

## Morgan Lewis Adds Otsuka Pharmaceutical Atty In DC

By **Christine DeRosa**

*Law360 (March 1, 2024, 4:10 PM EST)* -- An in-house attorney for drugmaker Otsuka Pharmaceutical has moved to private practice at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP as a partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

Stephen Forster joined the firm Friday and will advise life science companies on drug pricing and commercial contracting matters, Morgan Lewis said.

Forster told Law360 Pulse on Friday that he considers himself team-oriented and was therefore drawn to the firm's well-known culture of collaboration.

"The firm's FDA and healthcare practice is made up of lawyers with a deep understanding of the needs of pharmaceutical, healthcare technology, and other companies in the healthcare sector," Forster said. "When given the opportunity to join the team, it felt like a good fit and a place where I could contribute and grow."

Forster joined the firm from Otsuka, where he most recently served as senior director and lead counsel of pricing and commercial access strategy, according to Morgan Lewis. While with the company, he advised its leadership as well as contracting, distribution, government affairs and regulatory teams, among others, on legal issues related to Otsuka's price and rebate portfolio strategy, the firm said.

He also advised senior executives on legal matters related to government price reporting, generics and authorized generics, marketing, the Inflation Reduction Act and sales, Morgan Lewis said.

"Steve is well versed across multiple areas of drug pricing and contracting and has also dealt with several different pharma product types over the course of his career, which gives him a robust understanding of commercial and government distribution programs that our clients will appreciate," firm Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement Friday.

Prior to his time with Otsuka, Forster was corporate counsel for pharmaceutical company Indivior, his LinkedIn profile shows. While with Indivior, Forster advised on legal matters relating to managed care, government price reporting, finance, and more, according to his profile.

"Steve's deep familiarity in the channel, trade, distribution, and pricing arenas and his insights gained from working in the industry will enable us to better meet the counseling and commercial needs of our life sciences clients," Kathleen Sanzo, leader of Morgan Lewis' Food and Drug Administration and



Stephen Forster

healthcare practice, said in the statement.

Before moving in-house, Forster was an attorney in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's Office of the Chief Counsel and served as assistant attorney general in the Virginia Office of the Attorney General.

Forster earned his law degree from the University of Richmond School of Law and his undergraduate degree from St. John's University.

--Editing by Linda Voorhis.

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