



2024 Women in CRE: Nicole Fenton, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

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Nicole Fenton
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Why should this nominee be recognized in our Women in Commercial Real Estate Spotlight?

“With an exceptional track record and more than 25 years of experience in real estate transactions, Nicole Fenton joined Kramer Levin two years ago, and she has made her mark. She came on at a time of economic upheaval and as our business continues to grow increasingly complex. Nicole’s confidence, smarts and easy ability to counsel clients on multifaceted transactions and secure those transactions is not only impressive but has attracted new business to Kramer Levin. She has quickly become a close advisor to me.” - Jay Neveloff, Partner, Real Estate Chair at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP.

What recent project, transaction, or accomplishment are you most proud of?

Among recent matters, I am proud of the complex legal work I did representing Kramer Levin client Fortress Investment Group LLC on a \$313 million construction financing from Northwind Group. This work was in connection with the reinstatement and now anticipated completion of a luxury high-rise condominium project at 125 Greenwich St. in Manhattan. The 88-story tower is a highly anticipated development in which Fortress converted its debt into equity to become the project’s new majority investor. Navigating the complexities of this conversion and negotiating agreements among the various interest holders and participants means this new building will open soon.

What are the most important factors young women should consider when choosing a firm to build their career with?

Notice whether there are women and others of diverse backgrounds in positions of influence at the firm. Speak to women that work there – and at as many levels as possible. Ask questions and get a sense of their level of genuine participation both on transactions and in firm management. Do they feel respected? Do they feel valued? Are their voices heard? Are there mentorship opportunities or programs, and what do they offer? These are real issues.

Who inspires you most? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a woman whose values I admire deeply – humility, commitment to the cause and perseverance. She was intentional with her words. She was soft spoken but yet her message was always loud and clear. Justice Ginsburg had grit and determination and understood that with hard work and staying the course, she could achieve the goals she set for herself.

Which professional organization(s) would you recommend to women just starting out in your industry:

One that stands out for me is Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW), which attracts women involved in all sectors of real estate. My advice is to find an organization where there are opportunities to become involved, especially if you are just starting out. Participation is critical – you need to go to events and meet as many people as you can.