

Real Estate Partner, Douglas Van Gessel, Joins Sheppard Mullin in San Francisco Office

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Douglas Van Gessel has joined the San Francisco office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the Real Estate/Land Use & Natural Resources/Environmental Practice Group. Van Gessel, most recently with Cox Castle Nicholson in San Francisco, has significant experience representing clients in real estate transactions, with an emphasis on purchase and sale, leasing, and debt and equity financing.

"Doug is a seasoned and highly regarded attorney who will significantly enhance our firm's real estate practice," said Guy Halgren, firm chair. We enjoy an excellent reputation in real estate law and the addition of Doug adds depth firmwide and in San Francisco."

Domenic Drago, chair of the Real Estate/Land Use & Natural Resources/Environmental Practice Group, said, "We're excited to have an accomplished attorney such as Doug join the practice group, as we continue to grow throughout the state. Doug's strong ties to the industry and region are considerable and will complement our capabilities nationwide."

"We're pleased to welcome Doug to the office," said Betsy McDaniel, managing partner of the firm's San Francisco office. "His broad-based, transactional practice is a perfect fit with our office's already busy real estate practice, and with Doug, we will now have additional capacity."

Commented Van Gessel, "Sheppard Mullin has an excellent reputation throughout the legal and business communities. I was particularly attracted to the firm's real estate group which provides an excellent platform for the development of my practice. I look forward to working with the talented group in San Francisco."

Van Gessel represents clients in all aspects of commercial real estate, with principal focuses on development and structuring of major projects; creative financial transactions, including construction, term and mezzanine debt, joint ventures; acquisitions and dispositions; workouts and restructurings of real-estate-secured loans and equity investments; office, industrial and retail leasing and subleasing; and negotiation of architectural, construction, management and consulting agreements.

Van Gessel earned both his law degree in 1987 and a BA, with distinction, Phi Beta Kappa in 1982 from University of Michigan.

About Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a full service AmLaw 100 firm with 430 attorneys in nine offices located throughout California and in New York and Washington, D.C. The firm's California offices are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Century City, Orange County, Del Mar Heights and San Diego. Sheppard Mullin provides legal expertise and counsel to U.S. and international clients in a wide range of practice areas, including Antitrust, Corporate and Securities; Entertainment and Media; Finance and Bankruptcy; Government Contracts; Intellectual Property; Labor and Employment; Litigation; Real Estate/Land Use; Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts and Estate Planning; and White Collar Defense. The firm was founded in

1927.

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