## 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.

# 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*.

### **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.

## 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.

### 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.

## '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.

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

### 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.

## 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.

### 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.

## 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, particularity investors in Asia.

## 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.

## 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.

# 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.

### 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.

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

#### News

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

## Hogan Lovells Adds Real Estate Lawyer Lea Ann Fowler in Denver

#### News

Hogan Lovells announces that Lea Ann Fowler will join the

firm's Real Estate practice as a partner in the Denver office.

# J. David Hitchcock Joins Buchalter As Shareholder in Los Angeles Office

#### News

David Hitchcock has joined Buchalter Nemer's Los Angeles office as a shareholder in the Real Estate practice group.