

Former Jones Day Tax Partner Heads to Sheppard Mullin

By **Michael Lipkin**

Law360, San Diego (January 05, 2015, 3:56 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP bolstered its California state and local tax practice with two new hires, bringing on a former Jones Day partner and a vice president at the Council on State Taxation, the firm announced on Monday.

Partner Robert Waldow, who has worked at Jones Day and Heller Ehrman LLP, will work from Sheppard Mullin's Orange County office, while special counsel Greg Turner will be based in Sacramento. Before serving at COST, Turner was of counsel at Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni LLP and general counsel at the California Taxpayer's Association.

Sheppard Mullin said its clients will be able to take advantage of Waldow's experience in complex state tax controversy and transactions, and Turner's history of working with legislators and regulators. Waldow represents clients from audits through litigation while Turner, a registered lobbyist, will assist clients in connection with proposed legislation, regulations and ballot measures, Sheppard Mullin said.

"The firm represents folks at all kind of levels in California," Waldow told Law360. "In addition to Fortune 50 companies, they represent what is the core of California, a bunch of strong, mid-market companies, and they have offices up and down the state. For a multi-state tax practitioner whose practice is heavily in California, it's the right kind of firm to be a part of."

Waldow said he has worked with Turner for more than a decade, teaming up to deal with proposed legislation their clients considered "ill advised" and working on regulation projects before the Franchise Tax Board. The pair helped steer legislators away from a retroactivity provision in 2003's tax shelter law and showed the tax board that interest and dividend income was only meant to be included in the tax base in limited circumstances under the Water's Edge legislation, according to Waldow.

"Greg has an understanding of the big picture that he probably gets from extensive experience working in government and then working for CalTax," Waldow said. "He also has tremendous detailed, technical expertise. When you combine those things, you're able to put forward great ideas and make good decisions. Judgment is everything."

Turner did not immediately respond Monday to a request for comment, but said in a statement that Sheppard Mullin viewed local tax practice as a dynamic field.

"Client needs may range from traditional transactional, planning, and administrative controversy to

litigation or legislative and regulatory engagement,” Turner said. “Sheppard Mullin is now uniquely positioned in the [state and local tax services] community to address the totality of those issues.”

Waldow received his law degree from Duke University, his master of laws from New York University and his bachelors from University of the Pacific.

Turner graduated from University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and got his undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona.

— Editing by Ben Guilfoy.

All Content © 2003-2015, Portfolio Media, Inc.