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## Sheppard Poaches Schulte Roth's IP Head

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*Monday, Oct 22, 2007* — As Sheppard Mullin approaches the first anniversary of the opening of its Shanghai office, the firm has two more reasons to celebrate due to the addition of a pair of Chinese-focused, intellectual property litigators from Schulte, Roth & Zabel LLP.

On Monday, Sheppard Mullin revealed that Joel E. Lutzker and Leonard S. Sorgi have joined the firm's New York office, where they will pull double-duty as members of both the IP and China practice groups.

"Joel and Len are top-flight IP litigators who handle major technology product disputes," said Guy Halgren, chairman of the firm. "Their focus on litigating patent matters on behalf of Asian-based companies dovetails well with the firm's global growth plans for our IP practice group."

Lutzker, who chaired Schulte Roth's IP department will reprise his leadership role at Sheppard, serving as the head of the New York office's IP group.

Both Lutzker and Sorgi's careers have focused on patent litigation, transactions, counseling and prosecution, with the duo having successfully tried cases in the United States International Trade Commission and in numerous district and appellate courts, according to the firm.

"Our clients will benefit from the group's extensive experience and impressive backgrounds. We are thrilled to have such a stellar team join our ranks," said Halgren.

Though based in New York, the pair's IP skills have gained particular attention in China, a fact that Sheppard hopes will help the firm expand its presence there.

"Their reputations and clients accelerate our already rapid growth in China, and position Sheppard Mullin as the go-to firm for Chinese companies facing high-stakes patent

disputes in the U.S.," said David Huebner, the head of the firm's China practice.

Both attorneys are looking forward to the opportunities that await them at their new legal home.

"With a national platform and a Shanghai office, Sheppard Mullin allows us to better serve our clients and further grow our practice," said Lutzker. "Asian companies are a significant component of our practice and the firm's plans for China are very impressive."

Sorgi echoed those thoughts, expressing his enthusiasm for coming aboard at Sheppard with his longtime friend and colleague.

"We look forward to expanding the firm's East Coast IP practice and leveraging the firm's Shanghai footprint," he said.

The new partners join an intellectual property group consisting of an estimated 52 attorneys, with Sheppard determined to build on that number in the coming years.

"We are excited to have this team onboard," said Amar Thakur, co-chair of the firm's intellectual property practice group. "Their practice is an exceptional fit for the firm, as we are committed to growing our IP practice and in particular our patent litigation practice in New York and Washington, D.C."

Thakur said Lutzker's past lines up perfectly with Sheppard's goals for the future and that he will help lead the firm in the right direction.

"Joel's technology clients and China focus have a number of synergies with the firm's strategic plan for its IP group," he said.