

Sheppard Mullin Hires Corporate Expert From O'Melveny

By **Sindhu Sundar**

Law360, New York (December 20, 2012, 7:15 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP snagged a mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance expert from O'Melveny & Myers LLP for its corporate practice group in its Orange County, Calif., office, Sheppard Mullin said Thursday.

Megan Gess, who joined the firm from O'Melveny & Myers' Newport Beach, Calif., office, has advised clients on areas including mergers and acquisitions and public offerings as well as on reporting and compliance issues and corporate governance matters, according to a statement by Sheppard Mullin. Gess was a counsel at O'Melveny, a firm spokeswoman said Friday.

"The strength and breadth of the corporate practice is very impressive, as is the firm's successful growth and expansion in recent years," Gess said in a statement. "I was particularly attracted to Sheppard Mullin's entrepreneurial culture and collegial atmosphere."

Gess joins 60 attorneys in the firm's Orange County location and has become part of a 150-attorney corporate practice group firmwide. Gess earned a law degree from Loyola Marymount University after graduating with a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis, in 1996, according to the firm.

"We are very pleased to welcome Megan to our Orange County office as the newest member to our marquee corporate practice group," Sheppard Mullin chairman Guy Halgren said in a statement. "Megan's deal-making knowledge and experience are both complementary and supplementary to our existing capabilities, especially given her private equity and M&A expertise."

Sheppard Mullin has been bolstering its ranks in recent months. In October, the firm added intellectual property expert Scott Miller from Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP to its Los Angeles office.

Miller, who joined Sheppard Mullin as a partner in the intellectual property practice group, spent more than six years at Connolly Bove, where he was partner-in-charge of the Los Angeles office and a member of the management committee, the firm had said at the time.

Earlier in October, Sheppard Mullin announced it had added intellectual property lawyer Laura Chapman, formerly of Foley & Lardner LLP, to its San Francisco office. And in September, Sheppard Mullin said it expanded its intellectual property group and its presence in Los Angeles by luring over veteran attorney Bruce Chapman, who also had joined from Connolly Bove.

The addition of Chapman followed the hires of former Sidley Austin LLP patent litigator Ed Anderson at its Palo Alto, Calif., office in March, and former Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP intellectual property practice group chairwoman Jill Pietrini at its Century City, Calif., office in January, according to the firm.

--Additional reporting by Ben James. Editing by Katherine Rautenberg.

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