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## Sheppard Mullin Lures Wage-Hour Pro From Seyfarth

By **Ben James**

Law360, New York (July 28, 2010) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has lured over three employment lawyers from Seyfarth Shaw LLP's Los Angeles office, including a former co-chair of Seyfarth's national wage-and-hour class action practice group.

Thomas Kaufman, Michael Gallion and Gregg Fisch are joining the labor and employment practice group at Sheppard Mullin's Los Angeles/Century City office as partners.

Wage-and-hour specialist Kaufman has handled over 80 class actions spanning a broad variety of industries, including the financial services, health care, media and restaurant sectors. He is also an experienced discrimination litigator, with several jury trial wins under his belt.

Kaufman said the group was looking forward to working for Sheppard Mullin and touted the firm's "strong footprint" in the Golden State.

"I am impressed with the firm's marquee labor and employment practice, including the group's continued growth in recent years and firm management's support in growing it further," Kaufman said.

Litigator and counselor Gallion also pointed out his new employer's "strong California platform."

Gallion has substantial experience dealing with complex employment discrimination litigation, including wage-and-hour class actions in California and nationwide discrimination class actions.

He also advises clients regularly on issues like work force reclassifications, reductions in

force, mergers and acquisitions, and high-profile investigations.

"Sheppard Mullin's labor and employment practice has been well-known in California for years, and the firm has done an excellent job expanding this brand nationally," Gallion said. "The firm's unwavering commitment to client service, diversity, and its top-notch practice groups outside of labor and employment were also big draws."

Fisch is well-versed in all aspects of employment litigation and has defended management in federal and state courts, as well as before administrative agencies.

He has handled class action and single-plaintiff cases over issues including wage and hour allegations and age, race gender and national origin discrimination claims, in addition to matters relating to union campaigns and elections.

Guy Halgren, chair of Sheppard Mullin, said the firm was excited about adding Kaufman, Gallion and Fisch.

"We have one of the biggest and best employment practices in California, and this group further strengthens the capabilities of one of our signature practice groups," Halgren said.

Sheppard Mullin has 200 attorneys in its two Los Angeles offices. The firm's labor and employment practice group includes 75 lawyers throughout the firm.

Overall, the firm employs 550 attorneys at 11 offices in the U.S. and Asia.