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# alumni news

## SheppardMullin

FALL 2020

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Message From The Chair.....1
- Alumni Spotlight.....2
- Alumni Moves and Notable News....4
- Reopening in the U.S. Post COVID-19.....5
- Helping Clients Succeed.....6
- Best Places to Work Honors.....7
- Coronavirus Insights.....7
- Upcoming Events.....7

### STATS AND FACTS

# 937

Lawyers Globally

# 15

Offices in 5 Countries

# 10

Practice Groups

# 26

Industry Teams

# 35

Blogs (including new Energy and Trademark blogs)

# 1,585

Alumni in our network

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

#### Dan Brown Named as Firm's First Dedicated Pro Bono Partner



We are proud to announce that **Dan Brown**, a New York partner in the firm's Business Trial Group, was named Sheppard Mullin's first dedicated Pro Bono Partner in August 2020. Previously, Dan oversaw the firm's pro bono practice while maintaining an active litigation practice. In this new role, he will focus exclusively on the firm's pro bono program and matters in each of our 15 offices.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Dan take on this new role. His career-spanning commitment to pro bono is both compelling and inspiring. He has always led by example to encourage attorneys to do pro bono to help those in need and to be better lawyers, so this new role is a natural next step for Dan and Sheppard Mullin.

Dan noted, "I've been so lucky to work at a law firm that values the importance of giving back and supports pro bono work. This new role demonstrates Sheppard Mullin's continuing commitment to the communities in which we work and to close the justice gap. I'm tremendously honored to be entrusted with this responsibility and looking forward to working with our amazing attorneys to take Sheppard Mullin's pro bono program to a new level."

In 2015, Dan received the American Bar Association's prestigious *Pro Bono Publico* Award that honors those who have enhanced the human dignity of others by improving or delivering volunteer legal services to our nation's poor and disadvantaged. His pro bono work on behalf of people with disabilities in New York City led to the creation of a wheelchair division in the New York City Marathon, an agreement to make the yellow taxi fleet 50 percent wheelchair accessible, the creation of the country's most comprehensive emergency plan for people with disabilities, and dramatically improved sidewalks for people who use wheelchairs or are blind. Dan currently leads a Sheppard Mullin team litigating multiple cases to make the New York subway system accessible to people who cannot use stairs.

Sheppard Mullin has a long and proud tradition of providing legal services to people and community organizations who are unable to afford legal representation and in many cases are therefore denied access to justice. Our vibrant Pro Bono Program includes creditable pro bono hours, with participation goals of 20-50 hours per attorney. Recent recognition of our pro bono program includes the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles' Pro Bono Service Award, the ACLU of Southern California's Youth Justice Award, Bet Tzedek's Law Firm of the Year Award, and the Washington Lawyers' Committee Outstanding Achievement Award.

Congratulations Dan!



**Guy Halgren**

Chair

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW: DREAMSCAPE IMMERSIVE'S CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER TAMMY BRANDT



**Tammy Brandt**

Chief Legal Officer and Head of Business & Legal Affairs  
Dreamscape Immersive

Formerly Corporate & Securities Group, 2005-2007

We are delighted to profile former Sheppard Mullin corporate attorney Tammy Brandt, now at Dreamscape Immersive in Culver City, CA. Portions of this article were originally published in the August 10<sup>th</sup> edition of *Law360* and are reprinted with their permission.

### What was your career path?

Tammy grew up in Ohio and received her B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from Bluffton University. She obtained her law degree from Notre Dame Law School in 2000, graduating *magna cum laude* and serving as Managing Editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review*. Tammy was a judicial extern for Hon. John Noonan of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and for Hon. James Ryan of the Six Circuit Court of Appeals.

Joining Sheppard Mullin's Los Angeles office as a corporate associate in 2005, Tammy served as outside counsel for several public and private companies running M&A and financing deals, and providing general corporate and securities advice on SEC filings, corporate governance, and general business practices. She then moved in house to various companies.

Tammy was Managing Counsel at Toyota Motor Sales USA in Torrance from 2007-2010, handling legal matters for Toyota, Lexus and Scion brands in North America. She moved to ServiceMesh in Santa Monica from 2010-2013 as Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary serving as the company's first General Counsel through acquisition, managing legal and compliance

functions. She served as Chief Corporate, Securities, M&A and Alliance Counsel for DXC Technology from 2013-2017 in Los Angeles and Tysons Corner, VA, leading a global team responsible for M&A transactions and strategic alliances.

