Top 20 Under 40

By Joanna Lin
January 13, 2010

Saul Breskal 38
GLASER, WEIL, FINK, JACOBS, HOWARD & SHAPIRO, Los Angeles
TRANSACTIONAL - Real estate and construction

Growing up in South Africa, Saul Breskal would go to construction sites with his father, a real estate developer. They’d sit at the dinner table and talk projects for condominiums, office buildings and high rises. Breskal dreamed of taking up the family business, and he did — only as an attorney.

For someone who loves real estate, it would seem Breskal hit the jackpot: The partner at Glaser, Weil, Fink, Jacobs, Howard & Shapiro was lead counsel for construction-related contracts on the $8.5 billion Las Vegas CityCenter.

The 67-acre gaming resort, retail and residential mecca — the nation’s largest privately funded construction project — was five years and about 100 contracts in the making.

“Just the sheer size and scale of it, putting the dollar amount aside, there were so many moving parts, so many different contractors, consultants and architects,” Breskal says. “The challenge from the legal side was making sure all those contracts meshed together.”

Bringing together big, powerful parties such as Perini Building Co. and Tishman Construction was no easy task. “These are firms that are used to having the upper hand in getting what they want in contracts,” he says. “It was a first for many of these companies to have to compromise and agree to our terms.”
Some of those terms included making the CityCenter LEED-certified and hiring 200 minority-owned firms for more than $700 million of the project.

The CityCenter is now open, but Breskal still has work to do. He’s closing out the project, and he’s yet to see the finished product. He says he hopes to visit soon so he can relax at the hotel and play some blackjack, maybe a game of poker.

“‘You’ve got to support the client, you know,’” he says.

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