




Edgel C. Lester Jr.

OF COUNSEL

TAMPA

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CONNECT

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Overview

Ed Lester has handled numerous types of commercial and real estate transactions, and regularly represents clients in connection with mortgage and asset-based loans, real estate and equipment sales, leases, acquisitions, loan workouts, settlement agreements, purchases, sales of stock and other equity interests, loan securitizations, synthetic leases, and timeshare receivables financing.

Ed is a fellow of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers and is past chair of the Real Estate Financing Subcommittee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association. He has taught secured transactions at Stetson University College of Law and participated in numerous programs relating to his practice areas. He also serves as a title agent for most of the title companies that write policies in the state of Florida. Ed speaks regularly on topics relating to finance and legal ethics.

Experience

- Represented a health care-focused private nontraded real estate investment trust in its \$117 million purchase of a portfolio of 20 specialized outpatient treatment centers.

Areas of Focus

Practices

- Real Estate
- Banking, Commercial, and Consumer Finance
- Construction
- Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy
- Business Transactions
- Distressed Asset and Workout
- Real Property Litigation
- Public and Private Offerings
- Corporate Law and Governance
- Development
- Title Insurance
- Investment and Ownership
- Lending
- Institutional Investment and Finance

Industries

- Real Estate
- Banking, Commercial, and Consumer Finance
- Construction
- Life, Annuity, and Retirement Solutions

Insights

12.01.2006

Tenant Leasing Strategies: Improving Your Position

News

05.03.2019

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in Chambers USA 2019 Guide

07.09.2018

Super Lawyers Honors 81 Carlton Fields Attorneys on 2018 Florida "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars"

05.04.2018

Carlton Fields Ranks Among Best in 2018 Chambers USA Guide

08.15.2017

78 Carlton Fields Attorneys Named “Best Lawyers in America”

06.23.2017

Florida Super Lawyers Ranks 92 Carlton Fields Attorneys as 2017 “Super Lawyers” and “Rising Stars”

Recognition

- AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Real Estate Law (2005–2024)
- *Chambers USA*, Real Estate (2006–2019)
- Florida Legal Elite, *Florida Trend Magazine* (2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015)
- Florida Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine* (2007–2020, 2022–2023)
- *The Legal 500*, Real Estate Transactions and Finance

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
 - Business Law Section
 - Former Chair, Real Estate Financing Subcommittee, Commercial Finance Committee
- American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers
 - Fellow
- American Heart Association, Metro Tampa Division
 - Former President
- Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce
 - Board of Directors
- The Florida Bar
- Hillsborough County Bar Association
- H.B. Plant Museum
 - Board of Trustees
- Leadership Tampa Alumni
- Real Estate Investment Council Inc.

- Rotary Club International
- University of Tampa
 - Former Chairman, Board of Counselors
 - Former Member, Board of Trustees
 - Chair of the Advisory Board, Center for Ethics
- Westshore Alliance
 - Former Member, Board of Directors

Speaking Engagements

- Ed has spoken at numerous seminars in the areas of real estate, finance, and legal ethics, including several recent programs regarding Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, due diligence in loan transactions, and Florida title insurance issues.
- He taught Secured Transactions at Stetson University College of Law.
- “Lawyer’s Role and Responsibility in Finance Fraud,” Association of Commercial Finance Attorneys Annual Meeting (May 2010)
- “Judicial Erosion of Bankruptcy Remoteness Protections,” ABA Business Law Section Spring Meeting (2010)

Credentials

Education

- University of Kentucky College of Law (J.D., 1982)
- Middle Tennessee State University (M.A., 1975)
- Vanderbilt University (B.A., 1972)

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

Bar Admissions

- Florida