

## **Ropes & Gray Expands Global Real Estate Practice in Asia** *Ed Sheremeta Joins Firm as a Partner in Hong Kong*

**HONG KONG, January 6, 2015**—International law firm Ropes & Gray LLP is enhancing its global real estate investments & transactions practice with the addition of **Eduard Sheremeta**, who joins the firm as a partner in the firm’s Hong Kong office.

Mr. Sheremeta has nearly 15 years of experience in real estate law in Asia, including China and Japan. His extensive knowledge of the Asian real estate and corporate markets bolsters Ropes & Gray’s ability to serve clients at a time of increased activity and interest in real estate investments across the region.

Mr. Sheremeta’s arrival boosts the firm’s robust global real estate practice, with more than 75 highly skilled attorneys around the world working on real estate matters, including 45 professionals specifically focused on real estate issues and others concentrating on key components of real estate investments and transactions, including finance, restructuring, private equity, tax, and M&A.

Mr. Sheremeta also strengthens Ropes & Gray’s growing presence in Asia, where the firm now has 80 lawyers in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul. The real estate practice is an integral element of the firm’s growth in Asia, as the firm has been representing leading companies, investment funds and financial institutions on real estate transactions, working in close collaboration with the firm’s special situations, finance, private equity and restructuring practices.

“Ed Sheremeta has a sterling reputation as one of the leading real estate lawyers in Asia,” said **David Djaha**, global head of Ropes & Gray’s real estate investments & transactions practice. “He brings with him an exceptional depth of experience in high-profile real estate, finance and private equity matters, and his arrival enhances our ability to serve clients across Asia and complements our expanding real estate practice around the world.”

Previously a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom and at DLA Piper, Mr. Sheremeta has significant pan-Asian experience, having practiced in Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong. He has advised major corporate clients including AD Capital, BNP Paribas, HSBC, Pacific Alliance Group, Asia Pacific Land, SMBC, Aozora Bank and Starr Investments, and is recognized as a leading real estate lawyer in publications including *Chambers* and *Legal 500*.

Mr. Sheremeta’s versatile practice includes:

- representing corporates and financial institutions in complex real estate transactions such as acquisitions and dispositions, private equity and institutional investments, limited recourse and secured financings, asset and property management, leasing and sale-leasebacks, restructurings, non-performing loan portfolio management, and general transaction structuring;
- counselling sponsors in single-asset acquisition transactions and in joint venture and co-investment arrangements;
- advising funds on real estate-related capital markets transactions such as real estate investment trusts (REITs); and
- acting for real estate and opportunity funds, as well as asset managers, on direct and indirect (fund-to-fund) commercial and residential property investments.

“Ropes & Gray is a unique firm with a globally integrated partnership,” said Mr. Sheremeta. “The firm has executed some of the world’s leading real estate transactions, and I look forward to bringing my capabilities to the firm’s highly successful practice in Asia.”

Mr. Sheremeta holds a J.D. from the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Law, and is qualified in Hong Kong, New York and Ontario.

### **About Ropes & Gray LLP**

Companies, funds and individuals worldwide turn to Ropes & Gray’s leading real estate investments & transactions practice to guide them through a variety of domestic and international real estate transactional matters. Our attorneys handle all aspects of investment issues, structures and transaction variables, including acquisitions, joint ventures, co-investments, fund formations, and financing of real estate projects, in addition to leasing and environmental work.

A premier global law firm with more than 1,100 lawyers and professionals in 11 offices worldwide, including four in Asia, Ropes & Gray has been recognized as having one of the leading real estate practices by *Chambers*, *Legal 500*, *U.S. News*, *Law360*, and other publications. Collaborating with colleagues in key related practices, including corporate, private equity, finance, tax, investment management and private investment funds, Ropes & Gray’s lawyers are uniquely positioned to advise clients on their most critical issues.