

Sheppard Mullin Adds Finance, Patent Pros In Bay Area

By **Matthew Heller**

Law360, New York (August 13, 2013, 4:09 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has added two corporate finance attorneys and a patent specialist as partners, expanding the capabilities of its San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices, the firm announced Tuesday.

The new hires include Peter H. Carson, who joins Sheppard's San Francisco team as a member of the finance and bankruptcy practice group. He was formerly a partner in Bingham McCutchen LLP's banking and leveraged finance group, focused on representing U.S. and foreign banks, commercial finance lenders, debt funds and other institutional lenders as well as private equity clients.

Patent specialist Lorna L. Tanner joins Sheppard's Palo Alto office as a member of the intellectual property practice group, coming from Foley & Lardner LLP. Stephanie L. Zeppa comes to Sheppard's Palo Alto office from Dentons, joining the corporate practice group.

"Peter, Lorna and Stephanie are outstanding additions to the firm," Guy N. Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin, said in a statement. "Their respective practice expertise and backgrounds tightly mesh with our San Francisco and Palo Alto offices, as well as firmwide. We continue to grow our Bay Area offices and expand our bench to better serve clients' needs."

Edward V. Anderson, co-managing partner of the Palo Alto office, said the addition of Tanner and Zeppa was a "testament to Sheppard Mullin's continued success and growth in Silicon Valley. ... Sheppard Mullin represents both emerging technology and Fortune 500 companies, and Lorna and Stephanie's clients similarly range in size from startups to established companies."

Carson has represented clients in all aspects of complex secured and unsecured debt financings, including senior syndicated, asset-based, acquisition, mezzanine, second lien, credit enhancement and other financings, recapitalizations and restructurings across a range of industries.

"Sheppard Mullin has the markers I consider critical to my being able to successfully extend my middle- and upper-middle market finance practice in a changing world," he told Law360. "The firm is truly client-facing, with deep existing relationships within the banking and financial services community and a national presence and reputation for excellence in finance and adjacent practices, but with a California base."

Tanner, who has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from University of California, Berkeley, advises pharmaceutical, life science and medical device clients on strategic issues relating to the development and management of their global intellectual property portfolios. She previously left Foley & Lardner to form a patent boutique with attorney Gerald Swiss before returning to the firm in 2010 as a partner in the IP department.

“One of the things that attracted me to Sheppard was their collaborative and friendly culture, as well as Sheppard’s strategic growth of their already strong IP group,” Tanner said. “Sheppard’s significant presence in California and beyond provides a unique platform for me to service my life science clients.”

Zeppa, who has extensive experience in corporate finance and securities matters, such as mergers and acquisitions, capital-raising transactions and strategic commercial transactions, had recently been promoted to partner at Dentons.

“Stephanie brings a broad-based venture technology and emerging growth transactional expertise that fits well with our corporate practice in Palo Alto and firmwide,” Anderson said.

--Editing by Melissa Tinklepaugh.

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