

## Mayer Brown Hires Tax Pro From Greenberg Traurig

By **Ashish Sareen**

Law360, London (January 15, 2024, 2:51 PM GMT) -- Mayer Brown LLP has recruited a real estate tax specialist from rival U.S. law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP amid growing demand from international clients for advice on recent reforms.

Ben Eaton told Law360 on Monday that he had joined Mayer Brown's office in London as a partner on Jan. 8, after he had previously been a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig. His arrival will boost its capabilities representing clients in the tax aspects of real estate investments and finance transactions, as well as development and leasing.

Eaton also has experience of advising clients on tax issues associated with structuring funds and joint ventures that invest in real estate and real estate debt. He also has expertise in transactions involving real estate operating businesses.



Ben Eaton

James Hill, the head of the tax practice of Mayer Brown in London, said in a statement that Eaton's arrival has come at a time when the real estate landscape is becoming more complex, as clients look to alternative investments that offer more innovative funding. This leads to more demand for commercially acceptable and efficient tax structures, he said.

"Ben's experience gives us additional bench strength and complements our existing offering of providing high quality tax advice to international real estate sector clients," Hill said.

Eaton told Law360 that Mayer Brown has seen growing demand from clients for specialist advice amid changes to international tax rules that have taken place over the past few years.

He also told Law360 that Mayer Brown has been looking to strengthen its tax offering to complement its work for real estate clients in the investment funds arena.

He spent just over five years at Greenberg Traurig, after he **joined the law firm** in November 2018. He started out his legal career at Pinsent Masons LLP, where he qualified as a solicitor in 1995. Eaton has also previously practiced at Allen & Overy LLP and **Goodwin Procter LLP**.

The new Mayer Brown partner is a member of The Law Society's tax committee. Eaton is also an associate member of the British Property Federation tax committee and the Stamp Taxes Practitioners Group.

"I enjoy the law and tax seemed to me to be a field where you could really bring that interest and intellectual curiosity around the law to bear in a commercial context," Eaton told Law360.

Eaton added that, beyond looking at tax rules, he enjoys working with clients in the real estate industry because they "tend to be very commercially focused."

Mayer Brown LLP **promoted 42 lawyers** from around the world to its partnership, and a further 23 were elevated to counsel, with the practitioners stepping into their new roles on Jan. 1. That compares with 35 lawyers who were added as partners and 18 became counsel the previous year.

Five of the 2024 group of newly promoted partners — Jawad Ahmad, Alastair Dolman, Harriet Hainsworth, Matt Lilley and Duncan Watson — are based in London.

--Editing by Joe Millis.

