

Merrill Schwartz

Of Counsel

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Practice Areas

- Business and Corporate
- Real Estate
- Trusts and Estates

Overview

Mr. Schwartz is of counsel in the firm's Real Estate, Business and Corporate Transactions and Trusts and Estates Practice Groups. Before joining Donahue Fitzgerald, he was a partner in the [Oakland law firm](#) of Stark, Wells, Rahl, Schwartz & Schieffer, LLP, where he practiced for more than 42 years. He has handled numerous real estate acquisitions, dispositions and financings.

He also has extensive experience representing borrowers in financings of various types including Industrial Development Authority Bonds. His business transactional experience includes formation of numerous corporations, limited liability companies and partnerships, and he has structured numerous business acquisitions and dispositions. Mr. Schwartz has represented numerous commercial lessors and lessees in lease transactions involving office space, industrial and warehouse properties, retail stores and shopping centers.

Professional & Community Affiliations

- Member, Real Property and Business Law Section, State Bar of California
- Member, Alameda County Bar Association
- Past President, Oakland YMCA
- Past President, Piedmont Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Former Editor, The Law Review, Northwestern University School of Law
- Former Member, Order of the Coif, Northwestern University School of Law

Recognition

- Awarded, AV® Preeminent™ (5.0 out of 5) peer-review rated, *Martindale-Hubbell*™
- Named, The Best Lawyers in America®, *Best Lawyers*, 2011-present
- Recipient, Silver Beaver Award, *Boy Scouts of America*

Bar Admissions

- California

Education

- **J.D.**, Northwestern University School of Law, *cum laude*, 1966
- **B.A.**, Northern Illinois University, *with honors*, 1963

Recent Articles/News

- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2026 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2026 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2025 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2025 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2024 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2024 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2023 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2023 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2022 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2022 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2021 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2021 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*

- , 2021 Edition
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2020 “Best Law Firms”](#)
 - [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America® 2020 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*, 2020 Edition
 - [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2019 “Best Law Firms”](#)

Past Articles/News

- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked in Top Tier of 2018 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Ranked In Top Tier of 2017 “Best Law Firms”](#)
- [Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Recognized in the Best Lawyers in America© 2016 Edition](#), *Best Lawyers in America*©, 2016 Edition