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Medical Tech Atty Joins Morgan Lewis As Partner In DC Office

By **Mike Curley**

Dennis Gucciardo

Law360 (February 10, 2020, 5:10 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP announced on Monday that it's added to its Washington, D.C., office a partner who specializes in defending and advising medical device makers.

Formerly of Hogan Lovells, Dennis Gucciardo brings to the firm his experience counseling manufacturers on U.S. Food and Drug Administration compliance, as well as in defending those companies in criminal matters and conducting internal investigations, Morgan Lewis said.

A graduate of the University of Florida and its Levin College of Law, Gucciardo told Law360 that he came to Morgan Lewis because of its global platform and reach. For his clients looking to enter the U.S. market with their medical devices, Gucciardo said, the global resources of a firm like Morgan Lewis are necessary.

"Having the global reach that Morgan Lewis can provide to me was a strong point," he said. "Morgan Lewis excels in so many practice groups that really affect the medical device industry, starting with its life science industry core team, that it just made it a natural fit to come over here."

As his career has focused almost exclusively on the medical device industry, Gucciardo said he brings to the firm the kind of specialized experience and knowledge that attorneys with a more general career path don't have.

In addition to defense work, Gucciardo has also spoken on regulatory compliance and enforcement issues in the medical technology industry and worked with device makers in conducting due diligence, he said.

At his previous firm, he said, he would provide support through the entire life cycle of a product, from conception to obsolescence. He added that he has the requisite skills and experience to break down and translate the complex regulatory schemes for such devices into simple, practical advise for his clients.

"We're not making hubcaps here — we're making products that go into people, to help people," he said. "So you can imagine there's a myriad of regulations and laws that one has to comply with."

Looking ahead, he said he intends to continue helping both his existing clients and Morgan Lewis' client

base, adding that he expects the coming years in the medical device industry to see software developers creating more and more mobile apps that provide medical monitoring and reporting.

As that happens, he said, he will work to help his clients push the novel technology through the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory process.

"Our global FDA practice serves medtech companies around the world that face increased challenges from changing regulations impacted by evolving technology," Firm Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement. "Dennis has built a career advising these companies on how to bring novel technologies to market and how to address FDA warning letters, international inspections, and global recalls that disrupt product distribution and supply."

Gucciardo has also been involved in the transactional side of the medical device industry, negotiating mergers and acquisitions as well as supply and distribution agreements, the firm said.

"Dennis shares our firm's commitment to exceptional client service and the central importance of our client relationships," Kathleen Sanzo, leader of Morgan Lewis' FDA practice, said in a statement. "Regardless of the size or scope of the matter, he offers life sciences and health care companies broad medical device experience, in particular a strong background in post-approval FDA enforcement matters as well as corporate transactions."

--Editing by Daniel King.