

Jillian Karras

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Commercial Real Estate
Leasing
Real Estate Lending & Financing
Real Estate Project Development
Real Estate Investments

Jillian (Jill) Karras is a commercial real estate lawyer in BLG's Commercial Real Estate group. She advises developers, landlords, tenants and lenders on the legal issues that keep commercial deals moving - whether that means buying and selling property, negotiating leases, or putting financing in place.

Jill's work spans acquisitions and dispositions, commercial leasing, real estate financing and development. Clients appreciate Jill's practical, clear communication style and her focus on solutions that match the deal timeline and the business goals. Before joining BLG, she practised commercial real estate law in Vancouver and Calgary at a global law firm.

Experience

- Acting as real estate counsel to Arctec Alloys Limited in connection with its sale to Tricor Pacific Capital Inc.
- The acquisition by Morguard Corporation of a 20 per cent interest in the Telus Garden office/retail building complex located in downtown Vancouver and the negotiation of related co-ownership, property management and asset management agreements in favour of Morguard.
- Advising on the Senákw project, a multi-phase, large-scale residential development on Squamish Nation lands in Vancouver.
- Acting for Alterra Mountain Company through the complex acquisition of Mike Wiegele Heli-Skiing, ensuring a smooth transition and handling a significant real estate component.

- Assisted a large real estate investment, development and management company to streamline and manage real estate leasing at premier shopping centers in BC and Alberta, enhancing tenant relations and optimizing property utilization.
- Played a pivotal role in a development project, overseeing all real property aspects of this historic First Nations real estate development, the largest in Canadian history, to ensure successful and culturally respectful progress.
- Vendors and purchasers of office buildings, industrial and commercial properties (including shopping centres) and residential properties in British Columbia and Alberta.
- Developers of mixed-use and multi-family projects in British Columbia and Alberta.
- A major office, retail and industrial tenants and landlords in lease negotiations, including a large national retail store in connection with its locations across Canada.
- The Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation on its construction and operation of the new Event Centre and negotiating agreements with affiliated parties.
- A worldwide charitable organization on the leasing, subleasing, licensing and development matters relating to facilities located on municipal lands.
- Alvarez & Marsal Canada Inc., as the court appointed receiver and manager of a large privately-owned real estate company (Reid Investments), on the sale of assets and combined debt of C$250 million, including land development issues, and the sale of residential homes, office buildings and bare lands.
- A private corporation appointed to monetize assets for investors pursuant to the terms of a CCAA proceedings, on development, leasing and utilities matters.
- A publicly traded LNG company on its acquisition of an oil and gas corporate entity.

Insights & Events

- Speaker, "UCREW Fall Mingler: Speed Networking-Career Insights", October 2026
- Author, "BC Budget 2026: PST expansion increases costs for commercial real estate", BLG Article, March 2026

Awards & Recognition

- Recognized in the 2027 edition (and since 2023) of *The Best Lawyers in Canada* as “Ones to Watch” (Commercial Leasing Law & Real Estate Law).

Bar Admission & Education

- British Columbia, 2016
- Alberta, 2016

- J.D., Thompson Rivers University, 2015
- International Business Certificate (Distinction), Grenoble École de Management, 2011

- B.B.A. (Hons.), Simon Fraser University, 2010

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