

Sheppard Mullin Adds 7 Kelley Drye Attys In NYC

By **Jonathan Randles**

Law360, New York (April 23, 2013, 1:25 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has expanded its New York City office with the addition of seven attorneys from Kelley Drye & Warren LLP and attorneys from Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP and Morrison & Foerster LLP, bolstering the firm's employment, white collar and transactions practice areas, it said Monday.

Blaine Templeman, managing partner of Sheppard Mullin's 57-attorney New York office, said the new additions are key to solidifying the firm's presence in NYC. Coming to Sheppard Mullin is Jack Kiley, former chair of Kelley Drye's labor and employment group. Joining Kiley is a six-attorney labor and employment group from Kelley Drye.

Also coming to Sheppard Mullin is John R. Hempill, a former co-chair of Morrison & Foerster's emerging companies and venture capital group, who joins the firm as a member of its corporate practice group, and MaryJeanette Dee, a former member of Richards Kibbe & Orbe's executive committee, who joins as a member of the firm's business trial practice group.

Templeman said Tuesday that the new additions to the office are a testament to the strides that Sheppard Mullin, traditionally viewed as a California-centric firm, has made to expand its corporate presence in New York. Although the firm doesn't have a set number for how many attorneys it would like to ultimately have in New York, Templeman said he expects the office to grow to between 80 and 100 strong within the next few years because of its ongoing recruiting efforts.

"We've been working really hard to get the message out and become involved in the New York legal community," he said. "We believe now that we're really primed for growing."

Kiley represents management in work-related legal matters. Sheppard Mullin said Kiley's addition expands the firm's capabilities in securities arbitration, labor union organizing, contract negotiations and board proceedings.

Sheppard Mullin said Kiley has successfully defended clients against labor organizing campaigns, represented employers in collective bargaining and defended clients against proceedings in the National Labor Relations Board. He also counsels clients on legal compliance issues and other matters related to labor and employment law.

Kiley received his law degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1989. He has litigated and arbitrated numerous cases in federal and state courts and before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and American Arbitration Association, the firm said.

Meanwhile, Hempill counsels public and privately held companies in operating in a variety of industries and has extensive experience in private and public finance, the firm said. He represents emerging growth companies, capital funds and investors in seed rounds and later stage private financing; he also has represented companies and investment banks in public offerings.

Hempill represents the Circuit of the Americas, a racetrack near Austin, Texas, and home of the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix. He recently completed a series of financing on behalf of Circuit of the Americas that were used to construct the first facility in the U.S. specifically designed for Grand Prix racing.

An experienced mergers and acquisitions lawyer, Hempill has advised both public and private companies in acquisitions and dispositions of assets as well as other types of negotiated business combinations, Sheppard Mullin said. Hempill received his law degree from New York University School of Law in 1982.

Dee's practice, meanwhile, is focused on internal investigations and regulatory and white collar criminal defense. She has conducted numerous internal investigations for board committees and management into allegations, including accounting irregularities, misuse of confidential information, insider trading and other securities fraud, embezzlement and retail brokerage sales practice violations, Sheppard Mullin said.

She represents banks broker-dealers, investment advisers, corporate officers, securities professionals, lawyers and other individuals in connection with investigations by the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and other government entities. In 1993, she served as special district attorney in the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts. Dee received her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1990, graduating cum laude.

"John, Jack and MaryJeanette are terrific additions to the firm. Their respective practice expertise and backgrounds are a perfect fit with the New York office, as well as firmwide," Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy N. Halgren said in a statement. "We continue to grow our New York office and expand our bench to better serve clients' transactional and litigation needs."

Sheppard Mullin's New York City office is one of 16 firm locations located in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

--Editing by Katherine Rautenberg.