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## Morgan Lewis Adds 2 DOJ Officials In Philly, DC

By Rachel Rippetoe

*Law360 (July 21, 2022, 4:04 PM EDT)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has scored two U.S. Department of Justice officials to join its enforcement and litigation bench in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia, the firm announced Thursday.

Kathryn Deal, who is assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Justin Weitz, who is acting principal assistant chief in the Criminal Division's Market Integrity and Major Frauds Unit, will both join the firm with Deal in Philadelphia and Weitz in D.C.

"Kate and Justin's skillsets each add depth to the cross-practice rapid-response approach we bring to clients who need comprehensive, practical guidance delivered with a business-minded solution," Morgan Lewis Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement Thursday.

Deal has been an assistant U.S. attorney for two and a half years. Before that she was a partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, serving as co-chair of the firm's retail group. Before that, she spent nearly 14 years at the firm then called Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

At Morgan Lewis, she will focus on high-stakes trial work and complex litigation on the defense side, from punitive class actions to mass torts and other government proceedings. Deal has experience handling class actions and other civil litigation in private practice.

As a prosecutor, Deal investigated and prosecuted mostly white-collar crimes, from pandemic fraud and money laundering to public corruption.

Deal is not the first former prosecutor in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania that Morgan Lewis has hired. The firm added Zane Memeger, who was the U.S. attorney for the district for nearly seven years, in 2017.

Weitz has been with the DOJ for nearly 10 years, investigating and prosecuting corporate fraud. Before he was appointed to his current role, Weitz was assistant chief in the Securities and Financial Fraud Unit. He's worked on securities fraud cases related to the COVID-19 pandemic and has helped conduct large and multinational investigations into corruption involving government contractors.

In his new practice at Morgan Lewis, Weitz will be advising on complex financial securities and procurement enforcement matters, the firm said. He'll also be working on "the dynamic area of cryptocurrency," the release said.

Weitz will be reunited with colleague Sandra Moser, who was the chief of the DOJ's Fraud Section. Moser was hired at the firm in September 2020.

Morgan Lewis has a heavy bench of DOJ officials and other government agency leaders. The firm added David Plotinsky, former acting chief of the DOJ's foreign investment review section, in February, and Erin Martin, who spent 13 years at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, earlier this year.

"We have a long tradition of attracting high-caliber, accomplished talent, and Justin and Kate are just two recent examples," J. Gordon Cooney, leader of Morgan Lewis's global litigation practice, said in a statement. "Their combined backgrounds will only be increasingly relevant for our clients and add strength to our litigation and enforcement bench across practices, positioning us well to address developing trends coming from courts and the US government."

--Editing by Alex Hubbard.