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PEOPLE MOVES

Nardello & Co. Expands Global Investigation Practice with New Hires in D.C., Hong Kong and Dubai

By David Chana

International investigation firm Nardello & Co. recently announced senior-level hires with Ryan Sparacino in Washington, D.C., Chris Pechstedt in Hong Kong and Rana Feghali in its new Dubai office. The New York-based firm, headed by former federal prosecutor Daniel Nardello, works with law firms, financial institutions and corporations in conducting investigations tied to a wide range of sensitive matters, including civil and white-collar criminal litigation support as well as investigations stemming from alleged insider trading and money-laundering, to anti-bribery and corruption charges, and M&A due diligence. For advice and insight from the firm, see "Sample Questions to Ask Third Parties When Initiating Anti-Corruption Due Diligence," The FCPA Report, Vol. 2, No. 20 (Oct. 9, 2013) and "Conducting Effective Anti-Corruption Due Diligence on Third Parties: An Interview with Principals at Nardello & Company," The FCPA Report, Vol. 2, No. 19 (Sep. 26, 2013).

Ryan Sparacino, the new Managing Director in Washington, D.C., was previously a member of the litigation and white collar practices at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in D.C. He has extensive experience handling investigations involving the FCPA and U.K. Bribery Act, as well as consumer fraud statutes, whistleblower suits and intellectual property disputes. He has represented individuals and corporations in corruption investigations in Asia, Africa, the Mideast, South America and the Caribbean, as well as Europe, Russia and the CIS.

Chris Pechstedt, the new Director in Hong Kong, is a Mandarin-speaking China specialist. Pechstedt has lived in Asia for a decade, handling investigations in internal fraud cases, litigation support, and crisis management.

Rana Feghali, Director of the new Dubai office, was formerly a journalist for a leading Pan-Arab newspaper. She has conducted investigations throughout the Mideast, Gulf States and North Africa. Her work has included pre-transactional due diligence, FCPA and anti-corruption investigations, litigation support, money laundering traces, and asset searches leading to the recovery of millions of dollars in resources. Feghali previously was a director with Nardello in the firm's London office before spending one year in the corporate investigations practice for Deloitte Corporate Finance Ltd.

The firm's latest expansion comes against a backdrop of increased government enforcement by U.S. regulators, with parallel actions in jurisdictions globally. "It's no exaggeration to say that our practice is booming," said Mr. Nardello, a former federal prosecutor in Manhattan. He noted recent FCPA and due diligence investigations the firm is undertaking in regions including Mauritania, Somalia, Mongolia, Ukraine and Mexico. "Our new hires in Washington, Hong Kong and Dubai – where we are opening an office – reflect that surge and also the international stage where our business takes us."

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