

Mary Katherine Nelson

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DES MOINES OFFICE

Mary Katherine Nelson’s practice is concentrated in the areas of [commercial real estate finance](#) and general commercial [real estate](#) and business transactions. She represents lenders and borrowers in negotiating, documenting, and closing loans secured by commercial property. Mary Katherine works primarily with insurance company and banking clients, drafting and negotiating loan documents and completing due diligence. Mary Katherine also regularly assists clients in real estate acquisitions/sales, development projects, and commercial leasing matters.

Mary Katherine values the importance Nyemaster places on fostering a team mentality. She recognizes her colleagues are skilled in various specialty areas of law and knows that all are willing and eager to work together to help clients succeed. “Nyemaster attorneys work collaboratively as a team, and our clients benefit from that approach.”

A finance major in college, Mary Katherine selected a career in law to blend her interests in business and finance. Results-driven by nature, she strives to work efficiently and be responsive to client needs in all capacities of her practice. She also thrives in the collaborative environment in which she works where parties on both sides of the transaction are working together to reach a common goal.

A Kentucky native, Mary Katherine now enjoys exploring Iowa’s many bike trails and traveling when she’s not in the office. Mary Katherine is an active member of the board of directors of Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa and CREW Iowa (Commercial Real Estate Women). She also serves on the Sweet Dreams Committee for the By Degrees Foundation.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

CREW Iowa (Commercial Real Estate Women)

- Board of Directors (2019–2024)
- Sponsorship Committee Member (2019–Present)

By Degrees Foundation

- Board of Directors (2024–Present)
- Fundraising Committee Member (2024–Present)
- Sweet Dreams Committee Member (2019–Present)

Goodwill of Central Iowa

- Board of Directors (2020 - 2022)

Iowa State Bar Association

Kentucky Bar Association



PRACTICE AREAS

- [Business, Finance & Real Estate](#)
- [Business & Commercial Transactions](#)
- [Commercial Real Estate Finance](#)
- [Real Estate](#)

EDUCATION

- University of Kentucky (B.B.A., Finance, summa cum laude)
- University of Kentucky College of Law (J.D., summa cum laude)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Iowa
- Kentucky

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Associate, Stites & Harbison PLLC, Louisville, Kentucky

American Bar Association

Polk County Bar Association

SPEECHES & PUBLICATIONS

"Title Insurance 101: A Primer for Real Estate Attorneys"

American Bar Association, 2023

"Cannabis Leasing In Iowa: Emerging Real Estate Issues"

CREW Iowa, 2018

"Public Benefit Corporations in Kentucky: What Impact Should Kentucky Corporations Expect?" *104 Ky. L. J. 165*, 2016

RECOGNITION

Chambers USA

America's Leading Business Lawyers, Real Estate, 2021-2023

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

Corporate Law, 2022-2025

Project Finance Law, 2025

Real Estate Law, 2025

Great Plains Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, 2021-2024

***Des Moines Business Record* Forty Under 40
Honoree, 2023**

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Order of the Coif

Kentucky Law Journal

- Senior Staff Editor
- Senior Staff Editor of the Year Award