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## Romer Debbas Merges To Form 35-Atty Firm In Manhattan

By **Faith Williams**

Law360 (June 1, 2022, 6:30 PM EDT) -- Romer Debbas LLP, a boutique real estate law firm, announced on Wednesday that it has merged with Katz & Matz PC, a firm specializing in residential real estate matters, saying it is now the largest dedicated residential real estate practice in the Big Apple.

The merger will take effect July 1, and Bruce D. Katz and Steven Matz, principals of Katz & Matz, will join Romer Debbas as partners. They will also be joined by a team of 18 lawyers, paralegals and assistants from Katz & Matz, according to the press release.

The new firm will operate under the Romer Debbas name and include 35 lawyers and 22 staff members.

Katz & Matz serves buyers and sellers of residential real estate. The firm said it will now extend its services to all legal matters including landlord and tenant disputes and trusts and estates.

Romer Debbas, meanwhile, focuses on real estate matters for clients in local, national and international markets.

"It isn't often in the business world, and certainly not in New York City, that two renowned firms in their own right can join forces with such an unsurpassed and extraordinary level of synergy, compatibility and aligned commitment to delivering the best possible service," Katz said.

In 2021, the firms together closed about 1,900 residential purchase and sale transactions for individual clients and about 1,400 residential loan transactions, according to the press release.

Michael J. Romer, founder and managing partner of Romer Debbas, has experience in real estate and general business law. He has a history of representing private banks and wealth management divisions in lending transactions.

"We are very excited to welcome the Katz & Matz team who are not only great at what they do, but are more importantly quality people. Our mission is to preserve and expand upon the wonderful culture that Bruce and Steven created over the last 20 years," Romer said.

Matz has experience serving as a consultant to brokerage houses and financial firms seeking real estate counsel, as well as on 1031 tax deferred exchanges, LLC formation, and new construction and conversion projects.

Pierre E. Debbas, founder and managing partner of Romer Debbas, has been involved in thousands of transactions over the course of his career, the press release said. In addition to advising on the purchase and sale of commercial and residential real estate in New York, he specializes in representing cooperative and condominium boards, foreign investors, and small businesses.

"The expansion of our respective families will result in a firm that can provide a larger and wider range of services to purchasers and sellers, brokers and their companies, lending institutions and loan officers, and to our city as a whole, all the while maintaining our trademark focus on personalized and sensitive care to everyone we serve," Matz said.

--Editing by Philip Shea.

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