

Sheppard Mullin Lands Gov't Contracts Pro From Katten

By **Sean McLernon**

Law360, New York (May 09, 2012, 5:57 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has added a white collar defense and government contracts litigation specialist from Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP to its government contracts, investigations and international trade practice group, it said Monday.

Bruce J. Casino joins the firm's Washington office with extensive litigation experience, covering False Claims Act, customs fraud, export controls and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act cases. Casino said Sheppard Mullin provides him with the ideal platform for expanding his practice.

Casino said he had been contemplating a move for the last few months. He had worked with several Sheppard Mullin attorneys years ago at Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP and said an opportunity to work with them again was too good to pass up.

"It was primarily the people I knew and had worked with before," Casino said. "I knew the kind of quality attorneys they were and what decent human beings they were."

Casino said he was also drawn in by the "very solid expertise" Sheppard Mullin possesses in the areas of white collar crime and FCPA suits, including talented commercial attorneys Casino can work with on litigation matters.

"Bruce brings a wealth of litigation experience to our nationally recognized government contracts and investigations practice group," Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy N. Halgren said in a statement. "He is a well-respected and tremendously talented white collar and civil litigation expert."

Casino's white collar experience includes representing a major oil industry company in an FCPA export controls investigation and a mid-size U.S. auto parts provider in a customs fraud case. He has also defended a Fortune 500 executive in a medical devices health care fraud investigation and a Fortune 500 computer services provider facing investigation of intellectual property theft and government contract fraud.

In civil litigation, Casino has defended major automakers in customs cases, a Forbes 400 individual in a bank-related civil asset forfeiture battle, as well as two large cities in litigation involving the U.S. Census.

Casino said his new position will allow him to conduct more investigations in the government contracts arena, which could include criminal as well as FCA and FCPA cases.

“These are areas I'm looking to expand on,” Casino said. “The FCPA and export controls arena is growing dramatically with more enforcement, so that's an area I also think will be emphasized for me here at at Sheppard Mullin. And it's not just enforcement in the U.S. The U.K. Bribery Act also has a major impact on U.S. multinational operations.”

Sheppard Mullin employs more than 580 attorneys in 14 offices across the U.S., Europe and Asia, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Beijing and London. The government contracts, investigations and international trade practice group includes 50 attorneys.

--Editing by Andrew Park.

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