

Sheppard Mullin Snags Private Equity Pro For NY Office

By **Kelly Knaub**

Law360, New York (August 02, 2013, 3:57 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has nabbed a former Kirkland & Ellis LLP partner with expertise in middle-market private equity and mergers and acquisitions to boost the firm's corporate practice group in its New York office, Sheppard Mullin announced Friday.

Ariel Yehezkel represents private equity funds and private and public companies in a wide array of domestic and cross-border business transactions. He joined the firm Thursday.

"Sheppard Mullin is a top notch full service firm with a great group of professionals," Yehezkel told Law360 on Friday.

He said middle-market deals have become more challenging and competitive in the current business environment, and his clients are therefore more focused on retaining fully committed advisers who understand their business and can perform the work efficiently and at competitive rates.

"Sheppard Mullin offers exactly that," he said, "and joining this firm is a win-win situation for existing and future private equity and corporate clients."

Yehezkel's transactional practice includes mergers, leveraged acquisitions, follow-on acquisitions, divestitures, debt financing, fund formation, PIPE investments, joint ventures, minority investments and other equity arrangements. He said he will continue to focus on private equity and M&A with an emphasis on middle-market at Sheppard Mullin.

In addition to private equity funds and private and public companies, Yehezkel also provides services to portfolio companies of private equity funds, including counseling on general corporate matters, executive compensation and equity matters, he said.

Yehezkel's expertise also encompasses legal and business issues involving Israel, and he is a member of Sheppard Mullin's Israel practice. Most of his work has been centered in Israel and the United States, and he has done a few deals in the United Kingdom.

"Ariel is a perfect fit for our growing private equity practice," Shon E. Glusky, chair of Sheppard Mullin's private equity group, said in a statement. "He brings a wealth of industry knowledge and experience, adding breadth and depth to the expanding group in New York."

Yehezkel earned a bachelor of laws degree at Sha'arei Mishpat College of Law in Israel in 2000, a master of laws degree at the University of Michigan Law School in 2003 and a doctor of laws degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2005. He has been in practice since 2000.

Sheppard Mullin has 630 attorneys in 15 offices throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

--Editing by Chris Yates.

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