

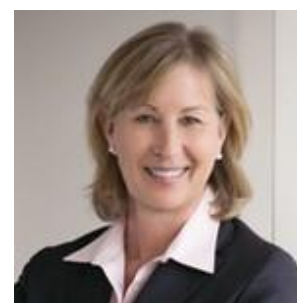
## Morgan Lewis Boosts Calif. Tax Team With Ex-IRS Trial Atty

By Jimmy Hoover

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Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has added a former IRS trial lawyer to its tax litigation team in San Francisco, bolstering its ranks with a successful solo practitioner seasoned in federal civil matters and high-profile criminal cases, according to the firm.

The Philadelphia-based law firm said on Monday that Wendy Abkin's status as a career tax lawyer with experience before the IRS, the California Franchise Tax Board and other agencies is a "tremendous asset" to its West Coast tax team.



Wendy Abkin

"Wendy has a well-deserved reputation as a national leader in tax litigation and controversy," firm Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement. "Her experience within the IRS and in private practice offers our clients across the United States the insights they need when dealing with tax authorities at all levels."

The University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law graduate began her career with a clerkship for U.S. Tax Court Judge Charles E. Clapp in Washington, D.C. She capitalized on that experience and eventually served in the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in San Francisco, often litigating cases in U.S. Tax Court.

Prior to joining Morgan Lewis, Abkin ran the San Francisco-based Abkin Law Firm LLP, which she founded, for five years. With clients ranging from individuals and businesses to nonprofits and trusts, Abkin's work extended beyond the area of litigation into voluntary disclosures, audits and appeals.

In an interview with Law360, Abkin said that she decided to move to Morgan Lewis to pivot toward larger corporate clients in tax controversy matters, which she said the firm is "known for as a leader in Northern California and nationally as well." The veteran tax litigator also mentioned the Morgan Lewis November 2014 combination with Bingham McCutchen LLP, which brought Abkin's former colleagues at the IRS to Morgan Lewis, as additional motivation for the move.

"I'm just happy to be able to join this team at this point in my career. I think it's going to be really great for me, and energizing," Abkin said. "These are people that I really look forward to working with."

In a statement, Barton Bassett, head of Morgan Lewis' tax practice, praised Abkin as a "seasoned

litigator who has devoted her entire career to resolving tax controversies and legal disputes."

"She is a natural-born leader whose strong background in substantive tax areas makes her highly sought out for her insights, and we are fortunate she is joining our team," Bassett said.

She formerly served as the chair of the Taxation Law Section of the California State Bar and has an active pro bono practice for "unrepresented taxpayers" before U.S. Tax Court, the firm said.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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