

Sheppard Mullin Lures Ex-Greenberg Real Estate Pro

By **Kurt Orzeck**

Law360, New York (March 25, 2014, 6:25 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has recruited a former Greenberg Traurig LLP shareholder to serve as a partner in its real estate, land use and environmental practice group in Costa Mesa, Calif., the firm announced Tuesday.

Scott Morehouse is well-versed in counseling real estate funds, real estate investment trusts, pension funds, banks and other institutional clients in the financing, acquisition, disposition, development, construction and leasing of real property in the U.S., according to Sheppard Mullin.

The real estate ace — who also previously served as a partner at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's Orange County, Calif., office and Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C., office — has dealt with complex multistate transactions such as portfolio acquisitions, dispositions and financings, his new firm said.

Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy Halgren sung Morehouse's praises in a Tuesday statement.

"[Morehouse] is an excellent fit with our marquee real estate and land use practice and adds additional breadth and depth to our existing real estate finance capabilities," Halgren said.

Domenic Drago, leader of the firm's real estate, land use and environmental practice, agreed that the firm is happy to have the new partner in its Orange County office.

"[Morehouse] is well-known and well-respected — an excellent addition to our 60-attorney practice," Drago said.

Morehouse's finance and capital markets background includes the origination, acquisition, structuring and restructuring of permanent and bridge loans, construction loans, mezzanine loans, and other subordinate debt financings, A/B loan structures, loan participations and other co-lending arrangements, according to Sheppard Mullin.

The firm said he has also represented lenders and borrowers in resolving troubled real estate loans and the purchase and sale of distressed and non-performing loans.

Moreover, Morehouse — who is admitted to practice in California, the District of Columbia and Virginia — has helped clients with the structuring and execution of acquisitions and dispositions of major commercial property types, including office buildings, major retail malls and shopping centers, hotels, multifamily residential, industrial, and land.

Morehouse acquired his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1993, three years after earning his undergraduate degree in economics, summa cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He served as a corporate and business associate at Galland Kharasch Morse & Garfinkle PC from August 1993 to January 1995, then as a real estate and finance associate at Morrison & Foerster LLP from that month until August 1996 — when that firm's real estate group moved to Mayer Brown, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Morehouse stayed at Mayer Brown until March 2005, representing domestic and foreign clients in a range of transactions with an emphasis in acquisitions, dispositions and financings, his LinkedIn profile said. He then joined Morgan Lewis & Bockius, representing public and private REITS, funds and real estate companies involved in acquisitions, dispositions, joint ventures, leasing transactions and financings across the U.S.

In late 2010, he left that firm and joined Greenberg Traurig.

Morehouse said in a Tuesday statement that he is pleased with his new employer.

"I am excited to join Sheppard Mullin, which has an outstanding reputation in real estate and land use," he said. "The firm offers an excellent platform on which to grow my practice, as many of my clients have a national presence. In addition, I was truly impressed by the firm's culture of teamwork and collegiality."

--Editing by Philip Shea.

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