

Sheppard Mullin Snags Snell & Wilmer Deal-Maker In LA

By Y. Peter Kang

Law360, Los Angeles (November 30, 2015, 4:15 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP said it has shored up its corporate practice group in Los Angeles by tapping a former Snell & Wilmer LLP partner with experience advising on mergers and acquisitions in industries including technology, health care, oil and gas, real estate, biotechnology, entertainment and retail.

James J. Thompson joins the firm as a partner at Sheppard's Los Angeles office after previously serving as a partner at Snell & Wilmer, Sheppard announced on Nov. 20. Prior to that, Thompson served as a partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP and Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, according to his LinkedIn profile.



James Thompson

Jon W. Newby, vice chairman of Sheppard Mullin, lauded the arrival of the new partner.

"James has a strong, diverse corporate practice and will be a great addition to the firm," Newby said in a statement. "His considerable knowledge and expertise in M&A, emerging growth and private equity makes him a significant asset for the firm and our clients."

In addition to M&A, Thompson focuses his practice on joint ventures, private placements, reorganizations, emerging growth companies and corporate governance matters. He also represents clients in industries such as e-commerce and the Internet, plastics, biotechnology, education, financial services and consulting.

Thompson said he was excited to join Sheppard Mullin.

"The depth and breadth of the firm's corporate practice, as well as the firm's dominance in the Los Angeles market, were very attractive to me," he said in the statement. "I have also been impressed by the firm's collegial culture and entrepreneurial spirit, which add to the firm's terrific platform as the place to further build my practice."

Thompson earned his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Southern California.

Thompson's hiring is the latest of a number of recent additions to Sheppard Mullin's corporate practice.

In October, the firm snagged former Latham & Watkins LLP partner Jeffrey L. Kateman as a partner in its corporate practice group and as co-leader of the firm's private equity team. Kateman has experience representing companies in mergers and acquisitions and advising private equity firms in leveraged acquisitions, the firm said.

In September, Sheppard Mullin announced that Craig S. Mordock joined the firm's Orange County, California, office after serving as a partner at Jones Day. Mordock specializes in public and private securities offerings, corporate governance and mergers and acquisitions.

--Additional reporting by Kurt Orzeck. Editing by Christine Chun.

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