

John R. Buben, Jr.

Partner

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It's very satisfying to help clients get the most value out of the real estate acquisitions they make and the properties they own. With a career that spans thousands of transactions, I intuitively know the variables that can kill a deal and the things that truly matter. We won't waste time and money on anything that doesn't move the needle for our client.

John Buben is an experienced real estate lawyer in all aspects of **real estate law**, including 1031 exchanges, joint ventures, **acquisitions**, leasing, financing, title, survey, due diligence review and much more. He has advised on and finalized a significant number of 1031 exchanges, including reverse, ground lease and other complex exchanges. John currently serves on the Firm's Executive Committee, is the former **REAS Practice Group** Leader and regularly represents developer and investor clients in North and South Carolina and throughout the Southeast in all aspects of commercial real estate and joint-venture transactions, focusing on larger, complex matters, including **apartment complexes, mixed-use projects, hotels, office buildings** and all types of **retail projects**. During John's active real estate practice that covers three decades, he has learned that there is an art to structuring a successful transaction. He knows the hot-button issues and prides himself on being a deal maker and collaborative negotiator who works toward an agreeable solution to complicated matters. John also focuses on negotiating, structuring and drafting joint venture relationships,

Practices

Real Estate Advisory Services
Taxation
Mergers & Acquisitions
Business Succession Planning

Industries

Real Estate, Hospitality & Construction
Retail
Distribution
Manufacturing
Financial Services
Local Government

Bar Admissions

North Carolina

Education

Florida State University School of Law
(JD, with High Honors, 1991)
University of Florida (BS, with Honors,
1988)

Associations

Professional

- **American Bar Association**
- **North Carolina Bar Association**
- **Mecklenburg County Bar**
- **International Council of Shopping Centers**

including limited liability companies, partnerships and similar entities. Outside of North and South Carolina, John teams with **Meritas**-member law firms, which give him and the Firm the reach and relationships to efficiently deal with the applicable municipalities and local authorities specific to the transaction. He has closed transactions in 30 states.

Community

[About Our Firm](#)
[Recognition](#)

Representative Experience

- Represented regional automotive services franchisee in \$230+ million sale transaction to private equity firm.
- Represented largest developer of national drug store chain in development of 100+ drug stores/shopping centers in Southeastern United States.
- Represented developer in acquisition, financing, development (including lease negotiations and construction) and sale of over 75 retail shopping center projects totaling over \$750 million.
- Served as lead counsel in \$125 million+ sale of 25-theater movie chain (theaters located in 4 states) to national movie theater company.
- Served as lead counsel in acquisition of partial interest of \$200 million+ real estate holding company.
- Represented natural gas well developer/operator in all aspects of negotiations, contracting and acquisition of 150+ wells in Kentucky.
- Served as corporate counsel to natural gas well developer/operator in \$60 million acquisition of natural gas well operating company.
- Served as lead counsel on numerous joint venture arrangements ranging is asset value from \$5 million to \$50 million+ for national real estate developer.

- Served as directors and shareholders counsel in \$90 million+ merger of international valve manufacturing business to Netherlands based conglomerate.
- Co-managed three law firm legal teams (as plaintiffs) in successful settlement of \$144 million lawsuit involving 20 commercial real estate projects.

Honors

- ***The Best Lawyers in America***© – Real Estate Law (2020-2025)
- ***Business North Carolina “Legal Elite”*** – Real Estate (2012, 2016, 2023, 2024)
- **Martindale-Hubbell**, AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated
- **Super Lawyers**® North Carolina – Real Estate Law (2022-2025)