



## INFLUENTIAL LEADERS

### INFLUENTIAL LEADERS IN SAN DIEGO

LAW

#### Robert J. Frances Latham & Watkins LLP

Frances has played a role in several major projects that have contributed to the evolution of San Diego in the last 15 years.

The partner at Latham & Watkins, who also serves as chairman of the San Diego office's finance department, handles a broad range of transactional real estate and finance projects. He works on transactions including property acquisitions and dispositions, secured lending, construction financing, hotel, casino and power plant development and other project finance transactions.

Frances worked with the Padres and JMI Realty in the land assemblage, financing and development of Petco Park and other aspects of the Ballpark District. He was involved in the financing and development of the Omni San Diego Hotel and Kimpton Solamar Hotel downtown, and the refinancing of the Lodge at Torrey Pines. He also worked on the development of Palomar Pomerado Health District's new hospital in Escondido, as well as a headquarters and research and development facility for Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc.

"I get to play a role working on transactions that help bring something to the community, whether it be in



Robert Frances is a partner at Latham & Watkins.

entertainment, a hospitality venue like a stadium or hotels, or something that provides an essential service to the community like Palomar Pomerado's state-of-the-art hospital in Escondido," Frances said. "And I get to work with truly remarkable people in a collaborative way."

Frances is one of the attorneys representing FS Investors in its efforts to bring a Major League Soccer team to San Diego.

The \$4 billion plan would redevelop the Qualcomm Stadium site with a new soccer stadium, hotel, entertainment,

office and residential facilities, and 55 acres of river park.

As a board member of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., Frances helps promote the region's economic foundation, educational institutions and workforce talent.

He said San Diego has great potential for further development and expansion.

"My role is small in my view, but I'm lucky to be in a great city when it's going through a fair amount of change, and I'm proud of where the city is now," he said. "I'm very optimistic about what's in store for the future."

— Jennifer Chung Klam