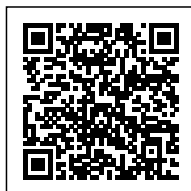


EVERSHEDS AND SUTHERLAND CONFIRM MERGER TALKS

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International law firms Eversheds and Sutherland have confirmed they are discussing a potential combination.

The statement issued by both law firms describes the merger as driven by a shared vision of providing clients with high-quality, consistent and coordinated service around the world.

The combination, still subject to a vote by both partnerships before the end of 2016, will create a law firm called Eversheds Sutherland with 2,300 lawyers across 61 offices in 29 countries.

Sutherland is headquartered in Atlanta with offices in Austin, Houston, New York, Sacramento, and Washington DC. It gained a small presence in London and Geneva in 2014 when it acquired Arbis LLP, a boutique law firm specialised on commodity trading. The firm regularly undertakes Latin America-related arbitration, M&A and insurance work for international clients.

Eversheds has 55 offices in countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. It has had a presence in Madrid since 2004, initially through an alliance with Lupicinio Abogados which lasted

until 2011 when the firms parted ways. Eversheds formed a new alliance with Nicea Abogados shortly afterwards.

Madrid also serves as hub for the Latin American practice of Eversheds. The firm has set up the Eversheds Latin America Alliance which includes 19 member law firms across 13 countries in Latin America.