Tammy joined virtual reality company Dreamscape Immersive in Culver City in 2017 as Chief Legal Officer and Head of Business & Legal Affairs. Then the pandemic has pushed Tammy to do what she does best: help emerging businesses pivot to achieve success. In doing so, she has been part of Dreamscape's recent shift away from solely focusing on entertainment and instead accelerating into other areas including health care, education, training and simulation. Before the coronavirus outbreak, users in the U.S. who wanted to experience Dreamscape — which began rolling out venues in December 2018 — had to go to one of its locations in Dubai or one of the U.S. locations in Dallas, Los Angeles or Columbus, Ohio. Now the company hopes to expand into other verticals, exploring ways for users to experience Dreamscape from home and elsewhere.

### Since you arrived at Dreamscape in 2017, how has the company changed?

"I arrived very early on. During the time I've been here, the company has launched its core product in the entertainment vertical, which is location-based virtual reality venues that either we set up or we set up with partners. We have grown significantly since I joined Dreamscape," Tammy noted.

## How has the pandemic affected your legal department's priorities?

"Our underlying virtual reality technology can be used in different areas, but the pandemic has forced us to shift our priorities to some other areas we were already working on and away from entertainment.

With our experience, you go to a venue and with up to six people at a time, and enter what we call a virtual reality pod. You do this cinematic, 10- to 12- minute virtual reality experience where you're immersed with each other. You're all avatars. It's really fun and engaging.

You can imagine with COVID-19, you're not doing that because you're in a small space with five other people. In Dubai, there is a location up and running in the Mall of the Emirates. The others are still closed.

We as a company and the legal department have been focusing on other verticals of the company, which we already were working on but we've just shifted our focus to more of those areas until we're able to open everything up again with the entertainment venue."

## What are some of the legal complications that accompany shifting to and expanding into other verticals?

"Obviously when you're dealing with cutting-edge technology, which I've been dealing with for much of my career, you always have similar issues as you expand — privacy and data privacy issues, and how to integrate that technology with other types of technology that the end user wants to use.

You carry a phone and have a laptop and a computer. They're not all necessarily the same brand, but they all communicate with each other. That requires work as you're dealing with disruptive technology and need to make sure that things integrate appropriately.

I think that's a big challenge as we expand. What other types of technology and what other ways are people in those industries consuming data and technology? And then how do we fit in in a way that makes sense for them?"

## What do you think the next half of 2020 will look like for you?

"It depends. I think we will continue to innovate and expand our offerings into these other areas and just see what the new normal of the world looks like and obviously try to adapt our technologies to meet whatever that demand is.

It's probably not this year, but at some point I think the world goes back to what it was before. But what none of us know is when that is. Is that in 2020? Is it 2021?"

## How has working from home been for you?

"We have a 2 ½ year old, and it certainly has been challenging. I'm fortunate that I have a home office with a door so I'm able to lock myself off. But like a lot of parents with children, especially

with young children it's difficult because they don't understand why they can't see their friends. They want to go out and play and they want to go to the park and go down the slide. You just have to keep them engaged and focused on other things.

But I think children are very resilient, even more than adults. My son doesn't quite understand, but he's still happy. I think that's all you can do as a parent is just keep them occupied and wear them out, and then go to the next day."

## How do you deal with this uncertainty in both your personal and professional lives?

"At a company called ServiceMesh where I was general counsel, they incorporated an agile technology development process. Since I learned that, I think that's how you have to approach life, especially now with the coronavirus. You just have to be agile, and you have to pivot as needed. That seems very intuitive, but it's a hard thing to do for certain parts of the population. I would imagine lawyers generally aren't as good at being agile.

I try to pivot with both my personal and work life. Because the thing that is so clear right now is nobody has the answers. If you're trying to know the answers, you won't be successful. I always try to be successful, so I just adopt an attitude where I try to embrace the change, and then figure out what's the best approach based on whatever this new normal is."

## Earlier in your career, you worked in private practice at Sheppard Mullin and another large law firm. Now that you're in-house, what's one thing outside counsel could do better?

"Outside counsel have to continue to understand the enormous financial constraints that a lot of businesses are experiencing — especially in this pandemic — and just continue to understand their clients and support them in whatever they're going through. Obviously there are some businesses that are thriving, but I think for most, it's the other way and their business has taken a hit.

I've been in-house for the last 13 years. The best outside counsel I have are the ones that really want to learn my business and want to help me no matter what I'm doing.

