

Ex-Cephalon GC Joins Morgan Lewis Litigation Group

By **Carolina Bolado**

Law360, New York (January 04, 2012, 8:30 PM ET) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired a former Cephalon Inc. vice president and deputy general counsel with antitrust and securities expertise to join its Philadelphia litigation practice as a partner, the firm said Wednesday.

Steven A. Reed, who worked in-house at Cephalon for three years, oversaw all of the biopharmaceutical company's litigation, including three Hatch-Waxman patent trials in a one-year period.

"Steve brings a wealth of commercial litigation experience, with an emphasis on high-profile securities, corporate governance and antitrust litigation, in a broad range of industries, including life sciences, energy, technology, transportation and financial services," Morgan Lewis litigation practice group leader Jami McKeon said.

Reed said he has worked with Morgan Lewis attorneys in his more than two decades in practice, and he got to work even more closely with them while at Cephalon, which had a long-standing relationship with the firm.

After Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. announced its acquisition of Cephalon in May, Reed began to think about where he might make his next move. He said he jumped on Morgan Lewis' offer because of its reputation and the quality of its attorneys.

Prior to taking the job at Cephalon, Reed, who calls himself "somewhat of a generalist," spent 20 years in private practice, handling litigation in several practice areas. He's handled complex commercial litigation, contract disputes, antitrust litigation, securities defense and some intellectual property cases, among many others.

He finds that the broad range of experience has helped him better advise clients on a number of issues.

"If you start with solid general skills, you can learn what you need to learn on a specific case," Reed said. "It helps to have a broader base of experience to provide advice."

Following his graduation from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1990, Reed worked for two years at Pepper Hamilton LLP. While there, partner John Harkins asked him if Reed wanted to join a new firm he was starting. He spent the next 18 years of his career at the newly formed Harkins Cunningham LLP.

"I really enjoyed private practice," Reed said. "I was with a great firm and I was not looking to leave, but then Cephalon recruited me, and it was an attractive opportunity."

His time in-house was invaluable, he said, and should help him better understand his clients' needs now.

"When you're in house, you deal with a host of issues," Reed said. "You're embedded in the business and you come to understand in a very intimate way how the business is run. Having had that experience and walking in the shoes of an in-house counsel, I hope that it will be an advantage."

At Morgan Lewis, Reed expects to handle complex commercial litigation and antitrust matters, as well as some pharmaceutical industry work thanks to his experience at Cephalon.

In addition to his degree from Penn Law, Reed also holds a bachelors degree from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa.

--Editing by John Quinn.

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