

## Longtime Hogan Lovells Transport Head Joins Morgan Lewis

By **Adrian Cruz**

*Law360 (April 11, 2024, 4:42 PM EDT)* -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired the former head of Hogan Lovells' transportation practice as a Washington, D.C.-based partner and co-leader of its global automotive and mobility practice.

R. Latane Montague joined Morgan Lewis on Monday following 26 years with Hogan Lovells. He told Law360 Thursday that he was drawn to Morgan Lewis by the firm's presence representing automotive industry clients.

"Morgan Lewis represents virtually every major automaker in the world, and I'm able to enhance these representations with my regulatory skill set," Montague said. "My practice focuses on the regulation of automobiles by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board and the U.S. Department of Transportation /National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Regulation of cars by EPA, CARB and NHTSA is at the very core of automakers' business, so it really is just a perfect fit."

Montague, a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, said he works primarily with transportation manufacturers including car, truck and railway-car makers on matters with state and federal regulatory agencies.

According to Morgan Lewis, high-profile transport regulatory matters in which Montague has been involved include work with vehicle and engine manufacturers on certification and compliance with emissions and fuel economy standards and representing the Railway Supply Institute over the last 25 years of federal rulemaking and proceeding before various regulatory bodies.

"Representing numerous players in the transportation industry is a significant part of our global practice, and Latane's deep regulatory experience enhances our position to advise on extremely sensitive and nuanced federal regulations facing the industry," Morgan Lewis chair Jami McKeon said in a statement. "He has represented industry leaders in every major rulemaking that has faced the transportation industry for more than two decades. Clients rely on him to stay on top of regulatory, industry, and Capitol Hill activity, and he is known as a trusted adviser who can solve multifaceted challenges that extend beyond agency work."

Having worked on transportation regulatory matters since the late 1990s, Montague said that one of the main changes over the last quarter-century has been the increased use and complexity of technology included in vehicles, which has caused regulators to tighten their standards from a safety and



R. Latane Montague

environmental perspective.

"The technology being regulated has gotten more complicated and sophisticated," he said. "Vehicles have gotten safer and cleaner, but regulators keep demanding more from companies on a path towards zero emissions and zero safety issues, so the legal and compliance challenges for companies continue unabated, in spite of all the technological advances in emissions control and vehicle safety."

Along with Montague's hire, Morgan Lewis also announced an addition in Munich at the start of April with former Reed Smith LLP environmental, social and governance attorney Daja Apetz-Dreier joining as a partner.

Last month, former Perkins Coie LLP attorneys Todd P. Zerega, Mark F. Parise and Betselot A. Zeleke joined Morgan Lewis' investment management team as partners in Pittsburgh, Hartford, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C., respectively and ex-Otsuka Pharmaceutical attorney Stephen Forster joined in D.C. at the start of March.

--Editing by Peter Rozovsky.