Former Reading Int’l GC Joins Akerman Los Angeles Office

Veteran real estate lawyer **William “Bill” Ellis** has joined **Akerman LLP**‘s Los Angeles office as a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group.

Ellis is former general counsel of global real estate conglomerate Reading International Inc. Prior to Reading, Ellis was a real estate partner at Sidley Austin, and he began his career at Morgan, Lewis and Bockius in Los Angeles.

“Bill is an industry veteran, who is known for his experience in complex real estate transactions for institutional investors and lenders,” said Richard Bezold, Real Estate Practice Group Chair. “He brings tremendous market knowledge in the hospitality and retail sectors, and adds important depth to our fast-growing practice in Los Angeles and across the region.”

In a release, the firm said Ellis has more than 30years of transactional real estate experience handling workouts and restructurings, leasing, acquisitions, dispositions, financings, joint ventures and developments across the United States. He works with private equity funds, global financial institutions, investment banks, real estate investment trusts, investment funds and private developers based both in New York and on the West Coast. He also has significant experience in corporate and securities transactions, including corporate mergers and acquisitions and initial public offerings.

Ellis previously served as general counsel and NASDAQ-listed Reading International Inc., the successor to Reading Railroad and now developer, owner and operator of retail and commercial real estate in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, including entertainment-themed retail centers, multiplex

cinemas and live theater assets in Chicago and New York.