

Sheppard Mullin Lands Allen Matkins Employment Pro

By **Jonathan Randles**

Law360, Los Angeles (September 18, 2012, 9:17 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has boosted its Orange County labor and employment practice with the addition of a former Allen Matkins partner specializing in counseling businesses on California and federal employment law, the firm said Tuesday.

Jason A. Weiss, who will work out of Sheppard Mullin's Costa Mesa office, has experience representing employers in a range of employment and labor relations matters, including issues related to unfair competition and wrongful termination lawsuits, the firm said. He has represented management in disputes before the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, California Labor Commissioner and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Weiss' addition to Sheppard Mullin comes as the firm continues to steadily expand its labor and employment practice across the country, Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy N. Halgren told Law360. More labor and employment attorneys were needed in Orange County specifically to keep up with their clients' demand for legal services, Halgren said.

"The increase in the labor and employment practice is a natural outgrowth of the growth in the firm generally," Halgren said. "Jason has very deep bonds with clients. Secondly, he has labor and employment expertise and a very broad practice already."

Weiss has helped employers comply with the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act and other federal and state employment laws, Sheppard Mullin said. His practice also includes preventive counseling and has helped draft and implement employee handbooks, workplace policies and employment contracts, the firm said.

Weiss has handled cases at the trial court and appellate levels in state and federal courts, Sheppard Mullin said. Additionally, he has counseled clients on issues related to Sarbanes-Oxley Act whistleblower claims, unemployment insurance claims and discrimination petitions filed with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board.

Weiss earned his law degree from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law.

"I am impressed with the firm's top-notch employment practice, as well as the strength and breadth of the firm's other practice areas," Weiss said in a statement. "Sheppard Mullin's successful expansion and entrepreneurial culture have also been very attractive to me."

Sheppard Mullin's Labor and Employment practice group includes 90 attorneys. Weiss joins 60 attorneys based in the firm's Orange County office.

Last week, Sheppard Mullin announced that Dawn M. Lurie has joined the firm as a partner in its labor and employment practice group and leads its business immigration and compliance practice in Washington, D.C. Lurie is considered a leading expert on immigration law and has particular expertise with the EB-5 immigrant investor program and government work site investigations

--Editing by Richard McVay.

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