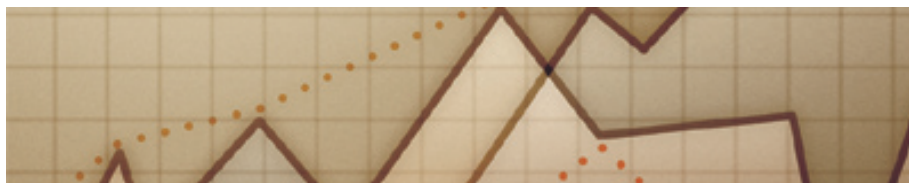


## CORPORATE LAW ALERT



Attorneys in SHB's Corporate Law Practice concentrate their practices in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic alliances, securities matters, private equity and financing transactions, commercial finance and banking and the general representation of publicly held and private entities.

Our corporate finance attorneys are experienced in all aspects of corporate transactions, including private placements, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, joint ventures, distributorships, public offerings, tender offers, venture capital financing, equity and debt restructuring, project finance, workouts, corporate governance and general corporate law.

Our banking and commercial law attorneys counsel local, national and international financial institutions and corporate borrowers on loan transactions and regulatory issues and are nationally recognized experts in various areas of commercial law.

For additional information on SHB's Corporate Law Division, please contact

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### MISSOURI FICTITIOUS NAME RENEWAL

The renewal period for fictitious name registrations with the Missouri Secretary of State began earlier this month. For the first time in the state's history, a change in state law now requires fictitious name registrations to be renewed and will affect more than 500,000 businesses that have filed fictitious names with the state since the early 1900s.

If an individual, general partnership, corporation, or other business organization operates or engages in business in Missouri under a name other than a person's actual name, such individual or entity must register a fictitious name with the Missouri Secretary of State. Any fictitious name registration filed on or before August 28, 2004, must be renewed by August 28, 2009. If an individual or business does not file for renewal, its registration will expire and it will not be able to legally conduct business in the state. Fictitious names registered after August 28, 2004, will expire five years after the date they were filed.

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to file for renewal online or download the registration form and mail it to the Corporations Division of the Missouri Secretary of State. To renew online or download forms, visit <http://www.sos.mo.gov/business/corporations>. There is a \$7.00 filing fee for registrations. ■