

Christopher B. Frantze

He/Him

PARTNER

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Office: Kansas City



Chris works tirelessly to help his real estate and corporate clients realize opportunities and protect their rights in all transactions.

Chris assists purchasers, sellers, lenders, landlords and tenants in developing strategies and negotiating complex agreements related to sales transactions, leasing, public incentives, and corporate mergers and acquisitions. He has represented clients, both nationally and regionally, including real estate investment trusts (REIT) and commercial mortgage-backed securities (CMBS) borrowers, in the acquisition or sale of more than \$1 billion of commercial real estate and the leasing of more than 500,000 square feet of commercial office space.

Keenly aware of the challenges in negotiating leases on behalf of both landlords and tenants, Chris strategically advocates for favorable lease provisions to put clients in the best position possible, while mitigating the dreaded “we have a problem” phone call.

Additionally, he understands the importance of finding the right capital stack for any project—adding value through obtaining tax abatements and redirections, including tax increment financing (TIF), Port KC, Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority (LCRA), Chapter 353, and Chapter 100; the use of special taxing districts, such as the transportation development district (TDD) and community improvement district (CID); the utilization of

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Real Estate & Public Finance
Real Estate Development
Cannabis Law & Services
Public/Private Partnerships, Finance & Incentives
Commercial Lending
Real Estate Investment Trusts
Real Estate Lending

ADMISSIONS

Kansas, 2015
Missouri, 2014

EDUCATION

University of Oklahoma College of Law, J.D.,
with highest honors, 2014

- Order of the Coif
- *Oklahoma Law Review*, Assistant Managing Editor

University of Oklahoma, B.S., Computer Science, 2011

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tax-advantaged structures such as 1031 exchanges and Opportunity Zone funds and benefits; and other HPIP and PEAK incentives in Kansas and the Missouri Works program in Missouri.

EXPERIENCE

Public Finance

Lead counsel in obtaining tax abatement from Port KC for renovation of historic Scarritt Tower and Scarritt Arcade buildings in downtown Kansas City, Missouri.

Represented a NASDAQ-listed client in obtaining a nine-figure incentive package for a \$400 million project to construct an 880,000-square-foot omni-channel distribution center in Kansas City, Kansas, which includes the creation of nearly 2,000 jobs.

Representing several Missouri Community Improvement Districts and Transportation Development Districts with combined annual revenues of roughly \$1.5 million.

Cannabis

General counsel representing Elevate Cannabis, a multi-location, vertically integrated cannabis business operator, in corporate and regulatory matters, including license acquisition.

Represented Elevate Cannabis in a strategic transaction that led to a favorable outcome, including a \$25 million senior secured credit facility.

Lead counsel representing a Missouri cannabis company in the acquisition of a vertically-integrated cannabis company, holding dispensary, cultivation, and MIP licenses.

Commercial

Lead counsel representing a buyer in the \$125 million acquisition of mixed use properties for redevelopment in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Lead counsel representing a REIT borrower in the refinance of a multi-tenant office building with a \$30 million CMBS loan.

Lead counsel representing Troy Kearns in the acquisition of downtown Kansas City, Missouri Pecks Plaza historic building.

Lead counsel representing a buyer in the \$20 million acquisition of a multi-tenant office building in Kansas City, Missouri.

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Lead counsel representing a tenant in the negotiation of an office lease for the relocation of its headquarters to a new 40,000-square-foot premises in Kansas City, Missouri.

Represented a REIT in the \$50 million acquisition of a 175,000-square-foot multi-tenant office building in Frisco, Texas.

Represents a national real estate marketplace and provider of property services in drafting state and local compliant residential lease forms for Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, and North Dakota.

Represents a landlord in the negotiation of a lease for a \$13 million renovation of a 150,000-square-foot senior living facility in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Local Kansas and Missouri counsel, including providing local counsel opinions, for lending transactions totaling in excess of \$1 billion of combined loan amounts.

Multi-Family

Lead counsel representing Cordish Companies in obtaining a \$109 million HUD construction loan for a 288-unit multifamily luxury apartment complex.

Lead counsel representing Maxus Properties in the disposition of up to \$2 billion of multifamily portfolio in Midwest and Southeast United States.

Lead counsel representing Maxus Properties in the acquisition of the Isaac, a 266-unit luxury apartment complex in Frisco, Texas.

Represented a REIT in the \$40 million acquisition of a multifamily apartment complex in Little Rock, Arkansas, by utilizing Opportunity Zone benefits.

Corporate

Lead counsel for a merger and corporate restructuring of a discount retailer in the Kansas City Metro Area.

Lead counsel to a purchaser in a \$20 million acquisition of a reverse logistics company and a transportation company operating in the Midwest.

Counsel for a purchaser in its \$20 million acquisition of assets from a 200-year-old American manufacturing company in a Chapter 353 sale.

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RECOGNITIONS

Named to the 2023 *Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" list

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ACTIVITIES

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Lower Plains Region

- 2018 Man of the Year, over \$180,000 raised (Chapter record)
- Man & Woman of the Year Campaign Co-Chair, 2020-2021
- Man & Woman of the Year Leadership Committee, 2018-Present

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

- Real Estate Policy Committee, 2018-Present
- Centurions (Leadership Development Program), 2022-Present
- genKC (Young Professionals Organization)
 - Board of Directors, 2015-2018
 - Membership Committee Chair, 2016-2017

Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council

- Eagle Scout, 2003
- Council Properties Committee, 2019-Present
- Chairman, Camp Staff Alumni Association, 2015-2019

American Bar Association

- Member, 2014-Present

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

- Member, 2014-Present

NEWS

Stinson Attorneys Advise Elevate Cannabis in Securing Multimillion-Dollar Funding for Missouri Market Expansion

05.10.2024

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URBN Opens \$60 Million Fulfillment Center in Missouri, Stinson Attorneys Serve as Legal Counsel
02.23.2024

Best Lawyers in America Recognizes 32 Stinson Attorneys as "Ones to Watch"
08.17.2023

Stinson's Father-Son Duo, KC's Top Real Estate Attorneys Featured in *Kansas City Business Journal*
12.30.2022

Chris Frantze Serves as Legal Counsel in Renewal of Historic Downtown KC Building
11.23.2022

Pro Bono Matter Helps Protect Residents of Historic KC Neighborhood from Rising Property Values
10.06.2022

Best Lawyers in America® Recognizes 29 Stinson Attorneys as "Ones to Watch"
08.18.2022

Stinson Serves as Lead Counsel to Maxus Properties in Sale of Multifamily Complexes
03.29.2022

Christopher Frantze Selected to KC Chamber's Centurions Leadership Program
03.08.2022

Stinson Elects Nine New Partners in 2022
01.11.2022

Stinson Represents KC NWSL in Lease Negotiations to Build the First Stadium for a Women's Sports Team
10.29.2021

Stinson Serves as Legal Counsel to Maxus Properties in Dallas Apartment Acquisition
07.14.2021

Stinson Represents Urban Outfitters in Development of New Kansas City Area Facility
08.12.2020

PUBLICATIONS

Quoted, "[More than 130 Westside households tap KC incentive program to counter rapid tax increases,](#)" *Kansas City Business Journal*, February 2023

Quoted, "[Westside neighbors drive 'creative' use of KC incentive program as answer to skyrocketing property taxes,](#)" *Kansas City Business Journal*, October 2022

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"Equity Income Partners LP v. Chicago Title Insurance Co. and Recovery Under a Lender's Title Insurance Policy in a Falling Real Estate Market," *48 Real Property Trust & Estate Law Journal* 391, Fall 2013