



DUVAL & STACHENFELD LLP

Duval & Stachenfeld Names Ilya Leyvi Co-Chair of Industry-Leading Real Estate Finance Practice Group

NEW YORK, N.Y. — October 18, 2021 — [Duval & Stachenfeld LLP](#) (“D&S”), the largest real estate-focused law firm in New York City, announced that Ilya Leyvi has been named co-chair of the firm’s real estate finance practice group.

In this role, Leyvi will helm the practice group alongside Tom O’Connor, who has chaired the real estate finance practice since he joined D&S in 2014.

Currently a partner at D&S, Leyvi first joined the firm as a summer associate before joining full-time as an associate in 2013. Leyvi regularly represents lenders and borrowers on bridge loans, construction loans, mezzanine loans, and commercial mortgage-backed securities, as well as preferred equity investments. He has served as counsel on deals across all property types, including luxury residential developments, hotel resorts, retail centers. In one marquee transaction, he represented the buyer in the acquisition of a portfolio of franchised hotels valued at \$260 million as well as the associated mortgage and mezzanine financing.

“Since Day 1, Ilya has impressed me with his intellect, his determination, and ability to come up with creative solutions to complex problems. He is a natural-born leader, and I am excited to co-chair the group with him to take this practice to the next level”, said O’Connor. Managing Partner Terri Adler said, “There is growing demand for expert counsel in the sphere of real estate finance, and Ilya’s experience makes him the perfect attorney to serve as the face of these client relationships in the years ahead. He is truly a case study in the success that we love to see from associates rising up through the ranks at Duval & Stachenfeld, and we look forward to seeing his leadership skills propel the finance group’s upward trajectory.”

The Finance Group has extensive experience and expertise representing the most influential power players in the real estate industry on their finance transactions, from originating first mortgage and mezzanine debt to PACE loans, A/B note structures,

participations, and other tailored transactions. The group also has extensive experience in originating, leveraging, selling, and acquiring loans of all types; arranging and negotiating intercreditor, co-lender, and participation arrangements; and note-on-note financing. It is also often the go-to for debt-like preferred equity transactions due to the industry-leading joint venture practice at D&S.

Prominent recent clients include ACORE, Ares, Barings, Keysite, Melody, MSD Capital, PAAMCO Prisma, Paragon Outcomes, Related, RMWC, Sculptor, and White Oak.

Chairman Bruce Stachenfeld said, "Ilya's finance expertise and deep knowledge of this area of the industry makes him an excellent fit to co-chair our Finance Practice, which is an integral part of our Pure Play model. Ilya represents the next generation of attorneys that have grown up thinking through not only the legal issues but the business issues of a transaction as well, which dovetails with our mission to help our clients grow their businesses. Having this perspective since the start of his career is invaluable to our client base at a time when we see more and more entrants to the debt space looking for top notch legal services."

"I'm truly honored to join Tom as co-chair of this practice group and I'm eager to follow in his example and offer premier advisory services to a growing range of clients," said Leyvi. "Being able to work closely with market-leading clients and cement long-term relationships with some of the country's most prolific developers, owners and investors has been a point of pride throughout my career and I look forward to continuing to grow the practice alongside Tom and our other talented real estate finance specialists."

Leyvi graduated at the top of his class from Cornell Law School and received his B.B.A. from CUNY Baruch College – Zicklin School of Business.

About Duval & Stachenfeld LLP

Duval & Stachenfeld ("D&S") is the largest real estate-focused law firm in New York City and one of the city's largest real estate legal teams. Since its inception 24 years ago, D&S has provided clients with a "Pure Play" in high-quality real estate law, headlined by the Real Estate Practice Group, which has distinguished itself with its focus on complex, sophisticated transactional work. For more information, please visit www.dsllp.com.