



Portfolio Media, Inc. | 648 Broadway, Suite 200 | New York, NY 10012 | www.law360.com
Phone: +1 212 537 6331 | Fax: +1 212 537 6371 | customerservice@portfoliomedia.com

Mayer Brown Trial Vet Jumps To Sheppard Mullin

By **Liz McKenzie**

Law360, New York (June 04, 2009) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has lured Mayer Brown LLP business trial partner Steven Kramer to its Los Angeles office, one of several recent Mayer Brown partners to defect to Sheppard Mullin.

Kramer will join Sheppard Mullin as a partner in its business trial practice, the firm announced Wednesday.

The veteran litigator has represented clients in U.S. Department of Justice investigations; enforcement proceedings before the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and other investigations by federal, state and local governments, and he will focus his practice on civil litigation, namely complex business and securities litigation, SEC enforcement actions, and white collar criminal defense.

"Steve brings a strong litigation background that includes his formidable trial experience. His knowledge and expertise will enhance our business trial practice group and expand our civil litigation capabilities to better serve client needs," said Guy Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin.

Kramer will be among familiar company at the firm, working alongside many former Mayer Brown colleagues.

"It's great to be practicing with friends and rejoining some of my former partners, and helping to grow the firm's litigation practice with them," Kramer said. "I am impressed with Sheppard Mullin's collegial atmosphere and democratic management style."

The firm's strong Los Angeles base was also a draw, he noted.

"I am thrilled to be joining Sheppard Mullin, a highly respected firm with a large Los Angeles presence," Kramer said.

Before entering private practice, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California and was a member of the office's fraud and special prosecutions unit. During his tenure there, he instructed an advanced criminal trial course given by the Department of Justice at the Trial Advocacy Institute in Washington.

His white collar defense expertise is further enhanced by his experience as a trial attorney with the SEC's Enforcement Division, where he handled civil and administrative proceedings against public and private companies, broker-dealers, investment advisers, investment companies, and accounting firms.

Sheppard Mullin lured a cluster of Mayer Brown attorneys in January, hiring patent attorney and electrical engineer Michael A. Molano at its recently launched Silicon Valley, Calif., office and a five-attorney litigation group specializing in white collar criminal defense and complex civil litigation at the Los Angeles outpost.

Former Mayer Brown partners Bryan D. Daly, Charles L. Kreindler and Peter Morris joined as partners in the firm's business trial and government contracts practice group, and special counsel Barbara E. Taylor and Melissa K. Eaves joined the three partners in the move.

--Additional reporting by Abigail Rubenstein and Christie Smythe