

PRESS RELEASE

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Stephenson Harwood & Lo: A Fresh Approach

International city law firm Stephenson Harwood & Lo (SHL) welcomes the Year of the Pig with a series of new developments that further confirm its position in the top tier of legal service providers in the region.

Stephenson Harwood & Lo strengthens Litigation Practice with New Partner appointment - Jamie Stranger

Jamie Stranger has been appointed partner as part of the expansion of Stephenson Harwood & Lo's commercial litigation practice.

Jamie obtained double degrees in Western Australia in law and accounting and was admitted as a barrister and solicitor in Australia. Jamie joined the Firm in 2001, left SHL for a short period of time and rejoined in 2004 when he was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong.

Jamie covers all areas of commercial litigation including shareholder disputes, joint venture disputes, shipping and trade disputes, enforcement proceedings and audit negligence.

Commenting on the new appointment, Stephenson Harwood & Lo's Managing Partner, John Gale, said:

"We are pleased to welcome Jamie into the partnership. With Jamie's legal and accounting background as well as business development abilities, his appointment is a further strengthening of our commercial litigation practice."

Partner, Jamie Stranger, said:

"I am delighted to continue with my contributions to the expansion of the Firm's well-established and growing litigation practice. As a partner in the Firm, I look forward to adding further value to my clients' businesses, and building on the Firm's strong client relationships"

Stephenson Harwood & Lo boosts China Practice with a New Partner Richard Grams

The latest development in China following Stephenson Harwood & Lo's rebranding of its Shanghai practice from Stephenson Harwood to its Asia joint venture, Stephenson Harwood & Lo, is the appointment of Richard Grams as a partner in the firm's China FDI Practice and Corporate & Commercial Practice Groups.

Richard has assumed responsibility for the firm's Guangzhou and Shanghai offices following the departure of Jeremy Sargent who has left the firm to pursue his other interests. Jeremy, who had spent eight years in the Guangzhou office, played an important role in helping Stephenson Harwood & Lo become one of the leading foreign law firms in Southern China.

Richard joined Stephenson Harwood & Lo from Oldham Lie and Nie where he headed their China Practice. Prior to this he worked at Lovells and Coudert Brothers in Hong Kong and China. Richard's extensive China practice experience covers foreign direct investment projects, which include start-up businesses, reorganisations and acquisitions of existing business operations, private equity-funded acquisitions and overseas listings. He also advises on a broad range of ancillary work arising from China-related transactions such as business financings, distribution arrangements, technology transfers, employment matters as well as licensing and regulatory compliance matters.

Commenting on the new appointment, Stephenson Harwood & Lo's Managing Partner, John Gale, said:

"Richard's recruitment further strengthens the firm's expertise in the China market, a key area of growth and investment for Stephenson Harwood & Lo. We're one of the few international law firms with an on-the-ground presence in southern China. Over the past 10 years, Stephenson Harwood & Lo has become a leading law firm in Guangzhou and advises on most legal aspects related to investing in China. Richard joins us with extensive experience in Guangdong and he will be developing work in China, both in FDI and outward investment, as well as servicing clients in China and elsewhere who are looking for fund raisings on AIM or the Hong Kong Stock Exchange."

Partner, Richard Grams, said:

"I am delighted to join the Partnership of Stephenson Harwood & Lo. With offices in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai, Stephenson Harwood & Lo is perfectly sited to support investors through the complex pathway leading to FDI in China. Working alongside the rest of the remarkable team, I'm looking forward to working with John and my other partners to enhance the ability of the Firm's Guangzhou and Shanghai offices, and to attract new clients by developing the firm's overseas market for mainland China and Hong Kong."

Moving on and up: New Hong Kong Office at the Bank of China Tower

Stephenson Harwood & Lo has relocated their Hong Kong practice to the iconic Bank of China Tower in Central. With several practice areas in expansion and an increasing number of professional staff, the new premises provide a more extensive and efficient working environment for the firm's growing practice.

The new offices boast a state-of-the-art security system ensuring the full protection of the clients' affairs. Clients, staff and visitors love the new "SHL Long Bar" on the 35th floor – a specially designed refreshment area and bar featuring stunning views of Hong Kong's dynamic skyline. Offering WiFi computer access via the firm's network, the "SHL Long Bar" provides clients and staff with an ultra-modern and comfortable environment to conduct businesses and networking. Spacious function areas as well as the open-plan office design allow the firm plenty of room for events and seminars

These new features make Stephenson Harwood & Lo's new offices a unique workspace, building on the firm's leading position as an exceptional law firm with a fresh approach towards its legal practice.

Leader in the Asia Pacific Region

One of the latest pieces of news is that Stephenson Harwood & Lo has been nominated as one of the six shortlisted firms for the Asia Pacific Firm of the Year (Legal Business Awards 2007).

"Stephenson Harwood's joint venture in China has succeeded, thanks in large part to a clear strategy and the drive of managing partner John Gale. Having ridden out the SARS crisis, the firm has emerged as a leader on Asia-based AIM listings, advising on one-quarter of recent transactions."

Legal Business Awards 2007

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Note for editors:

Stephenson Harwood & Lo, a leading Hong Kong law firm established in 1979, is structured as a joint venture between Stephenson Harwood, a major international law firm, and Lo & Lo, a well-established Hong Kong law firm. Stephenson Harwood & Lo is part of the international network of Stephenson Harwood, with offices in Guangzhou, Shanghai, London, Singapore, Paris and Piraeus, and associated offices in Kuwait, Greece, Republic of South Africa and Bucharest.

With over 100 staff, including 40 lawyers, most with many years of experience in the Asia Pacific region, Stephenson Harwood & Lo is experienced in a broad range of practice areas. The firm's particular strengths are found in the following areas: corporate/commercial, China FDI, banking and finance, financial services, litigation, shipping, intellectual property and property.