



Columbia Society of International Law & Office of Career Services

Career Panel: Choosing an International Law Firm

Monday, April 3, 2006

Moderator: Stephen Buchman, Counselor, Office of Career Services

Mr. Buchman is a career services counselor at the Columbia University School of Law. He has worked with the Office of Career Services for over ten years. He is a retired partner at Chadbourne & Parke where he practiced real estate law. Mr. Buchman currently serves as Chadbourne & Parke's ombudsman and is of counsel.

Panelists

Lisa L. Jacobs, Partner, Shearman & Sterling

Ms. Jacobs, a partner in the capital markets group, specializes in international corporate finance. She represents both issuers and underwriters in initial public offerings and other equity offerings, convertible note and preferred stock offerings, investment grade debt offerings, medium-term note offerings, global bond offerings, Regulation S offerings, Rule 144A offerings and foreign currency denominated offerings. She also represents corporate clients, dealer managers and financial advisors in connection with tender offers, consent solicitations and debt-for-debt and other exchange offers. Ms. Jacobs received her J.D. from N.Y.U. and B.A. from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Carl A. Ruggiero, Partner, Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle

Mr. Ruggiero is a partner in the corporate international department whose practice is concentrated on the legal aspects of professional investment management and private equity and venture capital financing. He is also managing partner of the firm's Frankfurt office. Mr. Ruggiero has extensive experience in all aspects of the structuring, documenting and operation of offshore investment funds and U.S. private investment funds, including private equity funds, venture capital funds, hedge funds, leveraged buyout funds and other pooled investment management vehicles. He also counsels U.S. and foreign clients on Investment Company Act and Investment Advisers Act considerations for private funds and represents clients participating in mergers and acquisitions transactions, general and limited partnerships and joint ventures, particularly joint ventures between U.S. entities and non-U.S. entities. Mr. Ruggiero received his J.D. from Stanford Law School and B.S. from N.Y.U. He speaks Italian, French and German.

Robert H. Smit, Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Mr. Smit is a partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett in the firm's litigation department. He represents clients in a wide range of complex commercial litigations and arbitrations, concentrating in the areas of international commercial arbitration, bilateral investment treaty, joint venture, agency and distributorship matters, fraud, securities, banking and insurance disputes. Mr. Smit has also served as arbitrator in several ICC, AAA and ad hoc international arbitrations in the United States, Europe and Latin America. He is one of three U.S. members of the ICC International Court of Arbitration. He received his J.D. from Columbia University School of Law and B.A. from Cornell University. Mr. Smit also holds a graduate law degree (*Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies*, with honors) in private international law and international arbitration from the Sorbonne in Paris.

Randi Goring, Associate, Allen & Overy

Ms. Goring is an associate in the real estate group of Allen & Overy. She has experience in advising on a variety of real estate finance transactions. Before joining the real estate group, Ms. Goring was a member of the banking/finance and corporate/M&A groups, where she also gained experience in structured loan transactions and corporate governance work. Ms. Goring worked as a summer associate in the New York and Tokyo offices of Allen & Overy, as well as at Matsuo & Kosugi in Tokyo. She holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, an M.A. from Tokyo Metropolitan University and a B.A. from Columbia College. Ms. Goring has also received the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law Certificate for Achievement and is fluent in German and Japanese.