

## Rising Star: Gibson Dunn's Farshad More

By **Andrew Strickler**

*Law360, New York (April 22, 2015, 1:39 PM ET) --*



Gibson Dunn partner Farshad More's leadership role in a major development plan for a Los Angeles sports stadium and work crafting the purchase agreement for a cherished San Francisco landmark, among other notable matters, has earned him a spot among Law360's top hospitality attorneys under 40.

After starting as an associate in Gibson Dunn's LA office doing corporate and securities work, the Rising Star became increasingly interested in the more tangible aspects of commercial real estate work, he says.

"Doing real estate, both in financing and acquisition work, you can see a lot more of the business side of things, even as a junior associate, compared to the corporate securities area, and I liked that part of it," he says. "It's very tightly connected to your client's strategy and putting that into action."

More, 37, joined the firm as a summer associate in 2002 and returned as a regular associate after graduating from Columbia Law School the following year.

He is now one of two lead partners representing Hollywood Park Land Co. LLC, a joint venture with a closely watched plan to build a new football stadium on a 298-acre site in Inglewood, California.

Dubbed the City of Champions Revitalization Project, the site is the planned home of a \$2 billion, 80,000-seat stadium to be developed by St. Louis Rams owner Stan Kroenke.

The proposal was unveiled in January, with the Inglewood city council voting in favor of the project in February. Along with the stadium, the project includes a performance venue and millions of square feet of hotel, office, retail and residential space.

"This has been the most interesting and exciting part of my career so far, knowing you're working on things that can have a huge ripple effect in the redevelopment of a large area in a city, and in what this



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project is trying to accomplish,” More says.

More has worked on a number of deals in recent years for investment and management firm Jamestown, and was the lead partner on its acquisition and financing of the historic Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco in 2013, a deal worth a reported \$54 million.

“San Francisco in particular is a city that has historically had landmark restrictions — what you can and cannot do with the facades of buildings, for instance — so that was about navigating through all those issues,” he says.

More was also lead counsel in 2011 for the purchaser of a Boston hotel on a mixed-use property, according to Gibson Dunn, which included creating a commercial condominium regime that allowed the hotel to be “split” from the office component of the project.

“This was all about thinking creatively through what the client was trying to accomplish and putting together a plan to get there,” he says.

Additionally, over the last two years More was the lead partner on the sale of Pacific Place, a mixed-use hotel, office and retail center in San Francisco, and on the financing of a \$250 million development loan under the EB-5 investor program for a mixed-use hotel and office development in Seattle.

Regarding the latter deal, More highlighted the expertise of his Gibson Dunn colleagues.

“[Gibson Dunn] has some of the most-experienced counsel anywhere on the borrower side of EB-5 financing,” More says. “That’s been a very hot vehicle in construction and development of hotels because it offers pretty favorable terms for construction financing.”

--Editing by Edrienne Su.