

JAMES J. CHESTER

Residence

4846 Riverside Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220
(614) 205-3033

Office

65 E. State Street
Suite 1000
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 221-4000

PROFESSIONAL

Partner

Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, LLP, formerly Chester, Willcox & Saxbe, LLP
Practice is concentrated in all aspects of real estate, general business and corporate law. Advises clients in connection with the organization, finance, control, acquisition and disposition of businesses, including corporations, partnerships and limited liability companies, as well as general business and contract matters. Also counsels clients in all aspects of commercial real estate law including the purchase, finance, development, construction and leasing of apartments, office buildings, shopping centers, residential developments, commercial and manufacturing facilities. Clients include owners, developers, tenants and financial institutions.

Admitted to practice of law, Ohio Supreme Court, Wyoming Supreme Court and Federal Courts.

Notable Experience

- Assist clients in the purchase and sale of land, office buildings, shopping centers, apartment complexes, commercial and manufacturing facilities throughout Ohio and the United States, including the purchase of a 636 unit apartment complex in Dallas, Texas for an institutional pension fund client, the sale of 151 acres of land in Phoenix, Arizona and purchase of a mixed portfolio consisting of Walgreen's and medical office condominiums in Phoenix and Denver pursuant to a 1031 exchange of property.
- Assist clients in finance of office buildings, shopping centers and apartment complexes, including the financing of new academic buildings at an independent college preparatory day school, and the refinancing of an Ohio shopping center portfolio with Prudential Insurance Company.
- Assist office building and shopping center landlords and tenants with leasing, including the leasing of office space in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas and Denver for international architectural and engineering firm.

- General Counsel to Columbus-based shopping center and apartment developer in purchase, development, finance and leasing of portfolio comprising 30 plus commercial strip centers and apartment complexes.
- Serves as outside general counsel to real estate equity investment firms and several family equity investment firms.
- Assist clients with stock and asset purchase and sale transactions including the sale of a locally based, national specialty foods manufacturer, an employee purchase of a custom plastics manufacturer, and an investor group's purchase of 39 restaurants from corporate franchisor.
- Assist clients in day to day business and commercial transactions in various industry sectors, including preparation of agreements and commercial terms and conditions for coal fired electric generation plant in Marietta, Ohio, specialty foods producer, international architectural and engineering firm, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and Federal Department of Homeland Security grant recipient.
- General counsel to largest motor vehicle auction in Ohio, auctioning several thousand motor vehicles per week with over \$1B in annual revenue; assist with motor vehicle title and secured transaction issues, litigation, legislative representation, commercial and real property transactions.

Member

Columbus Bar Association
 Ohio State Bar Association
 Wyoming Bar Association
 American Bar Association
 American Judicature Society
 Columbus Bar Foundation

Partner

Riverside Asset Management – Real Estate and Securities
 Riverside Capital Management – Private Equity
 Slate Run Capital Management – Real Estate and Private Equity

EDUCATION

Legal

Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Cleveland, Ohio J.D. 1987
Activities: Dunmore Moot Court Competition
Dean, Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity

Undergraduate

Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts
B.A. cum laude, American Studies 1984
Activities: Psi Upsilon Fraternity, House Manager
Harlan Fiske Stone Law Society
Amherst College Republicans, Chairman

CIVIC

Member and Chairman, City of Columbus Board of License Appeals, 1990 – present
Trustee, Black Tie Ball, Benefit for Children's Hospital, 1990 - 1998
Member, Ohio Historical Society
Member, Voluntary General Counsel, Charity Newsies, 1997 – present
Co-Founder and Trustee, The Columbus Zoo Young Professionals, 1997 – 2002
Trustee, The Wellington School, 2002 - 2011
Trustee, The Association Board of the Columbus Zoological Park Association, 2002 – 2017
Trustee, Upper Arlington Community Foundation, 2003 – 2010
Pelotonia, 180 Mile Rider, Stephanie's Team of Hope (2009 - present)
The Nature Conservancy of Ohio, Ad hoc Campaign Task Force Committee (2014); Campaign Steering Committee (2020 - present)

POLITICAL

Member, Committee to elect Wade Steen, Franklin County Treasurer – 2002
Member, Committee to elect Stuart Harris, Columbus City Council - 2001
Member, Committee to elect Judge Michael Watson - 1998
Judicial Salute - annual fundraiser for Republican judicial candidates
Capital City Young Republican Club – 1989 Finance Chairman
Intern - State Government, Columbus, Ohio, May 1980
Assisted the staff of Minority Leader Corwin M. Nixon

SOCIAL

Columbus Club
Athletic Club of Columbus
Scioto Country Club
Gyro Club
Van Darby Club

PERSONAL

Born April 22, 1962
Attended Columbus Academy, Gahanna, Ohio 1974-1980
Interests include golf, tennis, biking, skiing, fishing, hunting, camping and reading
Member, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church
Married: Karen Bradway Chester, October 14, 1989
Children: Kara Hannum Chester, born June 16, 1992
Abigail Bradway Chester, born February 3, 1994
Julia Johnson Chester, born August 21, 1997
James Johnson Chester, born October 22, 1999