

## Law Firm Building Servicing Practice

**Seyfarth Shaw** expects to add more than a dozen lawyers to its new commercial mortgage servicing practice over the next year, as the firm helps clients deal with increasing fallout from the distressed real estate market.

The Chicago-based law firm aims to add at least 14 seasoned attorneys to its 16-member servicing and special-servicing practice, which it launched last month. That unit now includes 10 partners, with the rest of the team split evenly among senior counsel, counsel and associates.

The servicing practice is led by Charlotte-based partner **Katie Schwarting**. It also includes partner **Amy Simpson** and counsel **Randa Barton**, who work in Dallas. Schwarting, Simpson and Barton were among four attorneys who joined the firm from **BCLP** last month. The other was **Tricia Macaluso**, who joined the litigation department as a partner in Dallas.

“With looming loan maturities, a higher interest-rate environment and downward pressure on valuations across asset classes, servicers and special servicers require dynamic counsel to effectively address borrower demands and achieve competitive resolutions,” Schwarting said.

She’s looking to add lawyers to her team with at least four to six years of experience. A servicing background is preferred, especially if it includes work on commercial mortgages and/or securitized debt.

The new hires could join other members of the servicing practice in Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas and New York. The firm is also open to hiring lawyers elsewhere who could work remotely.

Seyfarth Shaw represents special servicers, master servicers, primary servicers and other firms that handle servicing-related and asset-management work tied to commercial real estate debt. They include life insurers and shops that focus on CMBS, CRE CLOs, agency loans and warehouse financing.

Schwarting spent nearly 15 years at BCLP. She became a



partner about 12 years ago, after joining the firm as counsel via its 2009 takeover of law firm **Powell Goldstein**. Schwarting was previously a senior director in the commercial real estate group at the **Mortgage Bankers Association**.

Simpson worked at BCLP for 16 years. Barton joined that firm a year ago, after three years at **Polsinelli** and almost four years at **McMahon Surovik**. ❖

**COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE ALERT: September 29, 2023**

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