

Daily Journal

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DEVELOPMENT

CALIFORNIA'S TOP 50 DEVELOPMENT LAWYERS

Editors Note

This year, we decided to take a different approach. We didn't pick a list of lawyers specifically devoted to real estate deals or municipal law. Our list this year is a collection of the state's top attorneys whose work in the development arena significantly impacted projects that are helping to shape the transformation of cities.

These lawyers and the others on our list are passionate about their work, and it shows in very tangible ways.

Tony Toranto

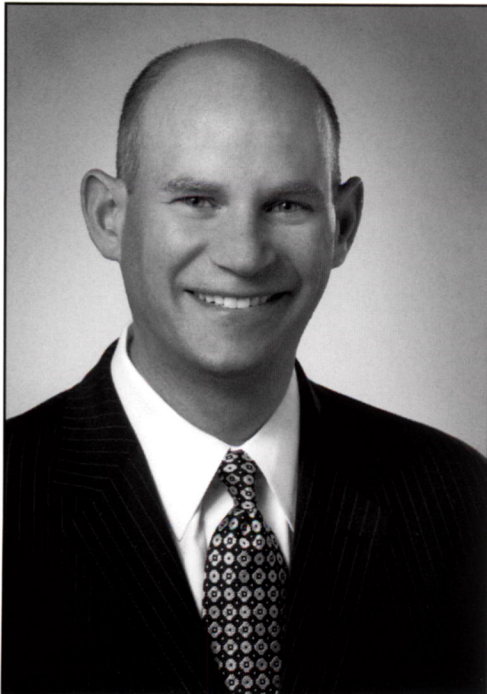
FIRM

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Del Mar

SPECIALTIES

real estate, corporate, energy



Toranto led a legal team that advised DM Development Partners LLC and its affiliates on three landmark projects that he said will help fuel the redevelopment of San Francisco's Hayes Valley.

Those include Octavia Gateway, located at the corner of Market Street and Octavia Boulevard.

The centerpiece is a building that features 47 residences arranged around light-filled interior courtyards with garden views.

A second project, 400 Grove Street, is located in a high-profile corner close to some of the city's performing arts venues, including the War Memorial Opera House, Davies Symphony Hall, SF Jazz Center and the San Francisco Ballet.

The mixed-use development will feature 34 upscale homes and a landscaped internal courtyard.

The third project is 450 Hayes Street, located in the heart of Hayes Valley.

This mixed-use development will feature 41 high-end homes over commercial space, near boutiques and restaurants, as well as nearly a

dozen city and regional mass-transit lines.

"They are exciting, interesting and important projects for the continued development and enhancement of Hayes Valley," Toranto said. "The area is undergoing a renaissance."

Overall, the city is going through big changes, he added.

"Now we have so many new major companies coming to San Francisco, and down on the Peninsula," Toranto said. "This means that people are commuting to work and living in San Francisco, resulting in a lot of demand for housing."

But the geographic footprint of the city isn't getting any bigger, he added.

"The city is evolving and adapting to deal with this growth in a way that preserves a lot of wonderful characteristics of San Francisco, and yet accommodates growth and the needs of the future, too," Toranto said.

Projects such as these are being fueled by a favorable financial market, he added.

"For now, a lot of money is chasing real estate investments, particularly in major markets like San Francisco."

— Pat Broderick