

FREEBORN & PETERS LLP

ANNE R. GARR



It's easy to tell a client to walk away from a risky real estate venture. But Anne R. Garr doesn't take the easy route. She analyzes the issues and finds solutions – a skill she puts to work for her clients at Freeborn & Peters LLP, where she co-chairs the Real Estate and Land Use Practice Group.

"Where others see roadblocks, Anne sees opportunities. She can obtain creative endorsements, craft contract terms that allow both parties to feel satisfied, get through roadblocks at city halls, and come up with practical no-nonsense solutions to issues," writes nominator and colleague Richard Traub of Freeborn & Peters.

Garr can breathe life into a moribund deal, and that takes persistence, creativity, and a laser-like focus on her goal. In her practice, she represents commercial and mixed-use developers. Her responsibilities include operating entity formation and capitalization, project financing, construction contracting, investor relations, project planning, and project documentation.

"Anne seeks and obtains consents that others find unobtainable. She seems to embody the 'where there is a will, there is a way' mantra for getting deals done," Traub adds.

As co-chair of the Scholarship Committee of Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW), Garr mentors young women working to gain a foothold in the industry. In addition to forging relationships with other lawyers, she develops relationships with her clients, many of whom are acquiring, financing or leasing office properties, retail centers, and other real property assets.

Indeed, Garr's unique quality is her caring nature, says nominator Dov Pinchot, also at Freeborn & Peters LLP.

"Anne's clients are her friends," Pinchot explains. "They didn't start out that way, but she builds an incredible bond with them as they work through tough real estate negotiations and deals. She cares about deals; cares about her clients; and she cares about the individuals she touches at those clients. That is what makes her a remarkable attorney."

Garr received her JD from the St. Louis University School of Law. Prior to joining Freeborn & Peters, she was an equity partner at Lord Bissell & Brook (now Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP) and was the chair of the Hiring Committee.

In 2008, Garr was named by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company as one of its "40 Under Forty Illinois Attorneys to Watch." In 2009, her peers named her as a Leading Lawyer in land use, zoning and condemnation law; real estate law: commercial; and real estate law: finance.

Women in Law 2012

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