



Austin Real Estate Attorneys Band Together to Launch New Firm

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Austin real estate attorney Steve Drenner and his team have launched a boutique law firm, Drenner Group, PC (www.DrennerGroup.com), continuing their practice in land use entitlements and real estate transactions.

Drenner leaves Winstead PC — along with attorneys John Donisi and Katie King Ogden — where he has led the Austin office's entitlement team since 2011. Drenner said his time with Winstead was positive, and he and his team hold their former co-workers in the highest regard.

"We worked with many terrific lawyers at Winstead, and we look forward to continuing working with them as opportunities arise. However, we decided that we preferred a small firm environment," Drenner said. "We feel this model enables us to best serve our clients."

A Central Texas land use attorney for more than three decades, Drenner has a long track record of successfully guiding some of the region's most complex and contentious developments through Austin's entitlement process, including some of Austin's most recognizable projects such as the Frost Bank Tower, the "W" Hotel and Moody (ACL Live) Theater, and the Grayco South Shore District redevelopment.

Drenner was the founding president of the Real Estate Council of Austin and previously served as the president of the Hill Country Conservancy Board of Directors for two years.

Attorney John Donisi is also known for his entitlement work on complex real estate deals. He recently represented the owners of the 10-acre Oak Creek Village complex in near-South Austin, securing zoning to allow for a multifamily redevelopment preserving on-site affordable housing while adding significant market rate units, a project widely heralded as innovative and a first for the region.

Like Drenner, Donisi joined Winstead in 2011 after leaving Drenner & Golden Stuart Wolff LLP. He previously served as chairman of Envision Central Texas and president of the Heritage Society of Austin.

Attorney Katie King Ogden served as the chief of staff for Texas State Senator Jeff Wentworth, and as general counsel for the Jurisprudence Committee of the Texas Senate. Before that, she spent three years working with Drenner and Donisi at Drenner & Golden Stuart Wolff LLP. Senior project manager Amanda Swor also helps launch the Drenner Group, along with project managers Steven Rye and Jewels Watson.

"We're a team that has worked well together for quite some time, many of us for a good number of years," Drenner said. "We're looking forward to our next chapter."

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