

Morgan Lewis Adds Partner To Finance Team In New York

By Christine DeRosa

Law360 (October 2, 2023, 3:31 PM EDT) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has continued its recent expansion of the firm's New York office with the addition of a finance attorney from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, the firm said Monday.

Penelope Christophorou joined the firm as a partner Monday after spending more than two decades as counsel at Cleary, a firm spokesperson confirmed.

Christophorou's practice focuses on commercial financings and creditors' rights, including advising and negotiating secured transactions, workouts, debtor-in-possession financing and more, the firm said in a statement.

She also advises on closeout and netting rights under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code and has written and presented on the Uniform Commercial Code, Morgan Lewis said.

Firm chair Jami McKeon said in a statement that the firm's financial institution clients look to Morgan Lewis for the highest level of counseling on various complex matters.

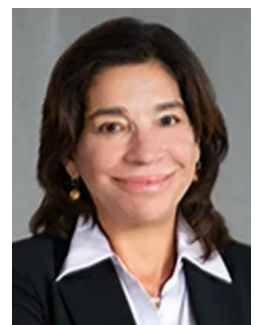
"Penny has represented some of the largest financial institutions and other market participants in various transactions, and her experience will complement our current service offerings in finance, bankruptcy, capital markets, structured transactions, and derivatives," McKeon said.

Jonathan Bernstein, leader of the firm's finance practice, added that Christophorou is respected in the financial market by clients and other practitioners and is well known to Morgan Lewis' finance team.

Before joining Morgan Lewis, Christophorou spent her career with Cleary in the firm's New York office. She joined the firm in January 2000, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Christophorou, a Harvard Law School graduate, also clerked for Judge Joanna Seybert of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 1994 to 1995, her biography on Morgan Lewis' website states.

"Morgan Lewis values client service and has a full-service platform and a strong global footprint. These alone made joining the firm an ideal opportunity," Christophorou said Monday. "What tipped the scales was the chance to work closely with lawyers at the firm whom I have known for years through



Penelope Christophorou

professional organizations and client matters."

Outside of her practice, Christophorou is a special adviser to the American Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession and previously chaired the American Bar Association's Business Law Section.

Christophorou's addition continues the growth of the firm's New York office, which added six attorneys from Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP in August.

Morgan Lewis first hired Richard Stern, Michael Luskin, Stephan Hornung, Matthew O'Donnell and Alex Talesnick, a five-partner transactional restructuring and bankruptcy litigation team, on Aug. 7.

A week later, real estate finance attorney Michael McCarthy joined Morgan Lewis as a partner. At the time, the firm said his hiring reunited McCarthy with transactional restructuring and bankruptcy colleagues he had previously worked with.

--Additional reporting by Andrea Keckley. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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