

AUSTRALIA



Spruson & Ferguson has opened a new office in Melbourne, staffed by a team of trademark professionals who have joined the firm.

The office will be led by trademark attorney and lawyer Tim Allen, pictured, who has joined as principal. Allen will lead a team of five trademark practitioners. Joining Allen in the Melbourne office are Natalia Blecher, senior associate; Christina Linforth-Barker, senior associate; Brooke Walker, senior trademark practitioner; Silke Henning, trademark practitioner and Tony Paton, trademark paralegal. The move enhances the firm's Asia-Pacific trademarks practice, which will now operate from nine offices across the region.

Allen has more than 20 years of experience in intellectual property. He specializes in all aspects of trademark, copyright and design law and misleading conduct and passing off, representing some of the world's leading brands in managing their trade mark portfolios both in Australia and overseas. He is an experienced advocate in opposition proceedings and other matters before the Australian Trade Marks Office and has worked on a number of high profile cases, including the largest set of opposition proceedings in Australian trademark history.

Global law firm **Norton Rose Fulbright** and Australian law firm **Henry Davis York** have announced plans to combine their businesses; the proposal for an intention to combine was approved by an overwhelming majority of partners in both firms. The two firms will work towards finalizing the details of the proposed combination with a view to commencing the integration of the businesses later this year, at which time the combined firm will take on the Norton Rose Fulbright label.

A core focus of the combined firm will be assisting corporate and government clients to manage their exposure to risk through its team of risk advisory and regulatory experts.

"The partners and I have been considering for some time how we could take a proud and respected Australian law firm and re-engineer it

SINGAPORE



Eversheds, Harry Elias Merge



Eversheds Sutherland and Harry Elias Partnership (HEP) have merged to become **Eversheds Harry Elias**

in Singapore and Brunei, with effect from June 1, 2017. The two firms have enjoyed a strong working relationship in recent years and this has provided a foundation on which to develop a new, vibrant business.

Following approval from the Singapore Ministry of Law, the merged firm will operate as Eversheds Harry Elias (EHE). EHE has 29 partners, over 80 fee-earners and more than 170 people in offices in Singapore and Brunei.

Brian Law, pictured, is head of the firm's Asia IP practice; he splits his time between Singapore and Brunei offices, and also maintains an extensive Malaysia practice via the firm's relationship with Koh Dipendra Jeremiah Law (KDJLaw), co-led by by Suaran Singh Sidhu. Law and Sidhu have secured several landmark decisions involving trademark dispute cases in Malaysia and is responsible for the success of several high profile and complex IP raids across the region.

Registered foreign lawyer and IP counsel Esther Wee also advises from the firm's Singapore office.

Eversheds Sutherland now has robust IP capability in the US, the UK, across most of continental Europe, the Middle East, South Africa, and Asia.

EHE is a full-service international

firm providing clients with access to the resources of the global Eversheds Sutherland network, together with the local expertise and legal capability of one of Singapore's largest domestic firms.

"Growth in Asia is a key part of Eversheds Sutherland's global strategy, and this merger creates opportunities to target work in Southeast Asia, particularly India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam," said Stephen Kitts, Eversheds Sutherland managing partner, Asia. "We have developed a robust, positive relationship with HEP over many years and the merger has very clear partner endorsement from both firms."

Philip Fong, managing partner at Eversheds Harry Elias, said: "EHE will be a significant new competitor in the Singapore legal landscape. As a regional hub, Singapore has long been a major trading base and an active centre for capital markets, M&A and dispute resolution work. Following the merger, EHE has an even stronger platform from which to serve our regional and international clients."

Pete Pappas, global co-leader of Eversheds Sutherland IP along with Simon Crossley added: "The addition of Brian Law and Harry Elias adds a key component to the Eversheds Sutherland global IP capability that now includes Asia in addition to the US, UK, most of continental Europe, the Middle East, and South Africa."

Fong noted that Eversheds Harry Elias will be one of the ten largest law firms in Singapore and is the only international law firm to have an associated office in Brunei. "Through this merger, Eversheds Harry Elias will become a significant player in the ASEAN region."

for the future," said Henry Davis York managing partner Michael Greene.



Bill Ladas has been promoted to partner at **King & Wood Mallesons** in Melbourne, where

he was a special counsel. Ladas specializes in IP law, with a focus on trademark portfolio management, new brands and product launches and trademark enforcement. He has established successful practices in

both Australia and the UK. Prior to returning to Australia, Bill practiced in the London office of SJ Berwin where he managed an international trademarks and designs prosecution practice.



Mandi Jacobson has joined **Dentons** in

Sydney as a partner in the firm's dispute resolution group. She is a highly-regarded commercial litigator and product risk specialist, and brings