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PRESS RELEASE

LEHMAN, LEE & XU HELPS BRING RENOWNED YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM TO CHINA

BEIJING— March 23, 2009 –Since it was founded in the U.S. in 1966, the youth basketball program Five-Star has helped thousands of players develop hard-court skills pivotal to their later success. More than 300 of its graduates went on to the NBA, where some — like Michael Jordan, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony — became superstars.

Now it has arrived in China, represented by Beijing-based law firm Lehman, Lee and Xu, one of the largest legal practices in the nation.

“It is a natural fit for us, given our long experience in sports and entertainment law,” said Matthew McKee, one the firm’s legal experts in the field. “We are assisting in the launch of the program in China and are certainly excited about its prospects.”

The NBA estimates there are 300 million recreational basketball plays in China and 450 million fans. China’s Five-Star program officially began in October last year with camp at Dulwich International School in Beijing. Five- Star is also currently running several off-season school programs throughout China. The next camps will be held in Shanghai, Beijing and Xiamen for age groups ranging from 9 to 18 years old.

But the program isn’t limited to players, McKee said, as it also includes parents and coaches. “Like its progenitor in the U.S., Five-Star China has a holistic approach that includes diverse stakeholders in the sport, including a coaching academy.”

Five-Star camps for athletes are geared for serious players 12 to 18 years old. Using a combination of exposure, competition, the well-tested traditional program hones skills needed to excel at the next level. Five-Star breaks down every session into three leagues to match players with their appropriate level of competition. The varied programs also develop specific skill such as back-basket offensive moves, agility and footwork, defending the post, spot shooting shot blocking, rebounding, shooting and face-up moves.

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“This whole program is extremely well developed,” McKee said. “It has been refined over four decades to support the specific talent each individual might have.” Founded in 1992, Lehman, Lee and Xu has grown to include a range of practices areas, including one specializing in sports. Its experts have negotiated business deals for global sports and entertainment firms including matters relating to the Heavyweight Boxing Championship, the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and other sporting organizations in China. In addition to providing traditional legal services such as negotiating and finalizing contracts, ensuring copyrights and trademarks are protected, and drafting distribution and licensing agreements, the firm helps sports and entertainment entities navigate China's sometimes confusing regulatory environment.

“We’re excited to help bring this useful program for youth to China,” McKee said. “With the tremendous popularity of basketball and Chinese role models making a name for themselves in the sport, we anticipate great things.”

Founded in 1992, Beijing-headquartered Lehman, Lee & Xu is one of the oldest and largest law practices in China. It serves as counsel to and advisor for wide range of multinational corporations, associations and governments. Its clients include Fortune 500 companies, non-governmental organizations, embassies and departments of nations, giant domestic enterprises and a scope of other businesses and individuals that mirror China’s remarkable growth over the past 30 years.

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