

### Sheppard Mullin Grows Washington, D.C. Office

05.06.2003

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP announced that John R. Fornaciari has joined the Firm as a partner, John J. Vecchione has joined as special counsel, and Robert M. Disch has joined as a senior attorney. Fornaciari specializes in the trial of complex commercial cases, antitrust litigation and white-collar criminal defense. Disch focuses his practice on commercial litigation with a specialty in antitrust law. Vecchione practices general litigation, primarily in the context of commercial and employment law.

"We are excited to add these three talented attorneys, with outstanding litigation capabilities and wide-ranging trial experience," said Guy Halgren, Chairman of the Firm's Executive Committee. Also commenting on the lateral additions, Administrative Partner of the Washington D.C. office Bob Magielnicki said, "Seasoned litigators are critical in order to properly serve clients. The integration of these three attorneys adds to the Firm's already formidable litigation resources across the country."

Fornaciari has handled trials nationwide, involving antitrust claims, RICO claims, fraud, freeze-out mergers, breach of duty, conspiracy, mail fraud and wire fraud. Fornaciari received his law degree from Boston College in 1971, and his undergraduate degree from Providence College in 1968. He is a member of the American Bar Association, and is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh and Federal Circuits; the U.S. District Courts for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts and Connecticut; and the U.S. Tax Court.

Focusing on commercial litigation and antitrust law, Disch has handled complex commercial litigation matters arising from bank failure; defense of corporate officers and directors; defense of antitrust suits; defense and prosecution of defamation and trade libel suits; and white-collar criminal investigations and trials. Disch also specializes in matters relating to the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. Disch received his law degree from Northwestern University in 1981, and his undergraduate degree from Carroll College in 1978. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia; the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; and the U.S. District Court of Maryland.

Vecchione has extensive experience litigating contract and commercial matters, and defending equal employment opportunity claims. His experience includes UCC check fraud cases, maritime torts, antitrust, white-collar and securities litigation. Vecchione received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1989, and his undergraduate degree from Hamilton College in 1986. He is admitted to practice in New York and the District of Columbia, as well as Maryland Federal District Court.

Sheppard Mullin has more than **370 attorneys** among its **eight offices** in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange County, San Diego, Santa Barbara, West Los Angeles, and Del Mar Heights. 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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2002.**

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