

Laura M. Walda

SHAREHOLDER

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Responsive, caring and a good listener is how clients describe Laura Walda, who understands that each client needs to feel special and receive the highest level of service.

A shareholder in the firm's commercial real estate practice, Laura focuses on complex contract and lease negotiation, real estate acquisitions and dispositions, negotiation and structuring of credit facilities and problem-solving.

She also has experience in commercial litigation focusing on title insurance matters, landlord/tenant disputes and banking litigation.

Experience

- Lead counsel on the negotiation of joint venture agreements, development agreements and loan documents for multifamily development projects ranging from \$25-\$100 million.
- Lead outside counsel in negotiation of leases for a national insurance company.
- Lead outside counsel in negotiation of purchase and sale agreements and leases for a cannabis company.
- Lead real estate counsel on 12-plus acre multi-use development project in downtown Orlando.
- Lead counsel on \$105 million, 12-site disposition of industrial sites located across the country.
- Co-counsel on \$73.6 million, 5-site disposition of retail villages located at nationally-known vacation venues.
- Co-counsel on \$75 million disposition of three (3) office buildings located in Texas and Florida.

Practices & Industries

Real Estate Transactions
Commercial Leasing
Real Estate Development
Real Estate
Cannabis & Controlled Substances
Real Estate Finance
Banking & Finance
Hospitality & Leisure

Admissions

Florida
Montana

Education

- Indiana University Maurer School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2009
- Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, M.P.A., 2009; Public Affairs
- Indiana University, B.A., *high distinction*, 2004

- Led a team on 40-plus single-site restaurant sale/leaseback transactions for a national restaurant chain.
- Co-counsel on the negotiation, structuring and closing of multiple \$60 million-plus “bet the company” credit facility negotiations on behalf of the borrower.
- Co-counsel on the negotiation of a complex property settlement agreement involving \$350 million worth of equity and real-property related assets.

Recognitions

- Awesome Attorneys, *Orlando Family Magazine*, 2025
- *The Best Lawyers in America* guide, Real Estate Law, 2022-2025
- Central Florida's Women Who Mean Business, *Orlando Business Journal*, 2025
- Distinguished Service Award, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, 2022
- Outstanding Networking Achievement Award, CREW Orlando, 2022
- Distinguished Leader Award, CREW Orlando, 2021
- 40 Under 40, *Orlando Business Journal*, 2021
- Rising Star, *Florida Super Lawyers*, 2016-2019
- Florida Legal Elite "Up & Comer," *Florida Trend*, 2017
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Merit Award, 2017
- Young Lawyer Pro Bono Award of Excellence, Fall 2013
- Governor's Fellow, Governor of the State of Indiana, 2004-2005

Community Activities

- Central Florida Vocal Arts, Board of Directors, 2024 – Present; Chamber Chair, 2025
- Mead Botanical Gardens, Board of Trustees
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law Alumni Board, Executive Committee
- Winter Park Chamber of Commerce
 - Chair, Board of Directors
 - Executive Committee Member
 - Government Affairs Committee Member
- CREW Orlando, Past President
- City of Winter Park, Planning and Zoning Board, 2017-2020
- City of Winter Park, Keep Winter Park Beautiful and Sustainable Board, 2011-2014
- Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Garden, Past President, Executive Committee and Member of the Board of Trustees
- Leadership Winter Park, Class XXV
- Legal Aid Society, Guardian Ad Litem
- Phi Beta Kappa

Professional Certifications & Memberships

- The Florida Bar
- Orange County Bar Association

News

17 Lowndes Attorneys Named to *Orlando Family Magazine's* "Awesome Attorneys 2025"
02.13.2025 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Named to *Orlando Business Journal's* 2025 Women Who Mean Business List
02.03.2025 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Elected Winter Park Chamber of Commerce Chair
01.14.2025 | PRESS RELEASE

Best Lawyers Recognizes 59 Lowndes Attorneys in 2025, One Named Lawyer of the Year
08.15.2024 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Appointed to the Mead Botanical Garden Board of Trustees
02.09.2024 | PRESS RELEASE

Best Lawyers Recognizes 49 Lowndes Attorneys in 2024, Three Named Lawyer of the Year
08.17.2023 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Jackie Bozzuto, Laura Walda Named CREW Orlando Celebration of Champions Award Winners
11.08.2022 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Recognized with IU Maurer School of Law Distinguished Service Award
09.23.2022 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

46 Lowndes Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers* in 2023
08.18.2022 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers Recognizes 44 Lowndes Attorneys in 2022, Five Named Lawyer of the Year
08.19.2021 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Named President of CREW Orlando
01.08.2021 | PRESS RELEASE

Laura Walda Named to *Winter Park Magazine's* 2021 People to Watch
12.30.2020 | PRESS RELEASE

29 Lowndes Attorneys Named 2019 Florida Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
05.29.2019 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed Attorneys Rated 2018 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
06.18.2018 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Walda and O'Brien Named Shareholders at Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed
02.08.2018 | FIRM NEWS

Seven Lowndes Attorneys Honored With Inaugural Ninth Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Merit Award
09.23.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Laura Walda Appointed to the City of Winter Park Planning and Zoning Board
07.18.2017 | PRESS RELEASE

Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed Attorneys Rated 2017 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
06.01.2017 | AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Speaking Engagements

The Lay of the Land: Navigating Development Challenges
06.15.2022 | PRESENTATION

Publications

“Grossing-Up” Operating Expenses in Commercial Leases
08.09.2023 | LOWNDES LEASING LAWYERS BLOG

Governor DeSantis Signs Bill Reducing Burdens on Real Property Rights
07.01.2021 | ARTICLE

Do Change of Control Transactions Constitute an Assignment by Operation of Law?
05.20.2021 | LOWNDES LEASING LAWYERS BLOG

Celebrating Women’s History Month – The Business of Banking
03.09.2019 | PODCASTS

New Ruling Could Void Your Lease Option
09.25.2018 | LOWNDES LEASING LAWYERS BLOG