

## Mayer Brown Expands Asia Practice Into Singapore

By **Pete Brush**

Law360, New York (June 29, 2011) -- Mayer Brown LLP said Wednesday it was opening a Singapore office, expanding its Mayer Brown JSM affiliate to the financial capital with asset finance, project finance, energy and international arbitration groups.

The combination of Mayer Brown and Johnson Stokes & Master in January 2008 gave the Chicago-based, 1,600-lawyer firm a foothold in Asia with offices in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Hanoi, Bangkok and elsewhere.

"We are pleased that our application for a foreign law practice license has been approved by the Singapore attorney general, and we anticipate that the office will be in full operation by the fourth quarter of this year," firm Chairman Herbert W. Krueger said.

The new office will enable the firm to serve clients in a market well-positioned to capitalize on Southeast Asia's economic growth over the next 20 years, said Elaine Y.M. Lo, chairwoman of Mayer Brown JSM in Asia.

"Mayer Brown JSM's capabilities are ideally suited to the needs of clients in Singapore, which has become one of the most important financial, insurance, shipping, oil and gas, and legal centers in Asia," Lo said.

Mayer Brown JSM partner Kevin Owen, who handles construction-related matters for the firm, will relocate from Hong Kong to lead the new Singapore office.

Alastair MacAulay, a banking and finance partner in Mayer Brown JSM's Hong Kong office, also will spend a significant amount of time in Singapore to help establish the practice, along with several associates, the firm said.

MacAulay advises on transportation projects and finance, particularly in the shipping industry.

On Wednesday, Mayer Brown also said it was expanding its London-based intellectual property practice

with the hire of Jonathan Radcliffe, who will join the firm from Nabarro LLP on Aug. 1.

A 24-year practitioner, Radcliffe focuses on technologically complex cases in the pharmaceutical, life sciences and high-tech sectors.

Radcliffe's appointment adds further depth to the firm's life sciences expertise in London, following the promotion of Sangeeta Puran to partner in the IP group earlier this year.

"Patent litigation is increasingly becoming global in nature, with the same key issues being fought out from country to country, and clients increasingly expect their lawyers to represent them internationally in such disputes," Radcliffe said. "I am delighted to be joining a law firm whose global IP practice offers significant opportunities to represent clients in this way."

--Editing by John Williams.

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