



Juan D. Reyes III

Partner

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Juan D. Reyes is a nationally recognized advisor on real estate development, transportation infrastructure, and federal financing, known for guiding complex public-private projects from concept to completion. He is a member of Ice Miller's Real Estate, Environmental & Energy Law (REEL) Group and a key part of the firm's private equity team in New York. Representing a diverse client base that includes developers, retailers, nonprofits, educational institutions, corporations, and more, Juan helps his clients navigate complex regulatory landscapes to achieve their development goals. His transactional work spans real estate development, construction, transportation infrastructure, and complex financing. He simplifies the investment cycle, leveraging decades of experience and innovative strategies to deliver successful outcomes.

Juan's background uniquely combines senior federal leadership roles with extensive public and private sector experience in land use, development, permitting, and finance. He advises on zoning, planning, building codes, and government incentives, drawing on his deep knowledge of federal, state, and municipal regulations. He is also a recognized authority on structuring complex public-private partnerships (P3s) involving transportation, energy, education, and real estate assets.

From 2017–2019, Juan served as Acting Head and Chief Counsel of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and as Senior Advisor to the Build America Bureau. There, he managed a \$3 billion budget and 950-member staff, guided major rail initiatives—including the \$24 billion Northeast Corridor upgrade—and developed regulations for emerging technologies, such as the Hyperloop and high-speed rail. He further advised on federal funding programs, including TIFIA and RRIF loans, PABs, and INFRA and BUILD grants, and played a key role in advancing projects nationwide. Through this work, Juan has participated in multiple Congressional hearings and testified before Congress' Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Complementing this national perspective, Juan's experience also includes several executive branch roles central to New York City's real estate ecosystem. He served as general counsel to the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA)—the City's zoning board—and as counsel to the New York City Loft Board within the Office of the Mayor. His work at the BSA provided deep exposure to zoning, land use, building codes, variances, and complex approvals—experience highly valuable to developers navigating New York City's layered regulatory process.

Services & Industries

- Development
- Private Equity
- Construction/Public Infrastructure
- Public Infrastructure/Public-Private Partnerships (P3s)
- Real Estate
- Trump 2.0 Hub - Navigating the Second Term
- Zoning & Land Use

During his time with the Department of Transportation, Juan served on the internal committee for autonomous and electric vehicles and emerging technology rulemaking, the White House Committee on 5G technology, the Northeast Corridor Commission, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Streamlining Committee, the Regulatory Reform Task Force, and the Board of Union Station, and was instrumental in forming the Non-Traditional Technology (NETT) Council. His experience also extends to historic preservation and tribal engagement.

Education

- Emory University (B.A., 1990)
- Quinnipiac University School of Law (J.D., 1995)

Admissions

- Connecticut
- New York
- Supreme Court of the United States
- England and Wales Registered Foreign Lawyer

Languages

- French
- Spanish

Professional Affiliations

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- International Council of Shopping Centers Government Relations Committee
- Member, Young Lawyers Committees, Interfaith and Civil Rights Committees for the Anti-Defamation League

Awards & Honors

- The Charles W. Cook '38 Alumnus Achievement Award, 2026

Community Involvement

- The Browning School Alumni Council
- St. David's School Alumni Council