

### Real Estate and Corporate Finance Partner Michele Williams Joins Sheppard Mullin Washington D.C. & New York

#### Establishes Firm's East Coast Real Estate Transactional Practice

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#### Press Contact

Ralph Richardson

T: +1.213.617.5542

F: +1.213.620.1398

[rrichardson@sheppardmullin.com](mailto:rrichardson@sheppardmullin.com)

Michele E. Williams has joined the Washington, D.C. and New York offices of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the firm's Real Estate and Finance & Bankruptcy practice groups. Williams most recently practiced at DLA Piper in Washington, D.C. and New York.

"We are very excited to welcome Michele. She is an impressive attorney who establishes the firm's real estate transactional presence on the East Coast, which has been a strategic goal of the firm, coupled with corporate finance capabilities," said Guy N. Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin.

Commented Williams, "Sheppard Mullin offers an excellent platform to continue to grow my practice, as well as an amazing firmwide collegial culture. I am impressed by the firm's real estate and finance groups, and look forward to expanding those practices on the East Coast. I'm also delighted to be reunited with friends and former colleagues John Chierichella, Anne Perry and Jonathan Aronie in D.C."

"Michele will be a great asset to the D.C. and New York offices," commented Ed Schiff, managing partner of Sheppard Mullin's Washington, D.C. office. "She brings an incredible combination of industry expertise and adds a new real estate transaction and finance practice to our East Coast offices, which compliments our well-established banking, corporate and commercial litigation practices."

Williams focuses her practice in real estate, project and corporate finance both in the U.S. and internationally. She represents U.S. real estate funds in connection with their fund formation, funding, and investment activities. Williams also represents U.S. real estate investors in the acquisition, financing, and leasing of commercial properties domestically and abroad.

Throughout her career, Williams has been responsible for the structuring, negotiation and execution of highly structured corporate financings involving public and private debt and equity offerings, minority equity investments, private equity investments, partnerships and joint ventures. She has also represented multinational corporations, financial institutions, institutional investors and private investors in merger and acquisition financings, leveraged recapitalizations, mezzanine financings and senior bank financings.

Before beginning her legal career, Williams was a banker with Irving Trust Company, New York; Riggs National Bank, where she was an assistant vice president in the commercial banking group; and Bank of America, where she was a vice president in the corporate group.

Williams received a J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S.F.S., *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University.

Sheppard Mullin has 40 attorneys based in its Washington, D.C. office and 35 attorneys based in New York. The firm's Real Estate practice group includes close to 70 attorneys firmwide and the its Finance practice includes 60 attorneys.

## **About Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP**

Sheppard Mullin is a full service AmLaw 100 firm with 550 attorneys in 11 offices located in the United States and Asia. Since 1927, companies have turned to Sheppard Mullin to handle corporate and technology matters, high stakes litigation and complex financial transactions. In the U.S., the firm's clients include more than half of the Fortune 100.

## **Practice Areas**

Bankruptcy and Restructuring

Commercial Lending and Financial Transactions

Real Estate and Land Use