

Sheppard Mullin Obtains Korean Bar Association Approval to Open Seoul Office

07.20.2012

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Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP announced today that the Korean Bar Association has approved the firm's license to practice in the country. This approval is the final step needed before the firm may open its office in Seoul. Sheppard Mullin was among the first three law firms in the United States and the European Union allowed to seek this approval.

Partner Seth (Byoung Soo) Kim, previously based in Sheppard Mullin's New York and Los Angeles offices and chair of the firm's Korea practice, will lead the new office. Partners Gary Halling and Ken Carl will be integral members of the Korea team and will anchor the U.S.-side of the firm's practice from their offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, respectively.

"We are thrilled to have now satisfied every regulatory step to open an office in Seoul. We are honored to be among the first firms approved and look forward to opening the office in the coming weeks. Many of our clients have operations in Korea and it makes sense for us to establish a presence in Seoul to provide the support and guidance that our clients require," said Guy Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin.

"I thank the Korean Bar Association for its assistance during the process and I am pleased that we have obtained the final approval needed to open the office. It is exciting to be back in Korea and I look forward to leading the Seoul office and working more closely with my Korean clients," Kim commented.

Sheppard Mullin's Korea-based clients include Samsung, Hyundai Motor, Korea Development Bank, Kookmin Bank, Hana Bank, Woori Bank and Shinhan Bank.

Kim is a member of Sheppard Mullin's Finance and Bankruptcy practice group. He specializes in entertainment law, commercial law, bankruptcy, bank regulatory matters, and bank acquisition transactions. Kim is a graduate of Seoul National University.

Halling is Sheppard Mullin's Antitrust and Trade Regulation practice group leader. He specializes in international antitrust and unfair competition matters, and has extensive experience in civil and criminal antitrust proceedings involving both federal and state enforcement agencies. Halling is a former Trial Attorney at the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division in Washington, D.C.

Carl is a member of the Finance and Bankruptcy practice group. He specializes in banking law and corporate finance, advising lenders and borrowers in financing transactions and bank clients in regulatory matters. Carl represents a number of major Korean and U.S. financial institutions and companies, including several S&P 500 members.

Attorneys

Gary L. Halling

Practice Areas

Korea