

Sheppard Mullin Lands 2 Epstein Partners In Health Practice

By Jeff Sistrunk

Law360, Los Angeles (June 10, 2014, 4:29 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has expanded its health care practice with the addition of two former Epstein Becker & Green PC partners who have health industry, nonprofit transactional and real estate experience, the firm said Tuesday.

Jay E. Gerzog and Eric L. Altman will work out of Sheppard Mullin's New York Office, according to the firm. Gerzog is joining as a partner in Sheppard Mullin's corporate practice group and will also be a



member of the firm's not-for-profit industry group, while Altman is joining as a partner in the real estate, land use and environmental practice group.

Former Epstein Becker senior associate Tamar R. Rosenberg will also join Gerzog and Altman at Sheppard Mullin, according to the firm.



Gerzog said in a statement that he and Altman were drawn to Sheppard Mullin "by the firm's strategic vision, well-managed growth and accomplishments in the health industry."

"Sheppard Mullin provides us with a very strong platform, and a deep bench of very experienced attorneys in diverse practice specialties, which is essential to enable us to provide the best possible service to our clients," Gerzog said. "Sheppard has a dynamic group of healthcare attorneys who have extensive experience implementing the innovative programs and transactions that are reshaping the nation's healthcare system, and that are increasingly being focused on in the East Coast."

Sheppard Mullin's health care lawyers have for several years been involved with such "cutting-edge health reform-induced deals, which puts Sheppard well ahead of the curve on being able to achieve successful results and value for clients," Gerzog added.

"The next five years in the health care industry are critical, and we concluded that Sheppard Mullin best positions us to help our health care industry clients successfully navigate through this evolution," he said.

Gerzog's practice includes advising clients on the corporate, health care, federal tax and state not-for-profit law implications of structuring complex corporate affiliations and disaffiliations, joint ventures and mergers and acquisitions among tax-exempt organizations and between tax-exempt and for-profit

organizations — in particular, those involving hospitals, academic medical centers, managed care organizations, physician groups and other health care providers and payers, according to Sheppard Mullin.

Altman represents clients in connection with large institutional facilities, clinics, assisted care facilities and medical office buildings to help manage their health care-related real estate assets, according to the firm. In addition, he represents both banks and borrowers on all facets of commercial lending transactions, including acquisition loans, construction loans and permanent financing and refinancing, the firm said.

Together, Altman and Gerzog have played a central role in many hospital system restructuring transactions within the New York health care market, according to Sheppard Mullin.

Guy N. Halgren, Sheppard Mullin's chairman, said the firm is thrilled to bring Gerzog and Altman onboard.

"In addition to the growth of our health care practice, Jay, Eric and Tamar expand and deepen our transactional, not-for-profit/tax-exempt institution and real estate capabilities," Halgren said in a statement.

Eric A. Klein, chair of Sheppard Mullin's health care practice, described the addition of the former Epstein Becker partners as "part of our ongoing strategic goal to expand our health care industry capabilities and to assist clients as they meet the challenges of health care reform."

"They are accomplished attorneys who work with leading New York hospital systems, and their health care and not-for-profit transactional and real estate practices dovetail well with our healthcare group and the firm," Klein said in a statement. "Jay and Eric bring strong health system merger and acquisition and strategic alliance capabilities to our East Coast health care practice, and they will work with Sheppard Mullin's national health care team in many of the innovative population health management and value-based reimbursement systems projects we are undertaking today."

Sheppard Mullin has 70 attorneys based in its New York office, and its health care practice includes 90 attorneys firmwide.

--Editing by Chris Yates.