

THE RECORDER



REAL ESTATE LAWYER OF THE YEAR FINALIST Hilary Strong, Latham & Watkins



Courtesy photo

Hilary A. Shalla Strong of Latham & Watkins.

Hilary Strong, partner with Latham & Watkins, is among the finalists for The Recorder's 2025 Real Estate Lawyer of the Year Award. Read a Q&A with her below.

What's your proudest professional achievement of the past year and why?

I am proudest of the leadership my colleagues and I have been able to provide around data centers. These assets are essential to the global growth of AI and other breakthrough technologies. Data center deals are large and complex, requiring massive cooperation across legal practices and painstaking coordination to navigate regulatory, utility, and zoning issues as well as multiple capital markets and financing issues. No two deals are ever the same and it's an exciting time to be involved.

What advice would you give to new attorneys specializing in real estate law?

Embrace both having mentors and mentoring others. Volunteer for things that push you outside your comfort zone and ensure you never stop learning. The more you do and the more conversations you have with your fellow lawyers, the more you will learn.

How is the practice of real estate changing?

Real estate law is evolving at the same rapid pace as our economy, capital markets, and technology industries. The practice is becoming more complex and real estate transactions are more likely to involve a cross-section of markets, regulations, and sources of capital within one deal. Market pressures continue to push the practice of real estate law to greater innovation. We are in a unique position, helping to shape deals to drive the market forward with less friction.