

Sheppard Mullin Adds Debt Financing Partner In Chicago

By **Martin O'Sullivan**

Law360, New York (May 20, 2016, 7:42 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has added a former Winston & Strawn LLP partner to its finance and bankruptcy practice, the firm announced on Friday.

Kevin M. Ryan started on Thursday as a partner in the firm's Chicago office, where he will continue his corporate financial practice with a concentration on debt financing transactions.

"From an overall firm perspective, Sheppard is a leading, full-service firm that can provide the expertise in all the relevant areas that my clients would need," Ryan told Law360 in a phone interview Friday. "At the same time, the Chicago office in particular is a growing office that I felt is the best place for me to in turn grow my practice."

Ryan said that in the firm's financial and bankruptcy practice, he will mostly focus on debt financing, or as he put it, "the gamut of the different varieties of debt."

Ryan said he will represent both lenders and borrowers in transactions in both the large-cap and mid-cap areas. He will work on matters relating to secured and unsecured credit facilities, asset-based and cash flow loans, and speciality lending transactions, Ryan said.

Ryan on Friday predicted a continued increase in opportunities for "interesting" work on middle market transactions, an area in which he said he spends the bulk of his time.

Ryan comes from Winston & Strawn, where he joined in 1998 upon graduating from law school. He was elected as partner to the firm's corporate practice in 2008.

At Winston & Strawn, Ryan represented a number of banks, financial institutions, institutional investors, private equity firms and corporate clients on debt financing transactions, according to an archived biography on the firm's website.

Sheppard Mullin managing partner Robert S. Beal on Friday called Ryan a "talented and established finance attorney" in a firm press release.

"His alternative finance and bank-side lending experience not only expands our capabilities in Chicago, but also deepens our bench in a core practice area that is crucial to our clients' businesses," Beal said.

Ryan earned his law degree from Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1998 after getting his bachelor's degree at Boston College in 1995.

In December, Sheppard Mullin added Jill S. Vorobiev, a former Dykema attorney, as partner in its Chicago office and employment practice.

The firm in February hired former Reed Smith LLP partner Colleen H. McDonald to its finance and bankruptcy practice group in San Francisco.

Sheppard Mullin's Chicago office consists of 22 attorneys, and its firmwide finance and bankruptcy practice has more than 80 attorneys, according to the firm.

--Editing by Aaron Pelc.

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