

VLP Expands Technology Transactions Practice with Addition of Data Privacy Expert Michael Whitener

Palo Alto, CA (April 2, 2013) – VLP Law Group LLP is pleased to announce the addition of Michael Whitener, who joins as a partner based in Washington, DC. Mr. Whitener brings to VLP considerable experience in technology transactions and data privacy issues.

Mr. Whitener's practice focuses on international commercial transactions, assisting software and other technology clients in developing their global businesses, protecting their intellectual property and complying with data privacy laws. Current clients include enterprise software companies, a telecommunications company deploying wireless networks worldwide, a world leader in providing transport communications to governments globally, one of the largest privately held staffing companies in the world, and an Indian non-profit foundation with a presence in more than 150 countries.

In the data privacy area, Mr. Whitener conducts privacy audits and risk assessments, drafts privacy policies and data transfer agreements, and advises on compliance with U.S. and foreign data privacy laws and regulations.

Mr. Whitener was formerly Lead Counsel, Technology & Communications with Clearspire Law. Prior to joining Clearspire, he was Principal and Co-Founder of VistaLaw International, where he advised on technology-related transactions and agreements (including manufacturing, licensing, alliances, OEM, software as a service, open source and web hosting) as well as cross-border data transfers. Mr. Whitener began his legal career in private practice with Sidley Austin and Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells).

"Michael is a terrific addition to our growing Technology Transactions Practice," says Cathryn Chinn, CEO of VLP. "His impressive experience with international transactions and the challenges of complying with data privacy laws will be an asset to our clients and will further enhance our existing capabilities."

Mr. Whitener is the author of the book *Creating Software Alliances* and co-author of the book *Corporate Governance for New Directors*. He is one of a very few individuals worldwide to obtain all of the data privacy certifications offered by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP), including CIPP/US, CIPP/G, CIPP/IT, CIPP/C CIPP/E and CIPM. He received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was Executive Editor of the Virginia Journal of International Law.

"Joining VLP is a great opportunity," said Mr. Whitener. "I am very much looking forward to playing my part in the growth and continued success of the firm's technology transactions and data privacy practices."

About VLP's Technology Transactions Practice

VLP's Technology Transactions Practice Group represents companies of all sizes in a wide variety of strategic technology and other commercial transactions. Our attorneys have successfully represented companies at all stages of development - from pre-formation start-ups to large public companies - in negotiating and closing deals such as agreements to license, develop, manufacture, market, distribute, co-brand and acquire or divest technology and related intellectual property rights. We advise clients in a diverse range of industrial sectors including software, hardware, semiconductors, networking, telecommunications, digital and interactive media, internet, life sciences, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, clean tech and agribusiness.

Our attorneys represent clients on both sides of the table -- buyers, sellers, licensors, licensees, developers and investors, and work closely as necessary with VLP attorneys in other practice groups to ensure that we obtain the best possible result for our clients, while protecting their assets as fully as possible. Because most of our attorneys have in-house experience as well, we understand the need to complete deals quickly and efficiently.

About VLP

Founded in 2008, VLP is a business and transactional law firm that delivers top quality, efficient and cost-effective legal services. Our practice reaches across many industry sectors, including high tech, life sciences, angel and venture capital financings, clean tech, retail, consumer product, commercial lending and real estate. VLP has continued its strong growth, and is made up of noted attorneys with significant experience who believe VLP's unique, client-oriented and cost-effective model is the best platform for their practice. Our partners are regularly recognized by their peers as outstanding attorneys, and the firm has been recognized as a top company for its promotion of quality of life in the workplace. Our lean model means that we can provide sophisticated, focused services to our clients, and we can do it at competitive rates.

VLP partners represent clients that vary in size from individual executives and early-stage startups to Fortune 500 companies. Our clients include public and private corporations, venture capital investors, private equity funds, educational institutions, nonprofits and individuals. We provide general corporate, licensing, contract, intellectual property protection and counseling, securities regulation, financing, employment, merger and acquisition, real estate, tax and other legal services.