

THE DAILY DOCKET

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How the financial crisis drove this new Simpson Thacher partner to practice law

For many in real estate, the 2008 financial crisis was a time they'd like to forget. For [Danielle Jackson](#), it was also when she realized she wanted to become a lawyer.

After graduating from **Spelman College** in Atlanta, Jackson landed a job in New York as an analyst at **Morgan Stanley's** real estate group just in time for the sector to hit the skids.

"I didn't have the traditional experience of doing new deals," she said. "It was a lot of restructuring, so I got a lot of exposure to more nuanced legal issues." Jackson also realized she "liked the types of problems that the lawyers were solving compared to what the bankers were working on at that time."

That realization led her to earning a degree from **Yale Law School** and joining **Simpson Thacher & Barlett's** real estate department. Many of the deals she has worked on have been for **Blackstone**, including the private equity giant's [record \\$18.7 billion purchase](#) in 2019 of industrial warehouse properties from Singapore-based logistics provider **GLP**.

The 35-year-old made partner in November, just as a new crisis known as the COVID-19 pandemic was underway. Deals were on the decline again, though she said the volume has been picking up. The celebrations for her promotion were, as with everything these days, by Zoom.

"It was a little weird," she said. "But I was still over the moon."



Danielle Jackson
Simpson Thacher