

Morgan Lewis ESOP Team Expands Across the Country

November 7, 2006

Morgan Lewis is pleased to announce that it has expanded its ESOP Team in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., adding four new attorneys to the firm's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation and Business and Finance Practices.

Increasing Morgan Lewis's ESOP presence on the West Coast, **Marc R. Baluda** has joined the firm as of counsel in the Business and Finance Practice. He will be located in the firm's San Francisco office. Marc specializes in mergers and acquisitions and structuring complex financings using both debt and equity, with a focus on middle-market companies seeking liquidity through ESOPs. He also counsels entities seeking financing from banks, venture capital funds, and mezzanine lenders. Marc obtained his J.D. from U.C. Hastings College of the Law in 1997.

John Kober, co-chair of the Morgan Lewis ESOP Team, stated: "We are excited to have Marc join our growing team, with his experience and skill set not only in ESOPs but also in a broad range of M&A transactions. We believe the Northern California market represents a tremendous opportunity for expansion, and having Marc on the ground there will enhance our ability to serve that market."

On the East Coast, in the Washington, D.C. office, associates **Michael R. Holzman** and **Patrick Rehfield** have joined Morgan Lewis's Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice. Michael focuses his practice on ESOPs, employee benefits, and equity-based executive compensation. He counsels public and private companies regarding the use of ESOPs in corporate reorganizations and buyouts and compliance issues relating to Sections 409A and 409(p) of the Internal Revenue Code. Michael received his LL.M. in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in 2004, and he received his J.D., cum laude, from The Catholic University of America, Columbia Law Center, in 2000.

Patrick focuses his practice on ESOPs and executive compensation, with a specialization in securities-related issues. He represents public and private companies in the design and implementation of ESOPs, and he provides counseling regarding securities and tax law compliance. Patrick received his LL.M. in securities and finance from Georgetown University Law Center in 2003, and he received his J.D. from The Catholic University of America, Columbia Law Center, in 2000.

Julie Govreau has joined the firm as an associate in the Chicago office, expanding our Team in the Midwest. Julie focuses her practice on ESOP transactions and ERISA litigation, as well as general employee benefits matters, including qualified retirement plans, welfare benefit plans, nonqualified

plans, and executive compensation. While working full time as a human resources manager and later as an investigator for the Department of Labor, Julie obtained her M.S. in Public Administration from DePaul University in 2000, her J.D., magna cum laude, from The John Marshall Law School in 2004, and her LL.M. in Employee Benefits from The John Marshall Law School in 2006 (where she graduated first in her class).

David Ackerman, co-chair of the Morgan Lewis ESOP Team, noted that the addition of these new members in three different offices reflects and enhances the national scope and teaming approach of the Morgan Lewis ESOP Team. “This coast-to-coast expansion makes us one of the largest ESOP Teams in the country,” he said. “We take pride in our multidisciplinary approach, which enables us to deliver the best service and solutions tailored to the needs of our clients-large and small-wherever they are located.”

For more information about the Morgan Lewis ESOP Team, please contact one of our co-chairs, David Ackerman or John Kober. Or, call any of the lawyers listed below.

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About Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

Morgan Lewis is a global law firm with more than 1,300 lawyers in 21 offices located in Beijing, Boston, Brussels, Chicago, Dallas, Frankfurt, Harrisburg, Irvine, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, Palo Alto, Paris, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Princeton, San Francisco, Tokyo, and Washington, D.C. For more information about Morgan Lewis or its practices, please visit us online at www.morganlewis.com.

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