

SAN DIEGO

# The Daily Transcript

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2004

## National Firm Grows San Diego Corporate Practice

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP's San Diego and Del Mar Heights offices have grown by recently adding a team of five to the Corporate Practice Group. The firm's additions, including partners John J. Hentrich and John D. Tishler, bring a mix of securities and technology deal expertise to their high-tech and other emerging growth clients.

"Strategic growth is a big component of our firm's stability and success," said Guy Halgren, the firm's managing partner who is based in San Diego. "The corporate practice is one of the firm's core strengths and expansion of it in San Diego reflects the area's continued economic development in the areas of technology, life sciences and emerging growth."

In addition to growth within practice groups, Sheppard Mullin opened a Washington, D.C., office last year that has expanded from a handful of attorneys to a current size of 22. The firm's other seven offices are in California, with 65 attorneys in San Diego and Del Mar Heights.

In Los Angeles, the Entertainment and Media Group, a corporate specialization, was formed a year ago and has grown from three attorneys to 30, and represents virtually every major studio in the film business, as well as independent producers and new media ventures.

Sheppard Mullin's Corporate Practice

Group, with attorneys coast to coast, represents clients that range from private to public companies and from startups and emerging businesses to multinational corporations. Sheppard Mullin's San Diego and Del Mar Heights Corporate clients include adidas-Salomon AG, American Technology Corp., KFx Inc., Loudeye Corp., MicroIslet Inc, Overland Storage Inc., San Diego Diagnostic Radiology Medical Group Inc., Solano Regional Medical Group Inc., Taylor Made Golf Company Inc. and Verari Systems Inc.



*John Hentrich*



*John Tishler*

### **New partners and associates: Bringing depth of corporate experience**

Each year Sheppard Mullin recruits some of the best practitioners in their chosen fields to complement or strengthen its existing talent, and the last year was no exception. The firm has consistently and steadily grown over the years, with a diverse practice. A record-setting 20 attorneys joined the firm as partners in 2003 and the momentum con-

tinues in 2004. Sheppard Mullin is committed to bringing the best of the firm to every client.

Hentrich, based in Del Mar Heights, has more than 25 years of legal experience representing public and private companies in complex business matters and also has extensive business experience, having served in senior executive positions of several leading technology companies, including CEO of San Diego-based WebSideStory Inc., an industry leading, Internet infrastructure company.

"John fits a strategic need for our regional, as well as national practice, since we are looking to enhance our already strong position in corporate, securities and technology," stated Domenic Drago, managing partner of the Del Mar Heights office. "The combination of his business experience and his legal experience enables him to fashion unique and pragmatic solutions for our clients."

Hentrich's practice encompasses a wide range of complex and significant corporate transactions, including public company financings, venture capital investment, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic partnerships and joint ventures. He has extensive public company boardroom, board committee and corporate governance experience, having served as outside securities counsel and general counsel to many public companies, as well as special counsel to board committees.

In January, Hentrich handled San Diego's High Technology Solutions Inc.'s \$48.5 million acquisition by Wireless Facilities Inc., which builds networks for wireless carriers. He also recently advised on several significant public financings and technology acquisitions, as well as corporate governance and internal investigation matters.

"We have already accelerated the pace of the technology and emerging growth practice, and added significantly to the established public company practice, in both the transactional and compliance areas," Hentrich said.

Tishler, based in San Diego, has more than 12 years of legal experience representing public and private companies. He advises on public company financings, venture capital, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, executive compensation and equity plans. Tishler is also adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law where he teaches advanced deal structures.

"John's depth of public company and general corporate experience, and his

reputation for extraordinary client service, are a valuable addition to both our local and national corporate securities practice," said Robert Sbardellati, managing partner of the San Diego office.

In the past year, Tishler has handled over \$50 million in PIPE (Private Investment in a Public Entity) financings for public companies.

"Joining Sheppard Mullin is a tremendous opportunity to combine my growing San Diego practice with the established corporate securities practice of a national firm," Tishler said.

Sheppard Mullin also added three associates to the firm's Corporate Practice Group. Stephen R. LaSala, Steffani M. Stevens and Robert L. Wernli will be based in the firm's San Diego and Del Mar Heights offices.

#### **Corporate Practice Group:**

##### **Blending securities and technology specializations**

Sheppard Mullin attorneys provide general business legal advice, assist in structuring and implementing major transactions, prepare agreements to ad-

dress unique business arrangements and consult with clients to resolve major business and ownership issues.

Because of a diverse client base, the firm's attorneys have experience representing substantial entities in complicated multinational and multi-state transactions, as well as advising smaller and emerging clients on the full spectrum of business matters. Sheppard Mullin has an active corporate finance practice involving the issuance of securities in public offerings and private financings.

The firm's technology practice focuses on computer and information technology and life sciences industries, including hardware manufacturers, multimedia and software companies, Internet and online service companies, biologic and drug discovery companies, biomedical device and engineering companies, and venture capital and private equity firms. Sheppard Mullin frequently assists clients in structuring creative arrangements to acquire, develop, protect and distribute technologies and products both domestically and internationally.