

## Rising Star: Fried Frank's Tal Golomb

By Natalie Rodriguez

*Law360, New York (March 20, 2013, 5:06 PM ET)* -- Helping to guide some of New York City's largest, landmark real estate deals is Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP partner Tal Golomb, whose deal-making and land use skills have earned him a spot among six real estate attorneys under 40 recognized by Law360.

At the relatively young age of 36, Golomb has played key roles in advising clients in at least five major projects that landed him on the Law360 Rising Star list: the \$12 billion Hudson Yards development, the Barclays Center-anchored Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn, the National September 11th Memorial and Museum Foundation, a professional soccer stadium in Queens and Cornell University's proposed Roosevelt Island campus.

Colleagues attribute at least part of Golomb's success to his ability to adeptly handle all aspects of a real estate deal, from leasing and financing to land use and zoning, in a practice area where most attorneys specialize in just one or two areas.

"He's able to span both the traditional real estate function — dirt law, as they call it — as well as the land-use side. You don't find that very often," Stephen Lefkowitz, a partner in Fried Frank's real estate department, told Law360.

Golomb, who came into Fried Frank as a lateral associate in 2007 and made partner last year, has also earned a reputation for being able to handle difficult situations.

"Although he's young, he has a great deal of sophistication and maturity. ... And lots of problems in his hands just go away because he manages to solve them," Lefkowitz said.

And over the last few years, Golomb has taken on a fair amount of challenging deals. Take, for example, Golomb's representation of Forest City Ratner Cos. in its Atlantic Yards development. The deal, which closed in 2009, took expert juggling on the part of Golomb and the rest of the Fried Frank team.

"We were negotiating project documents with the state and the MTA, [and dealing with] refinancing of the land loan, bond financing, the sale of the team from Forest City to Mikhail Prokhorov and then the city was contributing funding for the project in 2009 when people weren't sure where the economy was going to go. There was certainly a lot of skepticism that it would ever be constructed," Golomb said.

The deal negotiations were ultimately topped off with a three-day closing. "It was harrowing, but fun," Golomb said.

Large-scale developments have been a fascination for Golomb since before he started practicing. “I’ve always been interested in cities and when I was applying to law schools, I also applied for a joint degree with architectural schools with urban and design planning programs,” said Golomb, who earned his law degree from Columbia University School of Law.

When joining Fried Frank, Golomb was fresh off a three-year stint as senior counsel in the New York City Law Department. In that role, he advised the mayor’s office and other city agencies on major projects, as well as the implementation of initiatives in climate- and infrastructure-focused PlaNYC

And his experience on that side of the table has come in handy in his public-private partnership work. One of his most recent projects, for example, was guiding Cornell University through a tough bid competition held by the city, helping it and partner Technion-Israel Institute of Technology snag the opportunity to build a \$2 billion applied science and engineering campus. Now he is working with the university as it marches ahead with Roosevelt Island development.

“These are situations in which each side can win and I think of my job as trying to facilitate that,” Golomb said about his practice.

He added that he particularly enjoys being intimately involved with urban development on a grand scale — which often calls for years of work with a client and its project.

“These projects are incredibly intensive, particularly at the beginning. With Hudson Yards, there were several stages to it. At that time, we had to sort of think ahead of how we’re going to develop the project,” said Golomb, who has been representing Related Cos. in the project.

“Now that Related is starting on the first large building, we had to look back and see if we did things correctly and be flexible to change them,” Golomb said.

Beyond his work on major developments, Golomb has also been tapped for city task forces that are helping draft changes to the local code addressing sustainable building measures, as well as new construction initiatives that will help prevent the kind of damage seen in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Golomb also is part of the Fried Frank pro bono team that advises the Urban Green Council and has recently been asked by the National September 11th Memorial and Museum Foundation to help seal up negotiations with the Port Authority to help it finish the museum.

“His reputation in the firm in this short period of time has certainly grown,” Lefkowitz said, adding he expects to see Golomb continue to have a successful career.

Golomb, who advises younger counsel to make sure they’re “engaged in a practice you really enjoy,” also hopes to see new exciting projects in the near future, especially with an administration change on the horizon for New York.

“I’m very lucky to continue the type of work I’m doing. New York is constantly generating new projects,” Golomb said.

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.

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