

# Shumaker Alumni



## Kathleen Kress

Corporate Counsel  
ReNew REIT

*"Listen to your clients. Listen to your colleagues. Listen to your head and your heart. Don't just react, reflect. Earn the title of "Counselor" every day of your practice."*

**Q: What is your current position and company?**

A. In October 2018, I accepted the position of Corporate Counsel with ReNew REIT LLC in Toledo. ReNew was founded by Shumaker Alumnus George Chapman. My new position also gives me the opportunity to work with Shumaker Alums Chuck Hiller and Laurie Sullivan, as well as with a number of other great folks with whom I worked for years.

**Q: What was your practice area at Shumaker?**

A. I joined Shumaker in 1996 and became an equity partner in 2003. I practiced in the Corporate practice group and did a lot of work with the REIT practice group. In my 22 years at Shumaker, I closed a lot of real estate acquisition/leasing deals. I also kept up a franchising practice and dabbled in trademark protection and IP licensing.

**Q: What is your favorite Shumaker memory?**

A. Finally getting an office with windows!

**Q: What do you enjoy most about your career?**

A. I really enjoy problem solving and building consensus among the various constituencies in a transaction. It's very satisfying to steer the ship successfully through the shoals and arrive at the destination that everyone envisioned. I must admit that, having always prided myself on my writing skills, it is something of a challenge to give up the primary drafting responsibility to outside counsel. But it's great to be able to impose unreasonable deadlines on others instead of having them imposed on you.

**Q: What news would you like to share about your personal or professional life?**

A. Marvin and I just bought a new travel trailer and are trying very hard to learn how to back it up! We've been going on a number of camping trips in anticipation of making longer trips after retirement. Our kids are scattered (Waterbury, Vermont, San Jose, California and Miami, Florida) so we have plenty of interesting destinations to visit. I continue to sing with Masterworks Chorale, which is a great creative outlet. Life is good!