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Avison Young Expands to Houston

Former Mohr Execs Open New Office for Canadian Firm

By [Claire Meyer](#)

June 2, 2010

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Avison Young opened a new branch in Houston and tapped two industry veterans to run its operations. Josh LaRocca and Rand Stephens joined the firm as principals. Stephens was also named managing director of the new office.



Rand Stephens (left) and Josh LaRocca

"Given our significant presence in the energy-dominant cities in Western Canada, a significant Houston presence has always been a priority for Avison Young, as the new location should link well with all of our oil patch expertise and relationships in Canada," said Earl Webb, Avison Young's president, U.S. operations."

LaRocca and Stephens have more than four decades of combined industry experience and have worked together as a team for 15 years. The duo served as the former co-managing principals of Mohr Partners Houston.

LaRocca will take on the role of principal of the firm while also assuming leadership in transaction execution and helping clients with decisions.

Stephens will oversee day-to-day operations and direct Avison Young's growth in Texas, while focusing on tenant representation and brokerage, investment sales, property management and leasing.

LaRocca started his real estate career in 1996 at InSite Realty Partners. He later became a managing director at Studley Inc. for two years.

Stephens joined the real estate industry in 1987 with Trammell Crow Co. He co-founded InSite Realty Partners and served as a senior managing director for Studley Inc.

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