



Andrew J. Perel

Partner

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Andrew Perel is an environmental partner with vast experience in the financial services, real estate, hospitality and travel and insurance industries. With more than 25 years of experience, his practice encompasses all aspects of environmental law, including counseling clients on development and redevelopment projects, risk management and insurance, remediation of contaminated properties, environmental compliance and due diligence for real estate financing and corporate transactions, and litigating complex environmental and environmental insurance coverage claims and disputes. He also has extensive experience in environmental investigations and audits, the design and implementation of environmental compliance programs and systems, and evaluation of self-reporting and voluntary compliance strategies. He has successfully litigated before all levels of state and federal courts and represents clients before federal, state and local regulatory agencies on remediation, Superfund, permitting and Brownfield projects.

Andrew counsels financial institution, real estate developer, redeveloper, REIT, insurance, corporate, hotel and hospitality, and individual clients on a broad range of real estate, environmental regulatory and risk management and assessment matters. He also represents financial institutions in real estate acquisitions, development, and financings, as well as in commercial mortgage backed securities transactions. His counsel includes advice on due diligence, negotiation, document drafting and risk mitigation.

Andrew has represented many of the major financial institutions and life insurance companies in connection with securitizable and balance sheet lending for more than two decades; he has

Practice

- Environmental and Natural Resources
- Environmental Due Diligence
- Lending Due Diligence
- Real Estate Due Diligence
- Corporate Due Diligence
- Brownfields and Voluntary Cleanup
- Storage Tanks
- Real Estate
- Environmental Due Diligence, Permitting and Compliance for Renewable Projects

Education

- Brooklyn Law School (J.D., 1986)
- Brandeis University (B.A., 1983)

Bar and Court Admissions

- New York
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

served as environmental coordinating counsel for large loan, conduit and micro-loan programs for commercial mortgage backed securitization. Andrew regularly counsels financial institutions on environmental matters as they relate to the due diligence, origination, closing and securitization of loans. Further, he advises on risk management and mitigation associated with capital markets transactions for both lenders and borrowers.

Andrew also represents banks and other financial institutions in connection with the negotiation and closing of commercial real estate transactions in New York and around the country. He has acted as outside general counsel to private equity groups in various corporate takeover endeavors (hostile and friendly) of hotels and casinos in Las Vegas and other locations. He also counsels and advises insurance companies on policy drafting, underwriting and subrogation matters.

Andrew is the former Executive Vice-President, General Counsel and Secretary of a publicly traded real estate investment trust. Before that, he was outside counsel to major financial institutions regarding real estate and capital markets transactions with emphasis on origination, securitization, mergers & acquisitions, corporate finance, litigation and insurance; providing due diligence, loss prevention, risk management and regulatory studies for the purchase, sale and financing of commercial real estate. He has also served as counsel to insurance and reinsurance companies prosecuting and defending declaratory judgment actions and has extensive experience in all aspects of general liability and environmental insurance coverage, defense and subrogation matters. Andrew has key relationships with financial institutions, REITs, hotels, developers, redevelopers, insurance companies and individuals in real estate transactions and financing. He is President of the Board of Directors for Trump Plaza Owners, Inc., the Advisory Board for Lincoln Land Services (Chair), the Board of Directors for Sports Angels, Inc. and is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Manhattan Youth Baseball.

Andrew is very involved in his community. He is the founding member of the Grades to Play Program (GTP), a baseball program for inner city children. GTP offers disadvantaged

middle school through high school students the opportunity to play baseball while participating in specially created tutoring programs. The goal is to help these students get accepted into better schools and to also facilitate a means to pay for these students' education. Dozens of students are currently attending prestigious private schools due to the work of the GTP. In 2009, Andrew took a group of student athletes to the Dominican Republic to compete in the International Little League World Series – upon winning the World Series, Mayor Bloomberg honored all of the participants with mayoral citations. In addition, for years, Andrew provided pro bono services to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, handling a variety of litigation matters defending the rights of individuals with MS. In addition, Andrew worked with the Elmendorf Reformed Church in New York and the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force in seeking formal City, State and Federal Government recognition for an African burial ground that was discovered when construction commenced in the area.

Andrew is a frequent author and lecturer on the topics of real estate structured finance and environmental law. He was also the former editor of the New Jersey Environmental Lawyer newsletter.

Professional and Community Involvement

- New York State Bar Association
- The Association of the Bar of the City of New York
- American Bar Association
- Environmental Bankers Association

Rankings and Recognitions

- Selected as a "Top Rated Lawyer" in the practice area of Litigation by the New York Law Journal and Martindale-Hubbell™ (2014).