

Sheppard Mullin Expands Nearly 20-Attorney Tax Practice, Welcomes Matthew Richardson

03.26.2003

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP announced that D. Matthew Richardson has joined the firm as partner in the Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts and Estates Practice Group in the Los Angeles office, effective March 25, 2003. Richardson's practice focuses on general federal and state income tax, estate and business planning for individuals, partnerships, limited liability companies, and privately and publicly held corporations.

"We are pleased to welcome Matthew aboard. His wide-ranging expertise in tax matters, particularly as it relates to complex mergers and acquisitions and corporate reorganizations, adds depth to our already prominent tax practice," said Martin Smith, Chair of the Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts and Estates Practice Group.

Offered Richardson, "Sheppard Mullin has an exceptional tax practice. I am very impressed with the caliber of lawyers at the Firm, and am pleased to join such an excellent group." Richardson joins several renowned attorneys in the Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts and Estates Practice Group, including Joe Gorman, who was awarded the Arthur K. Marshall Award last year for his exceptional contributions to estate planning and probate law. John Bonn and Nancy Howard have both been named Best Lawyers in America®.

Richardson has significant experience in mergers and acquisitions; corporate reorganizations; liquidations and spin-offs; real estate taxation, including like-kind and deferred exchanges; real estate investment trusts; partnerships; and limited liability companies. He regularly counsels early-stage technology businesses, with various formation, operation and taxation issues.

Richardson also has extensive experience in multigenerational wealth and business transfers and other estate planning matters, as well as in the representation of individual and institutional trustees with respect to trust management and fiduciary obligations. His estate and charitable planning clients include high-net-worth individuals and families with extensive real estate holdings and other closely held business interests. Richardson also counsels public charities and private foundations in connection with their formation and the tax and other legal issues arising in connection with their operation and management, and regularly advises pension and governmental plans with respect to the unrelated business taxable income issues arising in connection with the ownership and operation of real estate.

Richardson received his law degree, cum laude, from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1984, his LL.M. in taxation from New York University in 1985, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in 1981. He is a member of the California Bar, the American Bar Association and the Beverly Hills Bar Association, of which he previously served as chair of the Tax Section.

Sheppard Mullin has more than 370 attorneys among its eight offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange

County, San Diego, Santa Barbara, West Los Angeles, Del Mar Heights, and Washington, D.C. The full-service firm provides counsel in Antitrust & Trade Regulation; White Collar and Civil Fraud Defense; Business Litigation; Construction, Environmental, Real Estate & Land Use Litigation; Corporate; Entertainment, Media & Communications; Finance & Bankruptcy; Financial Institutions; Government Contracts & Regulated Industries; Healthcare; Intellectual Property; Labor & Employment; Real Estate, Land Use, Natural Resources & Environment; and Tax, Employee Benefits, Trusts & Estates. The Firm celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2002.

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