

Two Jump From Heller To Sheppard's NYC Office

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Tuesday, Mar 25, 2008 — Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has snagged two attorneys from Heller Ehrman, expanding the firm's finance and bankruptcy presence on the East Coast and its New York office across practice groups.

Carren B. Shulman and Russell L. Reid Jr. have joined the firm as partners after leaving Heller Ehrman in New York, where Shulman co-chaired the office's summer associate program and Reid chaired the New York pro bono committee and co-chaired the recruiting committee.

The pair said Tuesday that the size of Sheppard Mullin's finance and bankruptcy practice and the fact that the two areas are combined into one practice group made the firm stand out. Sheppard Mullin has more than 70 attorneys in its finance and bankruptcy group firmwide.

"We really do find that that type of construct really lends itself to a great deal of cross-selling in what are essentially different ends of the spectrum for the same work," Reid said of the combined practice group.

Shulman and Reid also said they were drawn to the firm's ability to serve their clients' needs outside the realm of finance and bankruptcy.

"The practice here complements not just our restructuring practice, but all of our work," Shulman said.

"With Carren and Russell joining us, we continue to grow signature practice groups like finance and bankruptcy and expand national capabilities to better serve client needs on both coasts," said Guy Halgren, chairman of the firm. "In the current business climate where restructurings and insolvencies are on the upswing, their bankruptcy and commercial litigation expertise is of even greater value to clients."

New York-based partner Edward H. Tillinghast III, who leads Sheppard Mullin's East Coast bankruptcy practice, said Reid and Shulman would strengthen the domestic side of the firm's bankruptcy work, which includes a sizeable portion of cross-border work focused on Asia.

"I'm looking forward to working with them, and I think it will complement the existing practice well here and allow us to

expand in the bankruptcy area in New York," he said.

Shulman's practice focuses on bankruptcy, commercial litigation, business reorganization and creditors' rights, with an emphasis on representing secured and unsecured creditors in transactions in and out of bankruptcy both domestically and internationally.

She has represented debtors, committees, Chapter 11 trustees, trade creditors and secured and unsecured lenders in bankruptcy, and has advised corporate trustees in default administration. Shulman also has significant trial experience in commercial and employment litigation.

For 10 years, Shulman has represented the interests of Goodrich Corp. in litigation and complex contract negotiations in airline bankruptcies worldwide.

She represented the largest West Coast power company in a multibillion-dollar claim litigation against Enron Corp. and was special counsel to WorldCom Inc. in *In re WorldCom* in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York in 2002.

Reid's practice focuses on creditors' rights, bankruptcy, and corporate reorganization, with particular emphasis on default administration for corporate trustees.

He has developed and negotiated disclosure materials and plans of reorganization, and has prosecuted and defended litigation involving the automatic stay, cash collateral, claim determination, debtor-in-possession financing and plan confirmation.

Reid has represented varied deal parties for a number of years in the mortgage backed securities arena. His expertise includes the interpretation and enforcement of pooling and servicing agreements, swap agreements, trust indentures, and other related documents, as well as associated out-of-court restructurings and litigation.

The pair said they were looking forward to working again with their former colleague, Margaret M. Mann, who joined Sheppard's San Diego office two months ago as a partner in the finance and bankruptcy group. Mann had previously led Heller Ehrman's restructuring and insolvency practice and was the firm's national hiring chairwoman.