

HFA and SONYMA Hire New GC

News In Brief:

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The New York State Housing Finance Agency, the State of New York Mortgage Agency, and their affiliated agencies hired Joy Willig as their new general counsel. Prior to serving these companies, Willig served as general counsel at L&M Equity Participants Ltd.

China Yuchai International Hires New GC

Diesel engine manufacturing and distributing company China Yuchai International Ltd. hired Deborah Foo Shing Mei as its new general counsel. Foo Shing Mei, who will replace Sheila Murugasu, will begin in her position December 10, 2007. Previously, Foo Shing Mei was the vice president of Group Legal and the company secretary at Pacific Internet Ltd. She received her B.A. in Law and History and a Master of Laws in Commercial and Corporate Law and now brings more than 10 years of commercial and corporate experience to China Yuchai. Of Foo Shing Mei, China Yuchai's president said, "We welcome Ms. Foo to join China Yuchai. She is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in regulatory compliance, intellectual property, mergers and acquisitions, litigation, and corporate governance. Foo Shing Mei's expertise and experience will strengthen China Yuchai's corporate infrastructure and will immediately provide valuable insights to our executives and legal teams in both Singapore and China."

Lear Appoints New GC

Automotive seating systems supplier Lear Corporation has hired Terrence B. Larkin as its new senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary. Starting January 1, 2008, Larkin will head up Lear's legal and regulatory matters. Larkin, who recently served as a partner at Bodman, LLP, and worked on general corporate and transactional matters, is currently a board member of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce as well as general counsel for the Better Business Bureau for the Detroit/Eastern Michigan region. "We are very fortunate to have someone with Terry's deep legal experience and sound business judgment join the Lear team," said Lear's executive vice president and chief administrative officer, Daniel Ninivaggi. "He brings a wealth of legal expertise, particularly in the areas of corporate and transactional matters, and, coupled with the solid automotive perspective he brings to this position, will be a welcome addition to our senior management team."

KKR Hires First GC

Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Co. (KKR), a private equity company, will hire its first general counsel, lawyer David Sorkin. Sorkin, who has been advising KKR since 1988, will begin in his new role next month. He is a partner at New York law firm Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, LLP.

Orchid Cellmark Hires New GC

Orchid Cellmark Inc., an identity DNA testing service, has hired William J. Thomas, Esq., as its new vice president and general counsel. Thomas, who received his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and his B.A. in Political Science from Rutgers University, once served as senior vice president and general counsel for Cytogen Corporation. Before then, Thomas was a senior partner at Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Door, LLP. "I am pleased that Bill is joining Orchid's management team," said Orchid's president and

CEO, Thomas A. Bologna. He is a proactive and business-oriented general counsel with the legal experience and skill set that we believe will complement our management team well." Thomas brings more than 20 years of experience with general corporate issues to his new position.