a stand-alone basis and as part of large scale plans, including agreements for the rezoning of property to facilitate development.

The Nature Conservancy Land Acquisition in the Adirondacks

Representation of The Nature Conservancy in connection with the acquisition of 168,000 acres in the heart of the Adirondacks.

Saving scenic land (and jobs) in the Adirondacks

With the future of over 160,000 acres of the Adirondacks at stake, the Nature Conservancy needed legal counsel able to deal with myriad bet-the-farm transactions on a tight, unforgiving timetable.

It turned to Goulston & Storrs. As an alumnus, the Nature Conservancy's General Counsel, Jonathon Kaledin, knew first-hand that the firm would deliver exactly what he needed: a deep bench; seamless, inter-office real estate expertise; and, a passion for the complex issues involved. He called Matt Epstein, a Boston partner and friend, who reached out to the firm's pro bono committee.

The Goulston & Storrs team for the Nature Conservancy was led by Max Friedman, a Director in the Real Estate group. Based in the firm's New York City office, Friedman had earned a reputation for handling such complex real estate deals as the redevelopment of Times Square.

Friedman collaborated with attorneys in the firm's New York and Boston offices. The team was focused on the client's goal of protecting the wilderness while safeguarding the jobs associated with Finch, Pruyn & Company, the paper manufacturer which had owned the land for nearly 150 years.

The result? With the firm's help, the Conservancy crafted an agreement that uses a variety of sophisticated tools to protect land that The New York Times described as the "last big piece of privately owned timberland in the Adirondacks" while remaining sensitive to any economic impacts.

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Max Friedman is a member of the firm's Real Estate group. Please let him know if you would like more detailed information about how he helped this client.

Community

Max feels fortunate to be able to use his real estate skills, on a pro bono basis, to help a diverse group of organizations – from non-profit organizations interested in developing homeless shelters within the City of New York to land trusts interested in preserving open space for farming and other productive uses.

Through his practice, he has come to appreciate that real estate decisions affect not only the built environment but also, more broadly, the communities impacted by those decisions.