

Michael R. Thornton

ATTORNEY

Co-Chair, Real Estate Development

mthornton@smithlaw.com

919.821.6695



"He is the most incredible lawyer for us and truly a trusted adviser." – Client quote in Chambers USA

OVERVIEW

Mike Thornton is a commercial real estate lawyer with extensive experience representing owners and developers of retail, office, multifamily and hotel properties. Mike co-leads the Real Estate Development practice group at Smith Anderson. His practice consists of a broad range of real estate matters, including finance, leasing and joint ventures.

EXPERIENCE

- Represents publicly traded-REITs and institutional owners of shopping center and mall portfolios on a national basis for acquisitions & dispositions, leasing and financing matters.
- Represented an owner of 300,000 square-foot office tower in sale and retention of ownership stake through implementation of new joint venture structure.
- Formation of condominium ownership structure for mixed-use retail and residential building in connection with the sale of 409 apartment units.
- Represented a hotel management company in the disposition of a multistate portfolio of twenty hotels valued at over \$350 million.
- Represented a developer of a residential leasehold condominium project within a community of commercial and governmental research facilities located on a state university campus.
- Represented a municipality in connection with the long-term ground leasing of town-owned property to a private developer for mixed use retail and residential development incorporating public open space for art and cultural events.
- Represented developers in successful rezoning cases involving a 179-acre mixed-use development, including retail, office, residential and hotel uses, and a mixed-use in-fill development located on eleven acres.

- Represented a global solid state LED lighting and semiconductor manufacturing company in connection with the real estate aspects of its announced agreement for its \$850 million sale of assets to a publicly traded German semiconductor company. The transaction was terminated before completion due to regulatory considerations.

CREDENTIALS

Recognition

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers*, Real Estate (2016-2023)
- Best Lawyers®, Real Estate Law (2010-2024)
- *Business North Carolina* Legal Elite, Real Estate

Education

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, *cum laude*, 1994
- B.A., University of North Carolina, *with honors*, 1991

Bar & Court Admissions

- New York
- North Carolina
- U.S. District Court for the District of New York

