



Craig A. Kepler
Attorney

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The practice of law is about helping a client solve a problem. As a real estate litigator with extensive transactional experience, I enjoy pulling from my wide range of experience to craft unique, efficient, effective solutions that are driven in every case by the client's end goal.

Craig Kepler is a real estate attorney with a great depth of experience in almost all phases of commercial real estate acquisition, development, leasing, and financing. Craig also handles land use matters, Torrens matters, property tax appeals, and condemnation matters. Craig has experience helping developers raise investment money via private placement and TIC structures. Craig is licensed in both California and Minnesota and has many years of active practice experience in both states.

Craig is also a passionate advocate for and seasoned advisor to Minnesota public charter schools. Craig draws on his broad experience to advise charters on facility matters, formation and governance, charter contract matters, and other business operations matters. Craig has been the creator of numerous innovative structures for the acquisition, financing, and operation of Minnesota public charter school facilities.

Experience

- › Created the first third party tax exempt charter school ownership structure for Yinghua Academy.
- › Represented a nonprofit borrower/developer on a \$38,000,000 bond-financed affordable housing acquisition and development project in Minnesota.
- › Represented Eagle Ridge Academy in the largest bond-financed charter school facility transaction in the State of Minnesota.
- › Successfully represented a California ground lessor of a major national retail ground lease tenant against the tenant's efforts to force the owner to pay nearly \$1,000,000 in unexpected environmental remediation costs under an ambiguously-worded lease provision.
- › Represented the lead lender in over \$350,000,000 of participated financing of senior care facilities across the United States with a borrower that raised its equity via TIC investments.

Areas of Practice

BEST & FLANAGAN

Real Estate
Commercial Real Estate Lending
Leasing
Real Estate Purchase & Sale
Title Work
Condemnation & Eminent Domain
Public Finance
Non-Profit & Tax Exempt Organizations

Education

A.B., University of Michigan, with distinction
J.D., Wayne State University School of Law, 1986

Admissions

State of California
State of Minnesota
U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

Firm News/Articles

- › Twenty-Four Best & Flanagan Attorneys Included in The Best Lawyers in America® 2026 Edition
- › Twenty Best & Flanagan Attorneys Recognized as 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- › Six Best & Flanagan Attorneys Recognized as North Star Lawyers
- › Seven Best & Flanagan Attorneys Recognized as North Star Lawyers
- › June CLE Sessions Feature Five Best & Flanagan Attorneys
- › Nine Best & Flanagan Attorneys Recognized as North Star Lawyers
- › Eleven Best & Flanagan Attorneys Recognized as North Star Lawyers
- › Best & Flanagan Elects Two New Partners
- › Craig Kepler to Present COVID-19 Symposium for Charter School Board Members and Leaders
- › Best & Flanagan Expands Its Real Estate Practice Group

Professional Associations

- › Minnesota State Bar Association, Real Estate Section Legislative Committee, Member, 2004-present
- › MSBA Certified Real Property Law Specialist

Community Associations

- › The Link, Board of Directors

Awards & Recognition

- › *The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2026
- › Real Estate Law

BEST & FLANAGAN

- > Honoree, Minnesota Super Lawyers, 2025
- > AV Preeminent® - Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating™
- > North Star Lawyer, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2020-present



After Hours

I enjoy bicycling. I am a frequent cycle commuter to downtown in non-winter months, and I have ridden the MS 150. I build and service all of my bicycles myself.

I have been a lifelong guitarist. I play many styles from rock to classical to jazz. I have played in several bands and continue to play actively.

Craig's Team

- > Paul Kaminski, Attorney
- > Daniel Nelson, Attorney
- > Daniel Grimsrud, Attorney
- > Kyle Hardwick, Attorney