

J. CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" OATES

Member, Commercial Real Estate

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Chris Oates brings considerable experience to his clients and concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial real estate and land use law. He is a former leader of the firm's Commercial Real Estate group.

Chris Oates is routinely involved in the acquisition, development, financing, and leasing of urban and suburban office complexes, mixed-use developments, hotels, and retail shopping center facilities. He has represented municipal interests and private developers in public/private joint ventures, economic incentive agreements, and other collaborations.

He has also been involved with the negotiation of lease agreements, restrictive covenants, and operating and reciprocal easement agreements for developer, lender, and tenant clients. He has assisted developers with zoning issues and obtaining variances before municipal boards.

Chris has written and lectured on commercial real estate leasing issues, especially the negotiation of retail leases.

Notable

- *Chambers USA*-North Carolina, Real Estate, 2003-2020
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Charlotte Land Use and Zoning Law "Lawyer of the Year," 2015, 2020; Charlotte Real Estate Law "Lawyer of the Year," 2021
- *Best Lawyers in America*, Real Estate Law and Land Use & Zoning Law, 2006-2021
- *North Carolina Super Lawyers*, Real Estate, 2006-2020
- *Business North Carolina Legal Elite*, 2006-2011, 2013
- General Counsel to the Charlotte Sports Foundation (Operator of ACC Championship and Duke's Mayo Football Games)

Capabilities

Commercial Real Estate
Economic Development & Incentives

Education

B.A., Williams College, 1976, cum laude
J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1984

Admissions

North Carolina, 1984

Other Areas of Law

Land Use Law

J. CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" OATES

- Past Chairman, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission

Affiliations

- American Bar Association: Real Property Section
- North Carolina Bar Association: Real Property Section