I don't typically care where the outside lawyer is working or at what firm; I'm more interested in the person, the quality of their work and their interest in my business because that is going to lead to the best quality of work that I receive from them. That's what I've learned over time."

## Would you ever consider using an alternative legal service provider or alternative fee arrangement?

"Yes. I think alternative fee arrangements and alternative providers are an important part of the legal service landscape. I have definitely utilized them both in my career.

I think they're important because in some cases, the traditional hourly billing of a pretty seasoned lawyer at a law firm is not the right thing to accomplish what you need. I completely agree with those approaches.

Innovative general counsel use them all the time because they have to; they have so much pressure on their budget that they need to think about all ways to tackle their work.”

### What’s one crucial trait for an in-house lawyer to be successful?

“To really understand the business. lawyers are not trained to be business people, and I pride myself on being very business-friendly and really understanding the business issues.

In some of my jobs, it has taken me awhile to understand the business. But you have to put in that extra time because you’re going to be so much more valuable and your advice will resonate so much better if your clients see that you understand what they’re dealing with every day and what their goals are.”

### How do you learn a business?

“You have to ask lots of questions. You have to go meet people. That’s obviously harder during the pandemic.

As we’re working on some of these new projects I’ve talked about, I will set up separate calls with the chief software architect and with our engineers. I will ask questions — and I apologize to them ahead of time — ‘This might seem like a dumb question, but can you explain to me how this works? And how is this going to work with this other type of technology? Will the end user even know Dreamscape is involved, or will it be behind the scenes?’ I ask really basic questions, and I think they appreciate that.

We have very sophisticated engineers on our team at Dreamscape, but they always answer my questions because they know at the end of the day that I’m trying to protect the company. The only way I can do that is if I understand it at the level I need to. I’m never going to be coding and creating the actual software technology, but I need to understand how it works so I can make sure I protect it. That’s so critical.”

### What’s one fun fact about you?

“I have two. I grew up on a farm in Ohio driving tractors and growing corn, wheat and soybeans. Now I live in Los Angeles.

Another one is I had the opportunity one time to play in a foursome with Annika Sörenstam when she was the No. 1-ranked golfer on the LPGA, which was a huge deal for me because I love to play golf.”



We thank Tammy for taking the time to share her insights with us about her post-Sheppard Mullin career and wish her continued success.

## ALUMNI MOVES AND NOTABLE NEWS

Below are a few recent in-house alumni moves and other notable achievements. Let us know if you’ve changed jobs so we can feature your move in a future edition.



**Mark Blake** is now Litigation, Intellectual Property and Compliance Counsel at Masimo Corporation. He was an intellectual property associate in our Orange County office from 2010 to 2013.



**Bill Blonigan** is now Senior Principal Intellectual Property Counsel at Medtronic. He was an intellectual property associate in our Del Mar office from 2012 to 2020.



**Alexis Garcia** is now a Partner at Endeavor Content, a division of global entertainment leader Endeavor (formerly WME | IMG). He was an entertainment attorney in our Century City office from 2004 to 2007.



**Nathaniel Greenwald** is now in Business Affairs for Apple TV at Apple. He was a corporate associate in our Century City office from 2004 to 2005.



**Isabella Langone** is now a Conservation Analyst at California Native Plant Society. She was a business trial associate in the Los Angeles office from 2017 to 2020.



**Karina Layugan** is now an Attorney at the Los Angeles Office of the Federal Trade Commission. She was a labor and employment associate in the Los Angeles office from 2014 to 2020.



**Vivian Lei** is now Senior Counsel at Tapjoy. She was a corporate associate in our Palo Alto office from 2012 to 2013.



**Angelise Marcigliano** is now Deputy Attorney General at the California Department of Justice. She was a business trial associate in our Century City office from 2010 to 2011.



**Jane Qin Medeiros** is now Head of Marketing Content Services at Industry Dive. She was a finance associate in our New York office from 2009 to 2011.



**Kate Ross** is now a Judicial Law Clerk at the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. She was a Government Contracts associate in the New York office from 2018 to 2020.



**Sean Sullivan** is now Employment Counsel at The Wonderful Company. He was a labor and employment associate in our Los Angeles office from 2016 to 2017.



**Daniel Taskalos** is now Counsel at Epic Games. He was an intellectual property associate in our San Diego office from 2018 to 2020.

