

### Sheppard Mullin Adds Former Earl Scheib General Counsel, David Sunkin, To Los Angeles Office

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David Sunkin has joined the Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as a partner in the Corporate Practice Group. Sunkin was most recently vice president and general counsel with Earl Scheib, Inc. (AMEX:ESH).

"We're very pleased to welcome David to the firm and to the Los Angeles office," said Larry Braun, co-head of the firm's Corporate Practice Group. "As the in-house counsel of client Earl Scheib, I have worked very closely with David for years. He is an excellent business lawyer who will be a valuable addition to our practical approach to assisting clients. We are thrilled to have him join the Corporate group."

Commented Sunkin, "I am excited about resuming my private practice with a premier firm and am looking forward to building strong relationships with all of the practices and the clients throughout the firm. Having previously practiced with a law firm, as well as in-house, I've gained valuable perspective from both sides and am familiar with the challenges each faces."

"David played an important role on the executive team at Earl Scheib, making possible the most recent improvements in Scheib's financial performance," said Christian Bement, CEO and president of Earl Scheib.

As general counsel and the only in-house attorney at Earl Scheib, Sunkin was responsible for all of the company's legal and business affairs and involved in strategic planning with the other members of the executive team. Accordingly, Sunkin has managed all of the Company's public reporting and corporate work as well as a wide range of litigation and employment matters, risk management-insurance programs, and real estate matters.

In his capacity as general counsel, Sunkin represented Earl Scheib in obtaining an \$11.5 million asset-backed credit facility with Wells Fargo Foothill, was instrumental in advising the Scheib board during its recent review of strategic alternatives, prepared all of the Company's 1933/1934 Act filings, negotiated and documented the company's acquisition of over 60 new nationwide retail/industrial locations (through acquisitions and internal growth) and the sale of approximately 60 nationwide parcels of real property, and negotiated the purchase of all of the Company's insurance programs.

In addition to ten years with Earl Scheib, Sunkin previously practiced at Buchalter, Nemer, Fields & Younger in Los Angeles, specializing in general corporate and securities law, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financing and public offerings, banking and finance, and advising various-sized public and private companies.

Sunkin earned his law degree from Loyola Law School in 1992 and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a BA in Economics in 1989.

## **About Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP**

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a full service AmLaw 100 firm with 430 attorneys in nine offices located throughout California and in New York and Washington, D.C. The firm's California offices are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Century City, Orange County, Del Mar Heights and San Diego. Sheppard Mullin provides legal expertise and counsel to U.S. and international clients in a wide range of practice areas, including Antitrust, Corporate and Securities; Entertainment and Media; Finance and Bankruptcy; Government Contracts; Intellectual Property; Labor and Employment; Litigation; Real Estate/Land Use; Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts and Estate Planning; and White Collar Defense. The firm was founded in 1927.

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