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THE AMERICAN LAWYER

Thompson Hine Adds DLA Piper Real Estate Partner in Chicago

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October 10, 2025

What You Need to Know

- Thompson Hine adds DLA Piper real estate partner Matt Alshouse as a partner in Chicago.
- Alshouse wanted to move to a smaller firm providing rate flexibility but that also could support his cross-border practice.
- The Cleveland-founded Am Law 200 firm has also been hiring in its smaller firm providing rate flexibility benefits and executive compensation practice, expanding its team by 30% this year.

Thompson Hine expanded its real estate team by hiring DLA Piper real estate partner Matt Alshouse, who handles private equity real estate and cross-border transactions, as a partner in Chicago.

Alshouse, who joined Am Law 200 firm Thompson Hine on Monday, focuses his practice on representing Korean asset managers on investments in the U.S, which adds to the firm's capabilities representing real sponsors, lenders and institutional investors in the U.S. and internationally.

"Matt is a highly sophisticated deal lawyer with an exceptional track record on complex portfolio transactions, fund-level facilities and cross-border investments," Tom Coyne, the firm's real estate practice leader, wrote in a press release.

"His deep relationships with global private equity sponsors and Korean asset managers, combined with significant experience across the capital stack, aligns very well with our strategy to grow a premier national real estate platform anchored in the major markets," Coyne wrote.


Courtesy photo
Matthew Alshouse of Thompson Hine.

Thompson Hine also recently expanded in Los Angeles with real estate partner Bill Ticknor and construction partner Mike Viayra.

Alshouse has significant experience in fund-level financing, infrastructure, and the development and financing of major projects.

"Matt brings the exact blend of market credibility, trusted client relationships, and deal execution we value as we continue to scale our Chicago office," Jonathon Vinocur, partner-in-charge of the Chicago office, wrote in the press release.

Alshouse said in an interview that he had been thinking for a while about moving to a smaller firm after stints at global firms DLA and Baker & McKenzie. The real estate lawyer said he was attracted to Thompson Hine because it has a "true connected partnership" with everyone in the real estate practice group aware of what the other does.

Alshouse said that while he wanted to move to a smaller firm, it needed to be large enough to be truly full-service, because of his client base, which is mostly Korean asset managers investing in the U.S., including Mirae Asset Global Investments.

"I needed to be at a place that has legitimate cross-border tax capabilities, domestic tax capabilities, financing specialists and regulatory specialists, including ERISA," he said.

Additionally, Alshouse said, Thompson Hine provides him with rate flexibility, which he said is important for the real estate practice.

In August, Thompson Hine hired cross-border litigator Mitchell Kim in Los Angeles, who has a practice significantly focused on Korea.

A spokesperson for DLA did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on Alshouse's departure. Alshouse joined DLA in 2020, coming from Baker & McKenzie, where he was a partner.

Thompson Hine is in growth mode in other areas, for instance, by expanding its executive benefits and executive compensation (EBEC) team by 30% since the beginning of the year. The firm hired a total of seven counsel and associates in New York, Washington, D.C., and Cleveland, including two senior lawyers joining directly from the IRS and one senior lawyer from the Department of Labor. The most recent was Shira McKinlay, who joined as counsel in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 29, coming from the IRS Office of Chief Counsel, where she was special counsel.

Julia Ann Love, the firm's EBEC practice group leader, said in an interview that demand is high in the area and the firm needs to add some junior lawyers to assist and learn from senior partners in the practice. The firm has focused on hiring lawyers to handle litigation in the area, along with health and welfare matters, such as advising employer-sponsored health plans, she said.

"In any case, there's just a ton of guidance and technical requirements that employer-sponsored group health plans need to comply with, also fiduciary lawsuits," Love said.

The firm staffs projects with a range of lawyers from junior associates to senior partners — as part of an innovation strategy — and the expansion of the EBEC practice is aimed to support that and build institutional knowledge, Love said.

Lawyers in the practice advise on ERISA, tax, retirement plan compliance, health plan compliance, executive compensation, and benefits litigation matters.

EBEC was one of the practice areas with strong demand in 2024 that helped Thompson Hine post a 7.7% revenue increase for the year, with profits per equity partner growing by 11.2%.