## REOPENING IN THE U.S. POST COVID-19: SHEPPARD MULLIN'S CROSS-BORDER RESOURCES



As companies optimistically but cautiously prepare to reopen in the United States, we know many questions surround every aspect of this new phase which will present both challenges and opportunities. Below is a brief summary of the key issues that foreign companies and investors may grapple with and how Sheppard Mullin can help. We stand ready to assist you to address post-pandemic realities in the following areas:



### Reopening Your Business in the U.S.

- Reopening your business and office in compliance with federal, state and local regulations
- Managing workforce issues - action plans, OSHA/CDC guidelines and employee testing
- Avoiding and mitigating post-pandemic employment litigation
- Enforcing data privacy and work from home policies
- Assessing eligibility for and managing PPP and Main Street loans
- Preserving and renewing visas for foreign employees and investors



### Preserving Value and Leveraging Opportunities to Grow Your U.S. Investments

- Buying distressed businesses/assets
- Acquiring distressed real estate and loans
- Understanding U.S. insolvency laws: restructurings, liquidations, foreclosures and bankruptcy
- Accessing U.S. tax incentives



### Realigning Your Relationships

- Renegotiating lease terms
- Renegotiating loans
- Redefining customer and supplier relationships
- Addressing breaches of contracts: navigating force majeure and MAE clauses



### Cross-Border Structuring and Planning

- Understanding the new USMCA Trade Agreement and new tariff regimes
- Understanding CFIUS and other regulations impacting direct investment into the U.S.
- Shifting manufacturing to Mexico (and other countries) for sales into the U.S.
- Immigration concerns: navigating the changing landscape of work visas and Green Card applications
- Understanding U.S. litigation in the cross border context including: choice of law and jurisdiction strategy, ESI/US discovery, arbitration v. litigation and cross-border enforcement of judgements

Given our firm's wide coverage of specialties, we believe we are a valuable resource to companies and investors with a U.S. presence. For more information about any of these services, please contact San Diego partner [Jerry Gumpel](#), Washington DC partner [Luca Salvi](#) or San Diego special counsel [Laura Nava](#).

## HELPING CLIENTS SUCCEED

Sheppard Mullin lawyers work on a range of litigation and transactions to help our clients succeed. Here are just a few examples of our work over the last quarter.



**CACI International / AVT acquisition** – We represented Arlington, VA-based CACI International Inc (NYSE: CACI), a multinational professional services and information technology company, in its acquisition of Ascent Vision Technologies, LLC (AVT), a leading provider of technology and solutions that supports multi-domain intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), unmanned aircraft system (UAS), air defense and counter-unmanned aircraft system (c-UAS) operations. This proprietary imaging technology is utilized in AVT's X-MADIS system, an on-the-move, mobile and fixed site, c-UAS solution that detects, locates, tracks, identifies, and defeats UAS threats. The deal was led by Washington DC partners **Luca Salvi** and **Frank Bacelli**.



**Canterbury Consulting / Private fund formation** – We represented Canterbury Consulting Inc. in the formation of two private investment funds. Canterbury is a Newport Beach, CA-based investment firm that advises on \$24 billion in assets for endowments, foundations, healthcare organizations, and families. Canterbury's Core Bond Fund raised a total of \$350 million as of its most recent closing. The Core Bond Fund focuses on investments in investment grade fixed income securities providing attractive yields. Canterbury's PC Fund raised a total of \$82 million as of its most recent closing. The PC Fund focuses on investments in pooled investment vehicles having a focus on long-term private equity investments. The team was led by Orange County partner **Ben Kwon**.



**First Amendment Coalition / Police misconduct pro bono litigation** – Palo Alto special counsel **Tenaya Rodewald** and a Sheppard Mullin pro bono team had an impressive string of wins in California state courts in cases involving access to records of police misconduct and significant uses of force. As explained by alumni **David Snyder**, Executive Director of the First Amendment Coalition, Tenaya has “just done tremendous hand-to-hand combat over the last year-and-a-half with the police unions” to bring to light critical information regarding police misconduct. The Sheppard Mullin team was profiled in an *AmLaw* [article](#) about this case on August 3, 2020.



**Jay Paul Company / San Jose CityView Plaza redevelopment** – We successfully helped client Jay Paul Company, a privately-held real estate firm known for conceptualizing and building the workspaces of the future, secure approval from the San Jose City Council for the redevelopment of the existing CityView Plaza in downtown San Jose into a modern office campus. The project will include approximately 3.79 million-square-foot of office space with three glass towers, five levels of underground parking, retail opportunities, and generous public plazas. San Francisco partner **Jennifer Renk** led the matter.



