

Partners Notes

Law Firms K&L Gates And Bell Boyd In Combination Talks

The international law firm K&L Gates LLP and Chicago-based Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP (Bell Boyd) are discussing a possible combination of firms, which, if approved, would occur in the first quarter of 2009. The combination would create a firm of approximately 2,000 lawyers in 30 offices throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia.

In addition to Chicago, Bell Boyd has offices in San Diego and Washington, D.C. The combined firm would maintain offices in Anchorage, Austin, Beijing, Berlin, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Harrisburg, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, Orange County, Palo Alto, Paris, Pittsburgh, Portland, Raleigh, Research Triangle Park, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Shanghai, Spokane/Coeur d'Alene, Taipei, and Washington, D.C.

K&L Gates is already one of the largest law firms in the United States according to The National Law Journal, which recently ranked the firm as the nation's tenth largest in its 2008 NLJ 250 listing. Bell Boyd was ranked 167th on the same list.

K&L Gates LLP has launched a cross-office, interdisciplinary Distressed Real Estate Task Force aimed at clients investing in, holding, or managing troubled real estate. Among the activities with which the group will assist lenders,

special servicers, and their asset management firms are the restructuring of distressed real estate loans and the positioning of foreclosed assets for successful sale.

Chaired by Charlotte real estate partner David H. Jones, the group includes lawyers from the firm's Berlin, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, London, Los Angeles, Miami, Newark, New York, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., offices, among others, as well as from a range of the firm's practice groups, including finance, environmental, employment, intellectual property, e-commerce, tax, corporate, and litigation.

Mergermarket, part of The Mergermarket Group, has announced the release of its first M&A Insights Spotlight on Intellectual Property Rights survey, highlighting the crucial role of IP assets in the M&A process and their importance in driving additional value for transactions. The survey, which was conducted by mergermarket and sponsored by CRA International, Inc. (Nasdaq: CRAI) and K&L Gates LLP, reveals both corporate and private equity perspectives regarding IP assets, which despite recent turmoil in the financial markets, continue to be recognized as a critical source of value and risk in M&A transactions in today's knowledge-based economy.

The M&A Insights Spotlight on Intellectual Property Rights survey

examines how corporate executives and private equity practitioners value IP assets and how they respond to the unique challenges and opportunities presented by IP overall. The survey indicates areas where corporate executives and private equity practitioners are in consensus and where they have differing viewpoints.

To view the full survey, visit www.mergermarket.com.

Eric L. Stone has joined K&L Gates in the firm's Washington, D.C., office. Mr. Stone joins K&L Gates' government enforcement practice from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, where he served in various capacities for more than 30 years, including the post of director of the Legal Division of the Commission's Office of Compliance

and Field Operations since 1993.

The New York office of K&L Gates welcomes Eli R. Mattioli as a partner in the firm's commercial disputes practice. He joins K&L Gates from Thelen LLP, where he was also a partner.

An experienced litigator and arbitration specialist whose practice focuses on real estate, international business transactions, corporate and partnership law, and securities, Mr. Mattioli handles a broad range of complex commercial matters, including shareholder disputes, corporate reorganizations, dissolutions, ground and commercial lease issues, brokerage and commission disputes, partnership and joint venture governance, fiduciary obligations, derivative suits, and litigation arising under the federal securities laws.

Akin Gump Attorney Named To List Of Top Lawyers Under 40

James Chou, senior counsel in the litigation practice of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in New York, has been named by the National Asian Pacific Bar Association (NAPBA) as one of the best lawyers under the age of 40. Mr. Chou was honored at the NAPBA's annual gala, held in late November in Seattle.

The Best Lawyers Under 40 Awards recognize talented individuals in the Asian Pacific American legal community who have achieved prominence and distinction in their respective fields while demonstrating a strong commitment to the community.

Mr. Chou's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and has included cases involving trade secrets, false advertising, trademark infringe-

ment, contracts, white collar investigations, franchise law, securities, financial restructuring and real estate disputes.

NAPBA represents the interests of more than 40,000 attorneys and approximately 57 local Asian Pacific American bar associations.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has named Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as the recipient of the 2008 Ally of Justice Award. The annual award recognizes outstanding contributions to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community through pro bono service to the HRC.

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

Lowenstein Launches Center For The Public Interest

Lowenstein Sandler has announced the establishment of the Lowenstein Center for the Public Interest, reaffirming and expanding the firm's dedication to addressing significant social issues and providing community assistance.

The Center for the Public Interest was launched at Lowenstein's Third Annual Pro Bono Celebration recognizing the service and achievement of individuals at the firm, and the firm's nonprofit partners.

The Center will focus on six areas: children and education; immigration; criminal justice; civil and human rights; the arts; and sustainable and community development.

Lowenstein's Center will be led by Ken Zimmerman, a member of the firm and former chief counsel to New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine. As part of the program, five Lowenstein associates will dedicate 25 percent of their time to the Center's projects and help spearhead the firm's overall pro bono efforts, which in 2007 involved some 230 lawyers and totaled nearly 19,000 hours of attorney and paralegal participation.

Initial projects include serving as the lead New Jersey law firm working with

KIND (Kids in Need of Defense), which will provide universal legal representation to unaccompanied children in immigration proceedings; responding to the mortgage lending crisis by assisting HANDS and other local nonprofits to develop a Community Asset Preservation Corporation; and continuing major impact litigation, such as the statewide case undertaken with the Seton Hall Center for Social Justice challenging the raids on immigrant homes conducted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

Michael N. Gooen, member of the firm and cochair of its Trust and Estates Group, has been selected for inclusion in *Worth* magazine's 2008 list of "Top 100 Attorneys." The list, now in its fourth year, recognizes the nation's leading attorneys specializing in trust and estates, philanthropy, elder care, matrimonial and other private practice areas, as determined by nominations and evaluation by the *Worth* magazine editorial staff.

Mr. Gooen's Trusts and Estates practice focuses on income and transfer tax planning.

Fordham Law Intellectual Property Law Institute

17th Annual Intellectual Property Law and Policy Conference

FOR THE FIRST TIME
OUTSIDE THE U.S.

April 15 & 16, 2009

www.fordhamipconference.com

"What distinguishes the conference is the sheer intensity of its focus. Prominent speakers' papers became the subject of vigorous and often dramatic debate as big name IP experts came under sustained fire from their peers and were required to defend their IP beliefs."
—IPKat.com

"This must be one of the most enjoyable and thought-provoking conferences in the IP field. The high quality of the speakers is matched by the intense, audience-led debates and challenges which follow."
—Sir Hugh Laddie, Former Justice, Royal Court of Justice, London

"Faculty for the conference...speak with a combination of candor and timeliness that is unrivaled by any other forum of its kind."
—Honorable Marybeth Peters, Register of Copyrights, U.S. Copyright Office

CLE Credit: 14 non-transitional, professional practice.
Registration Fee: \$1,950 before December 31, 2008, \$2,250 thereafter (\$590—governmental and academic employees; \$190—students); Lunches & cocktail receptions included.

Director: Hugh C. Hansen, Professor of Law, Fordham Law School

Learn. Debate. Have fun.