



## **PRESS RELEASE**

September 2007

### **Stephenson Harwood & Lo Forms Strategic Collaboration with US Law Firm Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt**

#### ***Presents Topical Seminars on Chinese Product Recalls in the US and US Product Liability Laws***

As part of the firm's growing China Practice, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt (SWW) has entered into a cooperative agreement with Stephenson Harwood & Lo (SHL), an international law firm based in China with offices in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai. The two firms, while remaining as separate and independent entities, will contribute talents and resources to closely cooperate with each other in accomplishing the business objectives of clients on both sides of the Pacific. The two firms will also collaborate with each other in marketing, attorney/staff training, and other areas. The new association will provide SWW with access to additional expertise and resources to respond to its clients' growing business needs in China.

"This new collaboration makes our China Practice even stronger and more valuable to clients who have international operations and legal needs in China, especially those who want to take advantage of the special status of Hong Kong through the benefits of the expanding Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)," says Skip Fisher, co-chair of SWW's China Practice who practiced as a foreign-qualified lawyer in China prior to joining the firm. CEPA provides mutual incentives for conducting business in Hong Kong and throughout China.

"Stephenson Harwood & Lo is a well-respected law firm that is experienced in a broad range of practice areas important in China, which will complement our strengths and competencies here in the Northwest," says Mark Long, SWW's managing partner.

John Gale, Managing Partner of SHL, says. "We are delighted to ally with Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, which is one of the top law firms in the Pacific Northwest providing an extensive range of transactional and litigation services to the region. Combining our established market reputation and practice

capabilities, we will have a cross-border working platform to advise on client's business internationally and to provide a seamless service worldwide."

With over 100 staff, including more than 40 lawyers with years of experience in the Asia Pacific region, Stephenson Harwood & Lo has an excellent track record in a broad range of practice areas. The firm's particular strengths are in the following fields: corporate, China FDI, dispute resolution, finance, financial services, intellectual property, real estate and transportation. SHL's China Practice offers a wide range of legal services to assist clients with every stage of their investments, acquisitions, joint ventures, operations, financing, restructuring (equity and debt) and divestments in China.

The lawyers in SWW's China Practice assist U.S. companies with their legal needs in China, as well as Chinese companies with their legal needs in the U.S. SWW's lawyers are capable of assisting U.S. and Chinese clients in a wide range of matters, including: cross-border investment, mergers and acquisitions, financing transactions, sourcing and manufacturing, contracting, trade, immigration, patents and other intellectual property, licensing and technology transfer, and litigation and dispute resolution. Several attorneys within the SWW China Practice read, write and speak Mandarin or Cantonese.

### **SHL and SWW Strategic Collaboration Launch Seminar on Product Liability Laws**

The reputation of Chinese-made goods has suffered a massive blow in the past few months due to a series of product safety scares. Heated debates between the US and China heightened as more products were recalled, including toys, pet food ingredients, fish and jewellery. So who should actually bear the blame? What are the implications and consequences of this row? Has the second joint US-China summit on consumer product safety held on 11<sup>th</sup> September resolved their differences?

To update our delegates and clients with the legal implications of Chinese product recalls in the USA, we'll be holding a series of seminars on US product liability laws in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shenzhen from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September. All three seminars are open to all, the ones held in Shenzhen and Hong Kong are free.

**"US Product Liability Laws:  
What Hong Kong and PRC Manufacturers Need to Know"**

by

Jamie Stranger, Partner – Stephenson Harwood & Lo  
Bert W. Markovich, Shareholder – Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt  
Joshua S. DeCristo, Associate – Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt

	Date and Time	Venue
<b>Guangzhou</b>	18 Sept (Tue) 12:00 – 14:00	BritCham luncheon at Garden Hotel (Magnolia Room 3/F)
<b>Shenzhen</b>	19 Sept (Wed) 15:00 – 17:00	3138 Zone C, Shenzhen Civil Centre, Shenzhen WTO Affairs Centre
<b>Hong Kong</b>	20 Sept (Thu) 18:15 – 19:30	Stephenson Harwood & Lo office, 35/F Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central

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## **Notes for the editor:**

### **ABOUT STEPHENSON HARWOOD & LO**

In 1979, SHL was established in Hong Kong as a joint venture between Stephenson Harwood, a London based law firm, and Lo & Lo, a well-established Hong Kong law firm. This has combined SH's corporate know how and City reputation with Lo & Lo's long-standing local client base. With this foundation, SHL has built one of the largest Asia practices among mid-tier London firms.

SHL has more than 40 lawyers, with offices in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai. SH has offices in London, Continental Europe and Singapore, and associated offices in Athens, Bucharest, Johannesburg, Kuwait and Paris. [www.shl.com.hk](http://www.shl.com.hk)

### **ABOUT SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT**

Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt is a multiservice law firm serving the needs of businesses in the Pacific Northwest, as well as U.S. and international clients. The firm has more than 170 attorneys in Portland, Bend, and Salem, Ore., and Seattle, Stevenson, and Vancouver, Wash., and in Washington, D.C. Schwabe attorneys provide a broad range of transaction and litigation services to many of the Pacific Northwest's leading companies, from Fortune 500 industry leaders, to emerging and privately held businesses. For the last four consecutive years, Schwabe has ranked among *Oregon Business* magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For in Oregon", is ranked #1 among Portland corporate law firms by *Corporate Board Member* magazine, and was recently named one of "Oregon's Most Admired Companies" in a survey completed by Oregon CEOs in *The Business Journal of Portland*. [www.schwabe.com](http://www.schwabe.com).