



Helen Manuel

ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Helen guides clients through leases, purchase and sale agreements, and other real estate transactions.

With experience drafting and negotiating a range of documents—including ground, building, in-line space, and reverse-build-to-suit leases; purchase agreements; loan and financing documents; easements; and title objection letters—Helen supports clients at every stage of a deal. She manages title review and oversees closings for commercial real estate transactions from coast to coast across a wide array of industries. Helen is particularly experienced in hospitality and retail and spent the early years of her career regularly handling leases and purchase agreements for one of the country's fastest-growing restaurant chains.

Thanks to an undergraduate degree in business, Helen came to law school already planning to practice transactional law. A real estate-focused contrasts course sparked a lasting interest in real property, and she joined a boutique real estate firm upon graduation. Helen quickly developed a passion for the field, enjoying the challenges of navigating title issues, complex negotiations, and business matters. She approaches each transaction as a puzzle, working to assemble the best pieces within a legal framework to accomplish client goals.

Clients value Helen's business-minded approach and her ability to see legal issues within the context of broader business objectives. An in-house externship with a major retailer reinforced the importance of aligning legal strategy with business needs. Helen is known for her approachability, and clients feel comfortable reaching out with any question, large or small. She focuses on clear

Industry

Real Estate, Development, & Construction

Services

Corporate Real Estate

Hospitality

Retail Real Estate

communication and practical solutions, ensuring every transaction supports the client's overall vision.

Experience

- Oversaw lease and purchase agreement negotiation processes for one of the top 10 fastest-growing restaurant chains, ensuring efficiency from initial draft, title review, and final execution.
- Drafted and negotiated key documents, including leases (including ground, building, in-line space and reverse-build-to-suit), purchase agreements, loan and financing agreements, easements, and title objection letters to safeguard client interests and streamline transactions.
- Managed property closings through entire process from negotiating purchase agreements, preparing comprehensive closing documents, reviewing surveys, and overseeing title review processes to final closing.
- Conducted thorough title review work, from analyzing title commitments to issuing final title policies, ensuring accuracy, and attention to detail.
- Formed business entities, drafting tailored operating agreements and organizational documents to align with client objectives.

Education

- J.D., University of Arkansas School of Law
 - *cum laude*
 - Business Law Certificate
- B.S.B.A., University of Arkansas – Sam M. Walton College of Business

Admissions

- Texas