

## Sheppard Mullin Opens In Beijing With Squire Atty

By **Dan Rivoli**

Law360, New York (August 12, 2011) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP announced Friday that it was opening a second Chinese outpost in Beijing, with a former Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP corporate attorney in charge of the office.

James M. Zimmerman will head up Sheppard Mullin's Beijing office as a member of the firm's corporate practice group. He joins Sheppard Mullin after serving as Squire Sanders' chief representative and partner in Beijing.

Having opened a Shanghai office in 2007, Sheppard Mullin called its expansion into Beijing the next step in its plan to grow in Asia, with plans to focus initially on outbound mergers and acquisitions and investment opportunities.

An office in China's capital will put Sheppard Mullin attorneys in the center of the country's government, the firm said.

"Many of our clients have operations in China and are pursuing aggressive growth plans there. It is natural for us to establish a larger footprint in China to provide the support and guidance that our clients require in both Beijing and Shanghai," said Guy Halgren, chairman of Sheppard Mullin. "As China's administrative, policy and regulatory hub, Beijing is an important center. Being in the Chinese capital will give us easier access to government regulators."

In picking Zimmerman to lead the new office, Sheppard Mullin lauded his commercial experience in handling foreign direct investments and representing multinational corporations in their China transactions.

With experience in trade matters over the past 20 years, he has represented U.S. companies from a broad range of industries in their Chinese operations.

Zimmerman, who received his law degree from University of San Diego, has handled issues involving joint venture investments, manufacturing operations, mergers and acquisitions, regulation compliance, trade matters, labor and employment issues, and intellectual property.

His practice includes assisting businesses navigate the complexities of doing business in China, and he has helped clients secure government approval and get support for regulatory changes, Sheppard Mullin said.

"His expertise is an excellent fit with our China practice, as well as the firm's corporate practice," said Jamie Mercer, co-chair of Sheppard Mullin's corporate practice group. "We are excited to have Jim join the firm and lead our new Beijing office. He is a recognized name in China, entrenched in the Beijing legal and business communities, and represents a number of Fortune 500 companies."

Joining Zimmerman in Beijing from Squire Sanders is attorney Sharon Xu, who will become special counsel in Sheppard Mullin's corporate practice. Xu's practice focuses on corporate and tax matters, as well as customs and foreign exchange issues.

Sheppard Mullin also transferred two attorneys in Shanghai, partner Jenny Liu and associate Carrie Bai, to the Beijing office.

--Editing by Chris Giganti.

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