



The lawyers in our Charleston office have been recognized by *Chambers USA*, the *Best Lawyers in America*, *U.S. News-Best Lawyers*®, and *South Carolina Super Lawyers*. Five Tier 1 practice rankings by the 2018 *U.S. News-Best Lawyers*® in the areas of Admiralty & Maritime Law, Banking and Finance Law, Corporate Law, Litigation—Banking & Finance and Real Estate Law. Our lawyers counsel and defend local, regional, national, and multi-national businesses. We are also uniquely positioned to assist South Carolina-based businesses with global operations and foreign-owned companies that operate in South Carolina.

Our Practice Areas

Our multinational **resort and hospitality** practice focuses on resort, hotel, golf, and real estate development and transactions in the United States, Caribbean, and Latin America, along with emerging hospitality markets around the globe. Our capabilities include representing clients in structuring and documenting resort, urban, and other planned and mixed-use communities; negotiating development agreements with governments and assisting governments in enacting pro-development legislation; preparing management agreements, franchise agreements, and other documentation associated with the sale, acquisition, and financing of hotels, golf clubs, marinas, and other leisure projects; and representing

clients in the financing, restructuring, and sale and purchase of such assets.

Our multinational **labor and employment** team handles all types of employment and labor disputes, including class and collective actions and multi-district litigation. The team also assists employers with reductions in force, trade secret and confidential information protection, executive training, sensitive terminations and employment agreements, and compliance with the myriad state and federal employment laws and regulations.

Our **corporate/M&A** capabilities include: advising public and private companies on corporate governance and securities law; structuring and executing mergers,

acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures and licensing arrangements, including cross-border transactions; public and private debt and equity offerings; initial public offerings; recapitalizations; and coordinating and supervising multinational projects. Our securities practice includes advising public companies on capital markets transactions and offerings, securities law compliance, reporting requirements, and compliance with stock exchange rules. Our creditors' rights and bankruptcy practitioners represent financial institutions and other creditors in commercial foreclosure collection, lender liability, and bankruptcy proceedings.

Our **litigation** group handles all types of business and commercial disputes, including class actions and bet-the-company litigation. The team handles the following types of disputes: environmental, construction, intellectual property, insurance coverage, antitrust, securities, maritime and trade-related, and healthcare. The team also handles government investigations, white collar criminal defense, appellate litigation, and international arbitration. In addition, the team handles disputes concerning distribution and licensing agreements, and vehicle and equipment dealership disputes.



PRACTICE AREAS:

Real Estate
Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety
Corporate/M&A

Litigation
Economic Development
International Trade
Immigration
Banking and Tax

Aviation Finance
Environmental
Maritime
Energy

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Investigations, Enforcement and White collar

K&L Gates is a global law firm that regularly assists South Carolina-based businesses with global operations and foreign-owned companies that operate in South Carolina.

Our **economic development** practice in Charleston has broad experience working with federal, state, and local officials to identify and negotiate a full range of incentives, including investigating those typically available in various jurisdictions, exploring those not regularly offered by the jurisdiction, and discovering incentives that are not always evident.

Our **energy** practice encompasses the commercial, operational, and legal landscapes of the global LNG and oil industries. Charleston attorneys advise clients on the sale, purchase, and transportation of LNG, oil, and other energy commodities throughout the world, including the negotiation and drafting of long-term and short-term sale and purchase agreements, LNG terminal agreements, LNG charter arrangements, and trading contracts for various energy commodities. Our energy clients include oil and gas companies, energy trading companies, and LNG terminal operators and developers.

Our **international trade** attorneys advise clients with respect to contracts for the international sale of goods and payment systems, including trade letters of credit, customs compliance on inbound goods, compliance with export regulations, and international carriage of goods. We handle local litigation involving international trade, but can also team with our other offices to provide seamless representation before arbitration tribunals in any of the world's major international commercial arbitration centers.

Our **immigration** attorneys lead businesses and individuals through the full range of temporary and permanent immigration solutions. We assist multinational companies with blanket L status, business immigration strategies, intra-company transfers, E1 and E2 registration, and temporary assignments abroad. We also process temporary visa petitions for hospitals, medical research organizations, academic institutions, and

private industry. Our lawyers advise investors, developers, and regional centers on all aspects of EB5 program strategies for compliance, including complex broker-dealer issues, source of funds, and regional center formation. We counsel clients on employment eligibility verification, E-Verify, IRCA, regulatory compliance, I-9 audits, and ICE worksite enforcement.

Our lawyers in the **banking and tax** group represent CMBS mortgage portfolio servicers, master servicers, and borrowers in a variety of financing transactions, including defeasances, assumptions, workouts, restructurings, and the origination of commercial mortgage loans. The team also has significant experience in transfers of business interests involving REMICs. Additionally, our team represents banks, investment funds, and private equity firms in distressed asset, stand alone and loan portfolio acquisitions, workouts, and dispositions, in addition to advising on the tax aspects of such transactions.

Our **aviation finance** practice in Charleston is intrinsically involved with all aspects of the aviation industry; in particular, we pride ourselves as market leaders in structured aircraft leasing transactions. We regularly advise major international banks and leasing companies on aircraft finance matters involving air carriers in the United States, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, including financing acquisitions of commercial aircraft for operating lessors, finance lease transactions, leveraged lease transactions, and cross-border operating transactions, among others.

Our **environmental** team works regularly with industry on compliance, enforcement, and permitting matters, and also assists business owners and project developers with the acquisition, sale, and redevelopment of contaminated property. The team also develops national defense strategies for toxic tort cases.

Our **maritime** practitioners assist shipping and other maritime companies with maritime emergencies, such as oil and hazardous materials spills, vessel collisions and groundings, accidental injury and death, and other maritime casualties. In addition, our maritime practitioners handle all forms of maritime-related litigation and represent lenders and vessel owners with respect to ship mortgages and other maritime transactions.

Our **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** practice, focusing on food, drug, device, and cosmetic regulatory and compliance matters, is an experienced and integrated team with a proven track record in all areas the FDA regulates. We help clients navigate the regulatory and process throughout the life cycle of their products—from planning and development, to approval and marketing, to enforcement and ongoing compliance. In addition, our practice provides strategic counseling to medical product manufacturers and related health care entities on fraud and abuse risk mitigation strategies.

Our **investigations, enforcement and white collar** practice focuses on complex white collar criminal defense and False Claims Act litigation. This includes defending companies and corporate executives in internal investigations, grand jury investigations, parallel proceedings, litigation, and trials in various areas including antitrust, anti-corruption, health care, environmental, tax, bank fraud, public corruption, securities, customs, forfeiture, and false claims (whistleblowers).

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K&L Gates is a fully integrated global law firm with lawyers located across five continents. The firm represents leading multinational corporations, growth and middle-market companies, capital markets participants, and entrepreneurs in every major industry group, as well as public sector entities, educational institutions, philanthropic organizations and individuals. For more information about K&L Gates or its locations, practices and registrations, visit klgates.com.

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