

# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

HIRINGS, PROMOTIONS, BOARD MEMBERS AND SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS IN SAN DIEGO



**COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE PROMOTION**



**EDUARDO MOEHLECKE**

Meissner Commercial Real Estate Services is pleased to announce that Eduardo Moehlecke has been promoted to Director of Real Estate Services. With over 20 years of experience, Eduardo demonstrates a remarkable ability to align real estate objectives with client goals. He embodies excellence where precision, foresight, and client satisfaction are paramount. Through his strategic insights, Eduardo ensures a harmonious and profitable partnership to maintain client strategy through the business plan of each asset. His enduring legacy serves as an inspiration to aspiring real estate professionals, highlighting the transformative power of expertise, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence in real estate management.



**LEGAL PROMOTION**



**Hannah Cary**

Hannah Cary has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego, effective January 1. A member of the Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity Practice and Corporate Department. She counsels clients on all forms of transactional insurance, including representations and warranties, tax, and contingent-risk policies, both in the context of transactions and with respect to claims.



**Joshua Chao**

Joshua Chao has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego, effective January 1. A member of the Banking Practice and Finance Department, he represents corporate borrowers, investment banks, direct lenders, and other financial institutions in corporate finance transactions across industries, focusing on leveraged finance in the context of acquisitions, refinancings, and recapitalizations.



**Joanna Gorska**

Joanna Gorska has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego, effective January 1. A member of the Project Development & Finance Practice and Finance Department, she advises sponsors, commercial banks, and other financial institutions on developing and financing projects across multiple sectors, with a focus on renewable energy projects.



**David Kowalski**

David Kowalski has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego, effective January 1. A member of the Complex Commercial Litigation Practice and Litigation & Trial Department, he represents clients through trial in complex litigation matters in federal and state courts, including unfair competition, fraud, contract, and patent and other IP disputes.



**Evan Youngstrom**

Evan Youngstrom has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Diego, effective January 1. A member of the Emerging Companies & Growth Practice and Corporate Department, he advises founders, private and public companies, and venture capital and private equity firms in the technology, life sciences, and other growth industries.



**ENGINEERING Announcement**



**Brian Wright**

Affiliated Engineers, Inc. (AEI) proudly announces the opening of our new office in San Diego, within the UTC neighborhood. Leading alongside Principal Steve Yanke, Brian Wright, a licensed professional engineer, contributes invaluable expertise to the team as the managing director. With bachelor's degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering and extensive industry experience, Brian provides a local presence, building strong client and partner relationships. Leveraging his skills in energy optimization, Title 24 compliance, and sustainable design, Brian advances our creativity and effective solutions. His leadership and technical prowess exemplify AEI's dedication to innovation and quality in every project undertaken.



**Shane Poppen**



**Craig Knox**



**Zach Millrood**



**COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE – NEW HIRES**

Savills Strengthens San Diego Presence and Expands West Coast Life Sciences Capabilities with Addition of Elite Team and New Market Leader Shane Poppen, Craig Knox, and Zach Millrood will significantly bolster the firm's tenant advisory capabilities across sectors, including life sciences; Poppen named as San Diego market leader Savills is bolstering its presence in San Diego while also expanding its North American Life Sciences practice into a critical market. As part of our local expansion, we are excited to welcome commercial real estate industry veterans Shane Poppen, Craig Knox, and Zach Millrood. Shane Poppen will serve as the San Diego market leader and the West region co-leader of Savills Life Sciences practice alongside Craig Knox. Poppen, Knox, and Millrood will all join as vice chairmen, bringing decades of exceptional experience and accomplishments to the firm. Poppen is a proven leader who specializes in providing real estate strategy and complex transaction advisement for biotech, medical device, instrumentation, and healthcare companies. He is recognized as an expert in high-value, time-critical, and complex transactions. Over his career, he has completed transactions totaling over 20 million square feet and has represented a wide array of life science clients specializing in biotech, medical devices, instrumentation, and healthcare. Knox is a San Diego native with deep knowledge of the local market and has represented hundreds of companies on their real estate matters. He has facilitated numerous transactions that were strengthened through his astute strategic planning, financial analysis, and negotiation skills. Finally, Millrood has completed engagements in all major markets and cities nationwide, with expertise assisting Southern California occupiers in managing multi-market property portfolios. His clients represent various industries, including life sciences, medical services, consumer products, manufacturing, technology, nonprofits, and education. They are widely considered to be one of the leading tenant advisory teams in San Diego and have represented a diverse range of companies, locally and across geographies. Since 2006, the team has completed thousands of transactions totaling over 50 million square feet. As they focus on growing the firm's broader tenant advisory services across the west region, Poppen, Knox, and Millrood will also collaborate closely with North American Life Sciences Practice Lead Austin Barrett and the broader Life Sciences team on global initiatives. "Shane, Craig, and Zach are amongst the most accomplished tenant advisors in the region, yet their client requirements span global markets. While they will continue to represent a wide range of occupiers, their experience in the biotech space creates a unique opportunity to fully integrate our life sciences practice within one of North America's critical hubs," said Savills West Region President Patrick McGrath. "The team brings elite deal-making acumen, zealous client advocacy, and a strong reputation within the San Diego community – they are an incredible cultural fit for Savills." With more than 600 offices across the globe, Savills is one of the largest integrated commercial real estate advisory firms in the world. In North America, the firm's 40 offices make it the largest occupier-focused firm on the continent.