**Ready at Dawn / Sale to Facebook** – We represented Ready at Dawn, the independent studio, veteran game developer and VR pioneer behind hits like *Lone Echo* and *The Order: 1886*, in its acquisition by Facebook. The deal team was led by San Francisco partner **Stephanie Zeppa**.



**WaveXr / Weeknd virtual concert** – We represented WaveXr in producing and hosting a virtual concert with superstar artist, The Weeknd, exclusively on TikTok Live on August 7. Century City partner **Shaun Clark** handled negotiations with TikTok on behalf of WaveXr, and San Francisco partner **Jennifer Redmond** provided guidance regarding how to comply with COVID-19 restrictions in connection with actual production of the performance (which required The Weeknd to wear a special suit containing sensors used to capture his movement, which data is then used to animate the digital avatar created by our client). The virtual concert reportedly drew over 2 million viewers and raised \$350,000 for equal justice initiatives.



**Vindex / Belong Gaming Arenas acquisition** – We represented Vindex, the leading global esports infrastructure company, in its acquisition of the Belong Gaming Arenas brand and all associated IP from Game Digital Limited (GAME), the largest video games retailer in the United Kingdom and Spain. GAME operates more than 500 video game retail stores and launched Belong in 2016 to build a network of local gaming communities that play, watch and compete together in state-of-the-art gaming centers. The deal marks the next phase in Vindex's plan to support the growth of the global esports industry and to bring amateur esports to hometowns across the country and around the world. The deal was led by New York partners **Dan Schnapp**, **Shon Glusky** and **Alexis Robinson**.



**Whole Foods Market / Summary judgment meat cutter discrimination** – We secured a major victory for client Whole Foods Market by prevailing on summary judgment in a hotly contested discrimination case. The Plaintiff, a former meat cutter for Whole Foods in Southern California, sued for age and national origin discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination after he was terminated for commingling meat and pork products when performing a meat grind and failing to thoroughly clean the grinder between grinds. Los Angeles partner **Derek Havel** led the matter.

## BEST PLACES TO WORK HONORS

Several Sheppard Mullin offices were recently named a “Best Place to Work” by their local business journal:



Our **San Diego/Del Mar** offices were named among San Diego’s “Best Places to Work” in August by the *San Diego Business Journal* in the publication’s list of 100 companies. 2020 marks San Diego/Del Mar’s 11th appearance on the list.



Our **Chicago** office was named by the *Daily Herald Business Ledger* as being among the top 5 best places to work in Illinois in the large companies category in August. This is the fifth consecutive year the office has been recognized.



Our **Dallas** office was named a “Best Places to Work” by the *Dallas Business Journal* in August for the second year in a row.



Our **San Francisco/Palo Alto** offices were named on the list of the “Best Places to Work in the Bay Area” in April by the *San Francisco Business Times* and *Silicon Valley Business Journal* as a best place to work in the large companies category.

## CORONAVIRUS INSIGHTS

To help you stay informed, we continue to add to our “Coronavirus Insights” web [page](#) with relevant blog posts, podcasts and webinar invitations and recordings. You can also subscribe to our Coronavirus Insights [Portal](#) (newsletter), which aggregates content biweekly.



## CONTACT US

For more information about our alumni program, to notify us of a job change, subscribe to a blog, or register for events, contact Alumni Program Senior Manager Michelle O’Driscoll. We look forward to hearing from you and staying in touch.



**Michelle O’Driscoll**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, our programs have shifted from in person to webinars for the near term. Upcoming webinar topics where our lawyers are speaking include, among others:

- The Evolving National Security Innovation Space for All (Sept. 22)
- Foreclosure Litigation and Receivership: What it Entails and Looking Forward (Sept. 22)
- The Evolving Reasonable Consumer Standard, Developments in Preemption, and Other Litigation Trends for the Food and Dietary Supplement Industries (Sept. 23)
- Employee Handbook and Personnel Policies 2020, including New COVID-19 Workplace Policies (Sept. 24)
- Surreal Deals: Completing M&A and Corporate Financing Transactions in the Brave New World (Sept. 30)
- Overview of the 21st Century Cures Act: Key Points for Healthcare Companies (Oct. 8)
- PPP and Other Assistance Programs: What’s Worked, What Hasn’t and What to Do Going Forward (Oct. 14)

Please visit our [Events](#) page to learn more about upcoming webinars including dates, time, speakers and registration info. You can also view recordings of past webinars at [www.sheppardmullin.com/newsroom-events.html](http://www.sheppardmullin.com/newsroom-events.html).

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**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/SheppardMullin>



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