



June 16, 2020

[Link to Article](#)

## Lacourt Takes Reins of Construction at L&L as New York City Reopens

A Daily Look at the Movers and Shakers in Commercial Real Estate



Jamil Lacourt started June 1 as executive vice president and director of construction at L&L Holding Co. in New York. (Courtesy of L&L Holding)

By [Tony Wilbert](#)

A week into Jamil Lacourt's new job as executive vice president and director of construction at L&L Holding Co. in New York City, the building industry was allowed to restart construction after a nearly three-month shutdown to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

For Lacourt and his team, that meant preparing hundreds of construction workers to return to L&L's job sites so the company could begin work on projects across the city during the firm's busiest period of development in its 20-year history.

L&L was able to move quickly because co-founders David Levinson and Robert Lapidus began planning how to reopen the firm's construction sites as soon as they heard they would be shut down in March, Lacourt said.

"Because of the preplanning, things were very, very seamless," Lacourt said in an interview from his Stamford, Connecticut, home. "People knew where to line up and what to do. We were very successful in ramping up our projects."

Lacourt, who has more than 20 years of experience in real estate, construction and project management, joined L&L on June 1. He reports to Chairman and CEO Levinson and works alongside Bill Potts, vice chairman of capital construction.

In addition to managing L&L's construction group, Lacourt is responsible for establishing uniform practices for reporting, bidding and budgeting and coordinating contractor and subcontractor relationships. The position is a new one, created to help L&L manage the 2.6 million square feet of commercial space in the firm's development pipeline.

Lacourt joined L&L from OC Development Management, where he was a principal and served as director of project management. Before that, Lacourt was a vice president at JLL.

Lacourt was no stranger to L&L. While at OC, Lacourt worked with L&L as it planned the redevelopment of the building at 150 Fifth Ave. in the Flatiron District where MasterCard leased the entire 212,500-square-foot building for its new tech hub. As a result, he already understood the firm's culture and vision.

"They say timing is everything," Lacourt said. "The opportunity presented itself, and it was almost like an organic shift."

During his first two weeks at his new job at L&L, Lacourt has been familiarizing himself with the timelines and schedules of the company's projects as well as assessing the biggest risks, "what keeps us up at night," associated with each one. A critical component is gaining an understanding of how its current projects are staffed, he said.

"Slow and steady is kind of my mantra or my goal," Lacourt said.

Lacourt said L&L has milestone projects at different stages of construction in New York. The firm is nearing completion of 425 Park Ave., the first full-block office tower, designed by architect Norman Foster, to be built along the iconic street in 50 years.

In the heart of Times Square, L&L is in the demolition and early construction stages of TSX Broadway, a \$2 billion mixed-use project that will include a 669-room hotel.

Lacourt is familiar with high-profile construction projects. He worked on the redevelopment of the base building at 368 Ninth Ave., also known as 21 Penn Plaza, and the redevelopment of 780 Third Ave.

In addition to New York, he's worked in Brazil and Mexico. While at JLL, he played a key role in the construction of BBVA Bancomer's 50-story headquarters tower in Mexico City that was completed in 2015.

Lacourt grew up in Long Island, New York, and initially wanted to be an architect or engineer but after working in construction management early on in his career, he knew that was the field for him.

"This is what I love to do," Lacourt said. "Construction is a people-driven industry, and we learn how to leverage people's skill sets."

An avid cyclist who loves spending time outdoors, Lacourt said he and his wife went kayaking last weekend in the Long Island Sound with their dog in tow.

If Lacourt was not overseeing some of the largest construction sites in New York, he said he and his wife likely would be running a rehabilitation center for dogs on a farm in the Midwest.

"My dream has always been to work with dogs," he said. "Dogs have a unique energy, and they help ground you."