

# DOJ Hiring Attorneys to Handle Property Seizures for Border Wall

## *News*

The attorneys likely will deal with eminent domain property seizures and quarrels with landowners over what their land is worth.

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# Proposal for Flood-Prone Areas Would Affect Texas Consumers and Insurance Industry

## *News*

A bill filed in the Texas Senate would require home sellers to disclose if their property is in a flood-prone area or if it has already flooded.

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# Rasha Elganzouri Gad Joins

# Quarles & Brady's Real Estate Group in Chicago

## *News*

Quarles & Brady LLP announced that Rasha Elganzouri Gad has joined the firm's Real Estate Group as a partner in its Chicago office.

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# Border Wall Needs Private Property. But Some Texans Won't Give Up Their Land Without a Fight.

## *News*

Previous eminent domain attempts along the Texas border have led to more than a decade of court battles, according to *The Washington Post*.

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# Electronically Signed Email Exchange May Constitute

# Enforceable Real Estate Contract

## *Insight*

If you don't want your emails to be binding contracts, don't sign them, or better yet, don't write them in the first place, warns a post in the Ohio Real Estate Law Blog of Kohrman, Jackson & Krantz.

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# Best Practices in Commercial Real Estate: Commitment Letter

## *Insight*

While a commitment letter in the real estate lending process fleshes out any issues or misunderstandings between the parties prior to the preparation of the ultimate loan documents, it is important to be aware of some potential pitfalls and issues that it can present.

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# Andrea Tsoukalas Curto Named Among Long Island's 50 Top

# Women by Business News

## *News*

Partner Andrea Tsoukalas Curto of Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP has been selected by the Long Island Business News for the Long Island's Top 50 Women Class of 2018.

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## 'Gross Up' Provisions in Office Leases

### *Insight*

Contrary to a tenant's natural reaction, the "gross up" of operating expenses in a multi-tenant office building is neither nefarious nor inappropriate, according to William Hof of Husch Blackwell.

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## Fifth Circuit Allows Non-Signatories to Enforce Arbitration Agreement

### *News*

The Fifth Circuit has affirmed an order compelling arbitration, despite the fact that the parties seeking to compel arbitration were not signatories to the relevant arbitration agreement, according to Carlton Fields.

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# Akerman Adds Real Estate and Cannabis Practices Team Led by Partner Irán Hopkins

## *News*

Akerman LLP has added transactional partner Irán Hopkins in Los Angeles, as well as real estate associates Daphna Davidovits and Claudia Fu.

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# Jackson Walker Expands in Dallas with Addition of Four Real Estate Partners

## *News*

Jackson Walker announced that Cynthia “Cindy” Brotman Nelson, George C. Dunlap Jr., Kevin L. Kelley and Scott Tuthill have joined the firm as partners in the real estate practice group in the Dallas office.

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# **Buchalter Welcomes Real Estate Shareholders in Scottsdale**

## ***News***

Buchalter has added shareholders J. Craig Cartwright and Kevin T. Lytle as members of the Real Estate Practice Group in the Scottsdale office.

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# **Barnes & Thornburg Adds Transactional Partner Salvador LaViña in Los Angeles**

## ***News***

Barnes & Thornburg LLP has added Salvador LaViña as a partner in the Real Estate Department in Los Angeles. LaViña joins from Enenstein Ribakoff LaViña & Pham APC.

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# **Houston Office Vacancies**

# Raise Concerns for Owners Making Loan Payments

## *News*

Estimates are that more than a fifth of Houston office space sits empty as landlords struggle to find new tenants and existing tenants struggle to sublease unused space.

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# DLA Piper Adds Ying Genève DuBois to Real Estate Practice in Miami

## *News*

DLA Piper announced Ying Genève DuBois to their Real Estate practice in Miami. Her practice focuses on representing US and global investors in their US real estate investments, particularly investors in Asia.

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# The Law Conference for Hotel Owners and Operators

## *Event, Jan. 22-23, 2018, Los Angeles*

ALIS Law will present its annual conference on Jan. 22-23, 2018, at the Residence Inn and Courtyard Los Angeles. Attendees are expected to include general counsel teams of

hotel ownership companies, management companies and brands, as well as law firms that advise hoteliers.

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## What Does Your Reservation Clause Mean?

### *Insight*

Two Locke Lord lawyers authored a discussion about a court decision that emphasizes the importance of properly phrasing a reservation clause, as to avoid inadvertently granting an interest in a mineral estate.

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## Capital Outlook for U.S. Real Estate Sector on the Rise, Annual Akerman Report Finds

### *Insight*

Increased confidence in the commercial real estate market has taken hold since the U.S. presidential election, according to a report released today by U.S. law firm Akerman LLP.

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# Barnes & Thornburg Expands Real Estate Practice in Dallas

## *News*

Will Russ has joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP in its Dallas office as a partner in the Real Estate Department.

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# Carey Gunn Venditti Joins DLA Piper's Real Estate Practice in Austin

## *News*

Carey Gunn Venditti has joined the DLA Piper's realEstate practice as a partner in the Austin office. Venditti joins the firm from Greenberg Traurig where she was a shareholder.