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*Contacts: Terence Gordon, Director of Communications
(212) 218-5273, tgordon@seyfarth.com
Mark Roy, Public Relations Manager
(212) 218-5272, mroy@seyfarth.com*

Seyfarth Shaw Introduces New Business Immigration Service For Employers Seeking to Place Employees in Canada and Other Foreign Countries

New York, NY (December 12, 2007)—Seyfarth Shaw LLP, one of America's leading full-service law firms has established an initiative offering an innovative service to companies to obtain outbound work authorizations for employers seeking to place employees in Canada and other foreign countries.

The firm's new service assists companies in securing all the appropriate paperwork necessary for employees to assume a professional appointment in many countries outside of the United States. As the global economy continues to offer unique business opportunities across borders, there are U.S.-based individuals uniquely suited to direct or support these initiatives in other countries, and the attorneys at Seyfarth Shaw expeditiously facilitate the deployment of these professionals.

To head this new service, Seyfarth Shaw welcomes attorney Jean-Noël Ben Hamou. His practice focuses exclusively on Canadian and other foreign country immigration issues. He assists organizations with securing temporary and permanent work permits for their employees in foreign countries. Ben Hamou is experienced in handling high-volume cases and negotiating agreements with senior foreign immigration officials at ports-of-entry, visa offices and pre-approval units to streamline the immigration process. He has conducted numerous conferences and seminars on business immigration in Canada and the U.S.

"There are few firms and attorneys in the U.S. who have the knowledge of outbound immigration work that Jean-Noël has," stated Valerie J. Hoffman, Chair of the firm's Affirmative Action, Diversity and Business Immigration Practice Group. "He is one of a very limited number of experienced Canadian immigration lawyers practicing in the United States. Jean-Noël has a wealth of knowledge about how to expedite outbound visas; with him on board, we are securing commitments from clients who have significant volumes of immigration work. We are delighted to welcome him to the firm."

Ben Hamou's broad base of knowledge and experience with Canadian immigration includes understanding the Business Visitor category and the narrow definition of business meetings, securing pre-approvals for work permits within 48 to 72 hours and dealing with the Regional Foreign Worker Unit. He counsels clients regarding the flexibility of the Canadian immigration system, Canada as an alternative to the H-1B cap in the U.S., NAFTA work permits, the consequences of past criminality and waiver of inadmissibility to Canada, permanent residency, the country's advantageous and innovative point systems and other Canadian citizenship and residency requirements.

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Seyfarth Shaw Introduces Outbound Business Immigration Service

Prior to joining Seyfarth Shaw, Ben Hamou was an associate with Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP in that firm's Atlanta office. He received his B.C.L. (*with distinction*) and his LL.B. (*with distinction*) from McGill University and his B.B.A. (*with great distinction*) from *École des Hautes Études Commerciales de Montréal*. He is licensed to practice law in Canada.

Seyfarth Shaw's business immigration attorneys already provide comprehensive inbound business immigration services throughout the U.S. These include strategic planning and advice, case preparation, filing and monitoring, as well as development and implementation of corporate policies and training programs. Seyfarth Shaw attorneys assist clients with I-9 audits, sanctions proceedings, Department of Labor wage proceedings, discrimination claims based on alienage, and other related issues.

Seyfarth Shaw has over 750 attorneys located in nine offices throughout the United States including Chicago, New York, Boston, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento as well as Brussels, Belgium. Seyfarth Shaw provides a broad range of legal services in the areas of labor and employment, employee benefits, litigation and business services. The firm's practice reflects virtually every industry and segment of the country's business and social fabric. Clients include over 200 of the Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, newspapers and other media, hotels, health care organizations, airlines and railroads. The firm also represents a number of federal, state, and local governmental and educational entities. For more information, please visit www.seyfarth.com .

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