

Morgan Lewis Hires SEC Trial Atty In DC

By Alison Knezevich

Law360 (January 5, 2023, 3:07 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has added a 15-year veteran of the Securities and Exchange Commission in its latest hire from the federal regulatory agency, the firm said Thursday.

Frederick Block joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in Washington, D.C., where he will focus on SEC enforcement, investigations, litigation and trials. Block most recently served as a supervisory trial counsel in the SEC enforcement division.

There, he was part of a team overseeing 120 trial attorneys around the country, according to Morgan Lewis. He also advised the director of enforcement on litigation and worked closely with trial and investigative staff.

In a statement from the firm, Block said it was an opportune time to join Morgan Lewis.

"Given all-things, securities law will continue to be top of mind for public companies and financial institutions, it's the right time for me to join forces with my new, like-minded colleagues at Morgan Lewis, many of whom also served at the SEC and understand how it all works," he said.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Thursday, Block added that he was attracted to the firm's collaborative culture.

"I think anybody who's worked with me throughout my legal career will tell you I'm a team player, and somebody who is very much into collaboration," Block said.

Block left the SEC in October, he said.

He first joined the agency in 2007 as a trial attorney after working at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Five years later, he was promoted to supervisory trial counsel. While with the SEC, he handled a range of matters, including those involving accounting fraud, market manipulation, insider trading, unregistered offerings and violations of the Investment Advisers Act.

The hire of Block is part of a "strategic approach to bolstering our SEC enforcement capabilities," said J. Gordon Cooney Jr., who heads the firm's global litigation practice.



Fred Block

"His strong trial history and insight into enforcement matters will be important to companies and individuals facing actual or threatened SEC enforcement action," Cooney said in a statement.

Last year, the firm hired Kelly Gibson, a former SEC acting deputy director of enforcement and leader of the Climate and ESG Taskforce, and Erin Martin, a former legal branch chief in the commission's corporation finance division. That followed the 2020 addition of Jeff Boujoukos, who previously served as director of the SEC's Philadelphia office.

--Additional reporting by Matt Perez and Jack Rodgers. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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