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Sheppard Mullin grows Del Mar Heights Office with North County intellectual property practice

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP's Del Mar Heights office moved late last year to a new location at 12275 El Camino Real to accommodate a continued influx of attorneys. The full-service office is home to more than 45 attorneys and will enhance Sheppard Mullin's ability to serve the needs of its clients in northern San Diego County and elsewhere.

"We continue to add attorneys, especially in the IP practice group," said Guy Halgren, managing partner of the firm and resident in the firm's downtown San Diego office. "Our new Del Mar Heights location demonstrates the firm's long-term commitment to North County San Diego, which is directly related to the flourishing local economy and the region's strength as Southern California's premier technology corridor."

The new office was established in part to accommodate the expanding Del Mar intellectual property practice that Sheppard Mullin has strategically built over the last two years. Additions to the office's IP practice, in the last year alone, include: Mauricio Flores from McDermott, Will & Emery in Orange County; David Heisey from Luce Forward in San Diego; Daniel Yannuzzi from Morrison & Foerster in San Diego; Michael Eisenberg from Fulwider Patton in Los Angeles; and Robert Yamasaki and Mark Geier from Knobbe Martens Olson and Bear in San Diego.

Yannuzzi, recently elected partner, has experience in all areas of IP law with an emphasis in strategic patent portfolio development and patent litigation. He provides client counseling on portfolio development and other intellectual property strategies in a wide range of high-technology fields, including

computer architecture, electronic circuits, optics, data coding, medical devices, business methods, semiconductor processes, wireless communications, network technologies, computer graphics and computer software.

Amar Thakur, Del Mar Heights-based IP partner and co-chair of the firm's IP practice group, said: "We owe our growth to the trust and confidence that our clients have placed in us. I am excited about continuing to serve our San Diego clients from our expanded Del Mar offices." Thakur has been the force behind the growth and success of the practice in Del Mar. In addition to recently being named co-chair of the firm's intellectual property practice group, he was recognized last year by *The Daily Transcript* as a Top Intellectual Property Attorney.

Thakur's practice is devoted to the representation of life sciences and high-technology clients with extensive experience in intellectual property litigation, technology transactions and licensing matters. His litigation experience includes representation of large technology companies in life sciences, telecommunications, medical devices, software and semiconductors industries in patent, trademark and commercial disputes. His substantial experience in technology transactional and licensing matters includes acquisition and protection of intellectual property, technology transfer agreements, patent and software licensing transactions, research and development transactions, marketing, co-promotion and distribution agreements, and professional services agreements.

His clients include Amgen (Nasdaq: AMGN), BAE Systems, Beckman Coulter (NYSE: BEC), Broadcom (Nasdaq: BRCM), Conexant Systems (Nasdaq: CNXT), Digital

Orchid, International Rectifier (NYSE: IRF), JAMDAT Mobile (Nasdaq: JMDT), Northrop Grumman (NYSE: NOC), Overland Storage (Nasdaq: OVRL), Peerless Systems, R.F. Magic, SkyePharma (Nasdaq: SKYE), Skyway Systems, Sony Online Entertainment, State Fund, Therapeutics Inc., Verus Pharmaceuticals, Wireless Facilities (Nasdaq: WFII), Xifin and Yahoo! (Nasdaq: YHOO).

The Del Mar Heights office of Sheppard Mullin has expertise in all aspects of the laws governing patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, false advertising and other matters involving intellectual property and the optimal structuring of transactions and negotiations involving such property.

The group's attorneys assist clients to secure and enforce patents, trademarks and copyrights, both domestically and internationally, and monitor and enforce clients' intellectual property rights on the Internet. They are experienced in technology transfers, including assignments, licensing and joint ventures, and assist clients to protect proprietary information to avoid loss through employee departures, industrial espionage or other means, as well as create compliance and employeetraining programs.

The firm's IP lawyers have proven expertise in representing clients in trials and appeals in the federal and state courts, in arbitrations and in adversarial proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Federal Trade Commission and other tribunals, as well as in industry investigations such as those before the National Advertising Division of the Council of Better Business Bureaus Inc.