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LEGAL ADVISORS ANGLE

Sheppard Mullin Bolsters East Coast Expertise

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP continues to expand its East Coast M&A presence. Lucantonio Salvi's arrival at Sheppard Mullin on Feb. 22 brought the number of M&A partners in the law firm's Washington, D.C., office to three.

Edward Schiff, the managing partner at that branch, said of Salvi's hiring, "We have been slowly but surely growing our corporate M&A capability on the East Coast." Sheppard Mullin opened its Washington, D.C., office three years ago and unveiled its New York branch in 2004. "The real genesis of our effort to enlarge our M&A practice was when we opened the D.C. office," Schiff added. Seven of the Los Angeles-based firm's nine offices are in California.

Salvi came aboard from Latham & Watkins LLP, where he worked for seven years and opened the firm's office in Milan. His U.S. and

Italian clients included private equity, luxury goods and apparel players. Salvi advised Pirelli & C. Real Estate SpA, home appliance maker De'Longhi SpA and luxury shoe manufacturer Tod's SpA on their IPOs and U.S. private placements.

More recently, Salvi said he has advised defense and aerospace, healthcare, retail and candy clients. He represented Greenwich, Conn.-based private equity firm Catterton Partners when one of its portfolio companies, Farley's & Sathers Candy Co. Inc., made two acquisitions last year. On Dec. 16, Round Lake, Minn.-based Farley's purchased the Trolli brand candies from William Wrigley Jr. Co. for an undisclosed price. Farley's also acquired privately held Bobs Candies Inc. on April 11.

Sheppard Mullin has more than 80 attorneys in its corporate practice group, including Schiff and Salvi.—J.H.