



The Fabulous Baker Boys: A Super Team Under One Roof

Although father-and-son team Dave and Alex Baker recently moved into our offices, our relationship with the duo goes back several years.

When Withey Morris founding partner Jason Morris first finished law school, Dave and Jason worked together at a law firm. Jason specialized in land-use issues and Dave became a real estate specialist certified by the State Bar of Arizona in 1992 to do transactional real estate litigation. After Jason co-founded Withey Morris in 1996, the two kept in touch. Jason sent cases to Dave for transactional issues. Dave sent cases with land issues to Jason. Over the years, they discussed having a more formal relationship so they could both better serve clients.

We decided to make it official and the Bakers joined our team last September. We now offer a full spectrum of commercial real estate services and have already worked on several projects together, including the Ritz-Carlton resort community in Paradise Valley by Five Star Development.

Withey Morris is well known for our work in land use, planning, zoning and administrative law. The Bakers are real estate specialists. They handle real estate transactions that occur before projects start and during the back-end process, including commercial leasing, taxes and any litigation that might occur.

“It’s been a symbiotic relationship where we both give each other more depth to what we can do,” said Dave, who has 35 years of experience in Arizona real estate transactions and litigation.

He’s worked on several high-profile Phoenix-area projects with services ranging from negotiating leases and drafting commercial documents to mediating and litigating real estate-related disputes.

Alex practices in the areas of real estate transactions and litigation, commercial transaction and litigation, entity formation and estate planning. He has represented clients in a variety of matters including commercial transactions, commercial lease negotiations, litigation involving residential and commercial real estate, commercial and residential real estate transactions and financing documentation, limited liability company (LLC) and corporate formation, construction disputes, property tax liens and property tax appeals.

With the Bakers joining our team, Withey Morris projects now cover the real estate spectrum from start to finish. One example: The Bakers negotiate and draft purchase agreements for new site acquisitions, which Withey Morris previously didn’t offer. Other services the Bakers bring to the firm include forming homeowner associations for condo developments and creating the CC&Rs for these HOAs.

One example of how we now work together is a case with a client who is building a development and is having a dispute with an existing homeowners association. As Withey Morris is in the middle of planning and developing this project, the Bakers are now immediately available to help with negotiations to resolve the issues.