

Sheppard Mullin Snags Dealmaker From Latham In LA

By **Y. Peter Kang**

Law360, Los Angeles (October 6, 2015, 8:00 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has shored up its corporate practice and private equity team in Los Angeles by snagging a former Latham & Watkins LLP partner with experience representing companies in mergers and acquisitions and advising private equity firms in leveraged acquisitions, the firm said Tuesday.

Jeffrey L. Kateman joined the firm's Century City office as a partner in its corporate practice group and as co-leader of the firm's private equity team.

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

"Jeff is a very well-known and highly regarded Los Angeles dealmaker and part of our ongoing strategic goal to continue building our private equity capabilities," Newby said in a statement. "His transactional practice mix is both complementary and supplementary to our existing capabilities."

Kateman's practice focuses on domestic and global mergers and acquisitions and representing private equity firms in leveraged acquisitions of public and private companies, as well as general corporate matters such as corporate governance and takeover defense, according to Sheppard Mullin.

He represented Avery Dennison Corp. in the \$500 million sale of its office and consumer products and pressure-sensitive and coated films manufacturing business units to Canadian specialty packaging solutions company CCL Industries Inc. in 2013, and also advised investment bank Houlihan Lokey Inc.'s \$220 million initial public offering last August.

"I am thrilled to join Sheppard Mullin," Kateman said in a statement. "The firm's commitment to building and sustaining its strong corporate practice in Los Angeles, combined with the opportunity to help expand its private equity practice, were very attractive to me."

Kateman, who received his bachelor's and law degrees from Columbia University, spent his entire career at Latham & Watkins before joining Sheppard Mullin.

His hiring is the latest of a number of recent additions to the firm's corporate practice. 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.

In July, Sheppard Mullin said it snagged former Loeb & Loeb LLP partner Joseph F. Daniels to help shore up its New York-based corporate practice group. Daniels has experience in mergers and acquisitions, IPOs and other transactions in industries including life sciences, banking, telecommunications, e-commerce and private equity.

--Additional reporting by Maya Rajamani. Editing by Brian Baresch.

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