

Contact: Judith Gordon, Director of Marketing  
(213) 891-5082; [jgordon@buchalter.com](mailto:jgordon@buchalter.com)

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Buchalter Nemer Acquires Real Estate and Land Use Group**

Nine attorneys will join the Firm in San Francisco on Jan. 1, 2010

**December 17, 2009. San Francisco.** Effective January 1, 2010, nine real estate and land use attorneys will join Buchalter Nemer in its San Francisco office as members of the Firm's Real Estate Practice Group. Of the nine attorneys, six are Shareholders (James Andrew, Michael Brody, Leslie Browne, Howard Ellman, Jay Paxton and Thomas Sherwood) and three are joining as Associates (Elizabeth Bridges, Ivo Keller and Rikesh Patel). The group, coming to Buchalter from renowned real estate and land use boutique, Ellman Burke Hoffman and Johnson, will join Buchalter Nemer's already strong and growing real estate transactional and litigation practice.

Michael Brody and Thomas Sherwood, in addition to joining Buchalter's Real Estate Practice Group, will also become members of the Firm's Insolvency and Financial Solutions, and Bank and Finance Groups, respectively. Jay Paxton, who has been serving as Ellman Burke's Managing Director, will now manage Buchalter's new California Street office and join Buchalter Nemer's Board of Directors.

"Our real estate practice had already grown by more than 20 percent in 2009 before this transaction, including our addition of two new Shareholders to that group in San Francisco," says Rick Cohen, Buchalter Nemer President and CEO. "Real estate issues touch nearly all of our clients, from leasing to finance, development, zoning or green issues. The further addition of these talented attorneys to the Firm, particularly given their recognized land use expertise, presents a wonderful opportunity to broaden our practice platform even further, and represents a boon to all involved, not least of all our clients."

Primary areas of expertise among Buchalter Nemer's real estate attorneys include acquisitions and dispositions, leasing, finance, tax credit investments, development, entitlements, land use, and CEQA, equity and fund investments, municipal bond/tax-exempt finance, restructuring of real estate projects and loans, securitized lending, receiverships, real estate litigation and environmental litigation.

"We are looking forward to bringing our new colleagues on board," said Sharon Morrissey, Managing Partner of Buchalter Nemer's San Francisco office. "Buchalter Nemer has always grown opportunistically, not for the sake of growth alone. When the right opportunity presents itself, we're there, and this was one of those serendipitous moments." Morrissey will now serve as Managing Partner of Buchalter Nemer's overall San Francisco operations.

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Buchalter Nemer is a full-service business law firm representing local, regional and national clients in eight major areas of practice and their subspecialties, among them: Bank and Finance, Business Practices, Insolvency and Financial Solutions, Litigation, Labor and Employment, Intellectual Property, Real Estate, and Tax and Estate Planning. Buchalter Nemer has offices in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Francisco and Scottsdale. For more information about the firm, visit [www.buchalter.com](http://www.buchalter.com).  
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