

## Former County Planning Official Joins Saul Ewing In Baltimore

By **Nate Beck**

Law360 (May 18, 2026, 5:54 PM EDT) -- Saul Ewing LLP said it has added a Baltimore-based attorney to its real estate and land use practices who will advise clients on government approvals for projects such as mixed-use, housing, commercial, industrial and energy developments.

The law firm said in a Thursday news release that Brian Shepter has nearly two decades of experience in county and city governments, along with experience with the state legislative process.

In a prior role, Shepter oversaw the Howard County Planning and Zoning Department as deputy chief of staff to County Executive Calvin Ball. Shepter told Law360 on Monday that his time at Howard County helped him see how development projects of all sizes flow from their inception to completion.

"I'll be able to offer that insight to clients who can deploy resources anywhere in the country who are asking, 'why central Maryland?'" he said. "I think my unique offering is my ability to help folks see through the lens of individuals who are responsible for administering regulations and applying the law. Central Maryland is an incredibly dynamic place that's growing and is ripe for investment."

During his time in the office, the county adopted a mixed-use redevelopment plan for the Columbia Gateway business park, established a regulatory framework for accessory dwelling units and expanded agritourism to allow additional commercial uses of farmland.

Shepter advises developers, investors and property owners on managing community input and building consensus for legislative action to advance projects. His work includes guiding clients on site review plans, permitting and environmental issues, in addition to seeking approvals or development incentives from government officials.

Before his role in Howard County government, Shepter served as general counsel and director of external relations for the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the city's regional planning agency. In that position, Shepter managed legal and public affairs for the organization and worked closely with elected officials on transportation, housing, water supply and other areas.

Other posts held by Shepter include a role as a special assistant for former Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and a position as senior adviser to gubernatorial candidates Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman.

Shepter holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

"Brian brings our clients an outstanding combination of experience in both senior public-sector leadership and private-sector advocacy," said Baltimore office managing partner Jonathan Havens, in a statement. "His extensive background working with government decision-makers and advising developers and investors allows him to anticipate regulatory concerns, navigate the technical and political dimensions of land use approvals, and design practical strategies for seeking entitlements for complex, high-profile development projects."

--Editing by Haylee Pearl.

