

Beltway Moves: Kaplan Hecker, MoFo, Morgan Lewis

By **Alison Knezevich**

Law360 (April 19, 2024, 4:24 PM EDT) -- Two Washington attorneys made headlines as President Joe Biden said he was nominating them to serve on the D.C. Court of Appeals, in some of the big legal industry news in the nation's capital in recent weeks.

The president said he had picked Carmen G. Iguina González of Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP and Joseph R. Palmore of Morrison Foerster LLP to serve on the district's highest court.

Meanwhile, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP made a string of partner hires as it expands in D.C., Hogan Lovells added environmental and white collar attorneys, and Cooley LLP announced an addition to its new congressional investigations practice.

Firms also announced new D.C. hires in areas such as international trade, arbitration, antitrust and more.

Here are the latest legal hiring moves around the Beltway.

Biden Taps Kaplan Hecker, MoFo Attys For DC Appeals Court

Biden announced Wednesday he is nominating Carmen G. Iguina González of Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP and Joseph R. Palmore of Morrison Foerster LLP to serve on the D.C. Court of Appeals, the district's highest court.

Civil rights litigator Iguina González has been with Kaplan Hecker since 2022 and also directs the Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic. She is a former Jones Day associate and also worked for the American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants' Rights Project and for the ACLU of Southern California.

Palmore has been with Morrison Foerster for the past decade and co-chairs its appellate and Supreme Court practice. He is a former assistant at the U.S. Solicitor General's Office and deputy general counsel for the Federal Communications Commission, as well as a former Sidley Austin LLP associate.

Morgan Lewis Makes String of Hires

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP said it made four partner hires in D.C. in the past two weeks.

The firm announced April 10 that it hired R. Latane Montague, the former head of Hogan Lovells'

transportation practice, as co-leader of its global automotive and mobility practice.

Then, on Monday, it said it added D.C.-based April Nelson Ross and Rachel Raphael from Crowell & Moring LLP to its consumer class action and product liability practice.

And Thursday brought news that the firm hired government contracts attorney Alex Hastings from Covington & Burling LLP.

Hogan Lovells Recruits 3M, Baker Botts Attys

Hogan Lovells said April 8 it hired Katherine "Kathy" Vanderhook-Gomez from 3M Co. as businesses face growing regulatory scrutiny and litigation over chemicals known as PFAS.

Vanderhook-Gomez is also a 15-year U.S. Department of Justice veteran who handled matters on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. At 3M, she advised on environmental compliance and enforcement, including the company's response to litigation over PFAS.

The next day, the firm announced that it hired Baker Botts LLP's Nadira Clarke, a former federal prosecutor who defends corporations and executives facing government investigations and represents energy industry clients, and Anne Carpenter, who advises clients about government investigations and enforcement actions, suspension and debarment proceedings, corporate internal investigations and corporate compliance counseling.

Along with San Francisco-based hire Lily Chinn, Clarke and Carpenter will guide clients through the aftermath of major accidents and represent them in criminal environmental and workplace safety investigations, the firm said.

Cooley Adds Ex-Capitol Hill Atty To Investigations Team

Cooley LLP announced Thursday it hired Heather Sawyer, formerly the Senate Judiciary Committee's chief counsel and staff director, as it builds its new congressional investigations practice.

Sawyer was most recently executive director of American Oversight, a nonpartisan government accountability organization.

The firm launched the practice in February under the leadership of Susanne Grooms, former chief counsel to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

New Additions at Wiley

Wiley Rein LLP announced April 8 that Diana Shaw, the former acting inspector general for the U.S. Department of State, joined the firm as a white collar partner.

Shaw will guide clients on matters such as handling government investigations and testifying before Congress.

Wiley additionally hired Greta M. Peisch, the former general counsel to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, in its international trade practice. Peisch was the primary legal adviser to the agency for the past three years, helping to advise members on enforcement and trade agreement implementation

and negotiation.

