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**VETERAN NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATE COUNSEL,
JOHN MULLAN, JOINS SHEPPARD MULLIN LOS ANGELES**

Firm's Recently Formed Aerospace and Defense Team Targets Industry's M&A Transactions

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3, 2007 — John Mullan has joined the Los Angeles office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP as part of the firm's Corporate practice group. Mullan was most recently corporate vice president and secretary with Northrop Grumman Corporation in Los Angeles.

"We're very pleased to welcome John to the firm and to the Los Angeles office," said Randy Short, head of the firm's Corporate practice group. "As in-house counsel of client Northrop Grumman, we have worked closely with John for years. He is an excellent business lawyer who will be a valuable addition to our practical approach to assisting clients. We are thrilled to have him join the Corporate group."

Commented Mullan, "I am excited about this relationship with a premier firm and am looking forward to working closely with Sheppard Mullin's practice groups and clients. Having previously practiced with a law firm, as well as in-house, I've gained valuable perspective from both sides and am familiar with the challenges each faces."

In related news, Sheppard Mullin recently launched an Aerospace and Defense M&A practice, led by Los Angeles-based Corporate partner Larry Braun. "Our attorneys have 100+ years combined experience serving aerospace and defense industry clients and have worked on all types of corporate transactions, including M&A, joint ventures, and public and private offerings," commented Braun. "Whether it is a private equity firm or a technology company, our clients know they can depend on the group's professionals to understand the business challenges and legal issues in which industry participants compete."

Mullan joined Grumman Corporation more than 30 years ago and was deputy general counsel at the time of its acquisition by Northrop in 1994. He has held a number of in-house legal positions at Northrop Grumman throughout the years, and has served as corporate vice president and secretary since 1999.

Previously, Mullan was an attorney with a registered investment advisor, a real estate development company and a law firm in New York. He earned an LL.B. from Columbia University, an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University, a BA (*cum laude*) from St. Johns University, and was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at Stanford University.

About Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP is a full service AmLaw 100 firm with 490 attorneys in nine offices located throughout California and in New York and Washington, D.C. The firm's California offices are located in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Century City, Orange County, Del Mar Heights and San Diego. Sheppard Mullin provides legal expertise and counsel to U.S. and international clients in a wide range of practice areas, including Antitrust, Corporate and Securities; Entertainment, Media and Communications; Finance and Bankruptcy; Government Contracts; Intellectual Property; Labor and Employment; Litigation; Real Estate/Land Use; Tax/Employee Benefits/Trusts & Estates; and White Collar Defense. The firm was founded in 1927. For more information, please visit www.sheppardmullin.com.