



PRACTICE FOCUS

Umar A. Sheikh is a Principal attorney and the Chair of the Real Estate Law and Business Transactions practice group. With over twenty years of practical experience, Mr. Sheikh concentrates on all aspects of real estate law – purchases, sales, financing, development, leasing, evictions, foreclosures, management – and those areas of law that are related to real estate – corporate, tax, asset protection, estate planning, and litigation. Mr. Sheikh regularly represents parties in the purchase, sale and financing of multifamily, mixed-use, commercial and retail properties. He also represents family offices, private lenders, private equity firms and borrowers in CMBS transactions.

In addition, Mr. Sheikh provides outside general counsel services to small and mid-size companies, as well as foreign investors and entities doing business, real estate or otherwise, in the United States.

Mr. Sheikh is well-versed in the principles of Islamic (Shariah compliant) finance, including the finance of real estate through permitted structures. Umar has closed numerous transactions under Shariah permitted structures. Mr. Sheikh has assisted finance companies in building Shariah-compliant transaction documents for use in numerous states for financing both commercial and residential real estate.

Mr. Sheikh currently serves on the Board of Directors for both the New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association and Muslims for Peace, Inc. He has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Asian American Bar Association of New York. He is a member of the American Bar Association, New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association, and the Asian American Bar Association of New York. He received his JD from Brooklyn Law School in 2000. Mr. Sheikh was named a 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Champion for Justice by the New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards. The New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards’ honorees achieve measurable impact and represent outstanding acts of public service, without the expectation of recognition or compensations. In 2022, Umar was named a Notable Diverse Leader in Law by *Crain’s New York Business*. *Crain’s New York Business* identified top law professionals from underrepresented groups who have made an impact in New York in the types of cases handled, clients won and/or pro bono work.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCES

- Lead counsel in the representation of a borrower in commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) loan transaction in the principal sum of \$19.2 million secured by multifamily property located in Lansing, MI. The transaction involved a simultaneous loan defeasance in the principal sum of \$10.2 million.
- After a trial court order found opposing party was entitled to pierce the corporate veil of the client’s entity and such order was unanimously upheld by the Appellate Division, successfully argued before the NY Court of Appeals and obtained a reversal of that finding leading to a successful resolution of the dispute.
- Represented borrower in commercial mortgage backed securities (CMBS) transaction in the principal sum of \$25.0 million secured by a hotel property in Long Island City, NY.
- Represented Seller in sale of mixed use property in Jersey City, NJ and upon Buyer’s default, retained contract deposit for Seller without litigation.
- Successfully represented landlord of commercial retail space in dispute with tenant over construction issues.
- Represented Purchaser in purchase of shopping center near Pittsburgh, PA.
- Successfully represented minority owners in recovery of funds due from majority partner following sale of building.

POINTS OF DISTINCTION

- Named Notable Diverse Leader in Law by *Crain’s New York Business*, 2022
- 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Champion for Justice by the New Jersey State Governor’s Jefferson Awards
- Designated a SuperLawyer™ in New York.

UMAR A. SHEIKH

Principal and Chair of the Real Estate Law and Transactions, New York

PRACTICE AREAS

- Distressed Real Estate
- Hospitality
- International Practice
- Real Estate Law and Transactions
- Real Estate Litigation And Title Claims Litigation

ACTIVITIES

- Board of Directors, New Jersey Muslim Lawyers Association
- Board of Directors for Muslims for Peace
- Board of Directors for the Asian American Bar Association of New York, Past Member
- European American Chamber of Commerce, New York Chapter, Member



EDUCATION

- Brooklyn Law School, J.D., 2000
- City University of New York - Brooklyn College, B.A. 1997

ADMISSIONS

- State of New Jersey (2001)
- State of New York (2001)
- United States District Court District of New Jersey
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court, Northern District of New York
- United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- United States Court of Federal Claims