



SOUTH KOREA

James Morrison is set to join the International Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group of **Bae Kim & Lee LLC** in May 2009. Prior to his departure in March, Morrison was formerly the Counsel at the Secretariat of the ICC International

Court of Arbitration in Paris, France, where he most recently led the Secretariat's case management team for Asia and the Pacific region. Morrison undertook his legal training in Australia. The move by an ICC Counsel to a Korean law firm is unprecedented.



SINGAPORE

Paul Ng has joined **Stephenson Harwood** as global head of aviation. Primarily based in the Singapore office, Ng will be hot-desking between Singapore and the firm's China offices. He joins from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer where



he was head of the Asia asset finance and aviation practice. Ng has extensive knowledge of the Asian markets having worked in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and Singapore and is qualified to practise Singapore, English and New York law.

NEWS in brief

Chinese airline awarded preliminary injunction in an international contract dispute

China-based Shandong Airlines was recently awarded a temporary restraining order against a Florida flight training school in an international contract dispute. The airline had engaged CAPT, LLC, a school owned by Flight Training Services International (FTSI), to provide flight training to 24 of its Chinese pilot cadets over 52-weeks at the school's Florida facilities. According to the airline's Complaint, CAPT had sent a letter to Shandong in March 2009 stating it considered the contracts "to be null and void" and requesting that additional training money be paid or it would withdraw sponsorship of all Shandong student visas.

Legal representatives for the airline, Diaz Reus LLP, argued that Shandong Airlines had met all terms of the contract and successfully applied for a temporary restraining order to prevent CAPT from unilaterally terminating its contract, withdrawing sponsorship of the cadets and selling, transferring or otherwise disposing of its training equipment. U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Corrigan granted the temporary restraining order on the school on the basis that Shandong had shown "a substantial likelihood of success on the merits of its complaint for breach of contract". A hearing has been set in the US District Court on whether to issue a permanent injunction against the school, with the court determining to award a preliminary injunction forbidding the flight school from taking any action that might endanger the students' immigration status until such time they were able to obtain new visas from a new sponsor.

Eversheds joins forces with local firm to move into Saudi Arabia

Eversheds LLP has expanded into Saudi Arabia in cooperation with Hani Qurashi Law Firm, and will operate from establishments in Jeddah and Riyadh. The founding partner of Hani Qurashi Law Firm, Hani Al Qurashi, and Executive Partner Hany Kassem will manage a team of over 20 legal advisors across the two establishments. Amjad Hussain, partner and Head of Islamic Banking in the Middle East at Eversheds, will oversee the new Saudi operation with support from Eversheds' Managing Partner for the Middle East, Christopher Jobson. The two firms have previously worked together on real estate, banking, corporate and commercial matters, including a number of Islamic finance-based matters. Eversheds already has offices in Abu Dhabi and Doha.

Global legal consultancy formed by three well-known players

An alliance has been formed by three leading legal management consultancies with the formation of Altman Weil Global. The global legal consultancy, formed by Altman Weil Inc (headquartered in the US), Professional Development Asia Limited (Hong Kong) and Jomati Consultants LLP (based in the UK), will provide consultancy services to legal firms and corporate law departments worldwide and offer management advice from a global perspective. The consultancy aims to assist clients to deal with challenges that might arise as a result of operating across multiple jurisdictions.