

News

Kirkland: Business of Law

Jeffrey C. Hammes has been re-elected as chairman of Kirkland & Ellis LLP's global management executive committee. Hammes became chairman in 2010, and his second three-year term will start in February 2013.

During Hammes's first term, the firm opened a new office in Shanghai in 2010 and expanded through the addition of lateral partners.

Last August, the firm hired eight new partners from U.S. and U.K. rivals in Hong Kong as part of a plan to more than double its lawyers in Asia. The new hires included Nicholas Norris, Dominic Tsun and Li-Chien Wong, who joined from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; David Zhang, Benjamin Su and John Otoshi from Latham & Watkins LLP; and Ashley Young and Douglas Murning from Allen & Overy LLP. The firm now has 55 lawyers in Asia.

Kirkland also went on a real estate lawyer hiring spree last year, adding more than seven high-profile real estate lateral partners from May to July. The firm hired three other partners with real estate-related experience around the same time as well.

Last July, Daniel Perlman and Jeffrey Rheeling joined from Paul

Hastings LLP in Chicago, where Perlman was the vice chairman of the global real estate practice. The same month, the firm hired Andrew D. Small and Rachel S. Brown in Chicago, previously partners of Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP. Small was the co-chairman of Katten's Chicago real estate practice.

In May, Scott Berger, Jonathan Schechter and Andrew Shiner joined the New York office from White & Case LLP, where Berger was the head of the global real estate practice.

Kirkland also hired corporate and securities lawyer Edward Schneidman and tax attorney William Levy from Mayer Brown LLP, as well as private funds lawyer Kelly Ryan. All three have real estate-related practices and joined the Chicago office.

Prior to his tenure as chairman of the global management executive committee, Hammes led the opening of the Hong Kong office in 2006. He also was a founding partner of the San Francisco office, which opened in 2003, and the Palo Alto office, which opened in 2008.

Hammes has concentrated his practice on structuring and negotiating complex business transactions



Jeffrey C. Hammes, Kirkland & Ellis

including mergers, acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, private transactions and private-equity compensation and governance matters. Clients include Bain Capital Partners LLC and Golden Gate Capital, according to his web biography.

Kirkland & Ellis is a 1,500-attorney law firm with 10 offices in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

By Elizabeth Amon