Baker Botts, Cozen Trio Launch Defense Firm

Former Baker Botts LLP attorneys Alex Bourelly and Andrew George and longtime Cozen O'Connor attorney Rebecca Brodey have founded a new litigation boutique.

Bourelly George + Brodey PLLC will focus on individual clients, they told Law360.

Bourelly was with Baker Botts for more than two decades and led its white collar practice for several years before serving as its litigation head in D.C.

George had practiced with Baker Botts for 15 years, and Brodey spent 14 years at Cozen.

White House Atty Sauber Leaving For Private Practice

Richard Sauber, Biden's special counsel, is set to leave in May after two years in the White House post, administration officials confirmed to Law360 Pulse on April 10.

Sauber has led the White House's legal efforts to defend Biden in special counsel Robert Hur's investigation into the president's handling of classified documents. He is expected to leave in early May to return to private practice.

Sauber previously was the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' general counsel.

He is a former partner at D.C. boutique firm Robbins Russell Englert Orseck & Untereiner LLP, which later merged with Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP. He also chaired the Washington litigation department at Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP and served as a member of the firm's management committee.

The White House said he will be succeeded by his deputy, Rachel Cotton, a former Zuckerman Spaeder LLP partner.

Paul Hastings Raids White & Case For 2 More DC Attys

International arbitration attorneys Jonathan Ulrich and Alejandro Martinez de Hoz have joined Paul Hastings LLP from White & Case LLP.

Their moves came a month after Jonathan C. Hamilton made the same jump to help co-chair Paul Hasting's international arbitration practice.

Ulrich had been with White & Case for almost two decades, and Martinez de Hoz spent more than eight years there.

Hughes Hubbard Hires Int'l Arbitration Co-Chair From A&O

Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP said April 8 that it brought on former Allen & Overy LLP partner Gaela Gehring Flores to co-chair its international arbitration practice.

She has extensive experience in Latin America and has acted as counsel in more than 60 international disputes.

Gehring Flores joined Allen & Overy in 2021 and was previously a partner at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP for more than 14 years.

Honigman Hires Polsinelli Antitrust Pro As Practice Co-Leader

Honigman LLP announced April 8 it hired Herb Allen, a 10-year veteran of Polsinelli PC, to help co-lead its antitrust and trade regulation practice.

Allen focuses on clients in heavily scrutinized industries, such as private equity, technology and healthcare. He will work on a range of antitrust and other matters that are reviewed by agencies such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the DOJ.

Other Notable Moves

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP said Monday it hired structured funds product partner Adam Z. Risell from Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP.

Holland & Knight LLP announced April 11 that Janene Jackson will serve as executive partner of its D.C. office, overseeing day-to-day management there.

Venable LLP said April 10 it hired Adam Dobell as director of global security from the Department of Home Affairs at the Embassy of Australia.

Crowell & Moring LLP said April 9 it hired Stephen Holland, former senior health counsel on the U.S. House Committee on Energy & Commerce, in its government affairs group.

Ropes & Gray LLP said April 9 it hired Amy Kossak from the DOJ's Civil Division for its government enforcement team.

Merchant & Gould announced April 9 it has expanded its intellectual property services in D.C., with the addition of a five-person team of attorneys who moved their practices from Oblon McClelland Maier & Neustadt LLP: Daniel J. Pereira, John S. Kern, Eric W. Schweibenz and Donald R. McPhail, who have joined as partners, and Alexander B. Englehart.

Thompson Coburn LLP announced April 8 it hired four higher education attorneys from Maynard Nexsen PC, including D.C.-based Roger Swartzwelder.

Becker & Poliakoff PC said April 8 it hired Neri Martinez, the former chief of staff for Sen. Tim Scott, R-South Carolina, as a senior government relations consultant.

The National Association of Broadcasters said April 4 it hired Nandu Machiraju, a former Baker McKenzie partner and Federal Trade Commission attorney, to serve as its new deputy general counsel.

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