

# GEANEEN M. ARENDS

DIRECTOR

Detroit  
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For more than 25 years, Geaneen M. Arends has counseled clients in an array of complicated, high stakes business and real estate transactions across a variety of sectors. Ms. Arends focuses her practice on mergers and acquisitions, general business law, and commercial real estate. Clients benefit from her strong commitment to integrity and confidentiality in every transaction, no matter the scope.

Ms. Arends assists and advises business clients with general business planning, entity formation and maintenance, mergers, acquisitions, commercial lending, woman-owned/minority-owned/disadvantaged business certification, risk management issues, and general business contracts. She also advises business clients on a variety of real estate transactions, including acquisition, disposition, development, and leasing of multi-family residential, retail, office, and industrial properties throughout the United States. She represents borrowers and lenders in multi-million dollar real estate financing transactions. Ms. Arends has been recognized for her experience in navigating notable “deals of the year” on multiple occasions over the course of her remarkable career.

Some of the most meaningful matters Ms. Arends has handled involve assisting nonprofit organizations. She has helped an organization with the intricacies involved in the construction of a health care center in Detroit that provides physical and mental health care and dental care for some of Detroit’s most disadvantaged residents, and has assisted another nonprofit organization that provides housing to refugees from 20 different countries to navigate business dealings essential to the entity’s operations. Ms. Arends also assists many clients in an external general counsel role.

## Primary Practice Areas

**Business**  
**Corporate and Finance**  
**Real Estate**

## All Related Practice Areas

Acquisition & Disposition  
Business  
Commercial Lending  
Corporate and Finance  
Education Industry Team  
Election Law  
Federal Government Affairs  
Financial Services  
Government Relations and Regulatory Specialty Team  
Land Development  
Leasing  
Lending  
Mergers & Acquisitions  
Minority Business Enterprise Specialty Team  
Nonprofit Organizations  
Outside General Counsel Services  
Real Estate  
State and Local Government

## GEANEEN M. ARENDS

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Geaneen Arends is a Shareholder practicing in Butzel's Detroit office. She is a Vice President of Butzel and serves on the firm's Board of Directors. She also serves as Chair of Butzel's Diversity and Inclusion Committee and is a past Chair of the firm's Corporate and Real Estate Practice Departments.

Prior to joining Butzel, Ms. Arends was in-house counsel for a real estate investment and property management firm and previously practiced in the real estate groups of two prominent Detroit law firms.

Relations

Title Insurance

### Credentials

#### EDUCATION

Boston College Law School, J.D.

Michigan State University, B.A., History

#### ADMISSIONS

Michigan

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

#### MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Foundation, Fellow

Detroit Bar Association, Fellow

Detroit Economic Club, Gold Member

Detroit Legal News Co. (DTRL) U.S.: OTC, Board of Directors

Detroit Public Television, Member - Executive Committee,  
Secretary - Board of Trustees

Detroit Regional Chamber, Leadership Detroit, Alumna Class  
XXVII

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Classical Roots Steering  
Committee

## GEANEEN M. ARENDS

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Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), Real Property Law Advisory Board Member

Karmanos Cancer Institute, Board of Directors

State Bar of Michigan, Business Law and Real Property Law Sections

### Awards & Recognitions

*Crain's Detroit Business* – 2024 Notable Black Business Leaders

*The Best Lawyers in America®* – Real Estate Law, 2025–2026; International Mergers and Acquisitions, 2026

*Corp!* Magazine – Diversity Business Leader Honoree, 2021

*Crain's Detroit Business* – Notable Executives in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 2021

*Crain's Detroit Business* – Notable Woman Attorney, 2017

M&A Advisor – Cross-Border M&A Deal of the Year (over \$50MM – \$100MM), 2016

Association for Corporate Growth, Detroit – All Star Deal of the Year Over \$50 Million, 2015

*Michigan Lawyers Weekly* – *Women in the Law*, 2014

*DBusiness* Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit – Nonprofits/Charities Law, 2014; Corporate Law, 2018, 2022, 2023; Real Estate Law, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2020–2023; Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2018, 2020