

Beltway Moves: Norton Rose, Paul Hastings, IRS

By **Alison Knezevich**

Law360 (March 8, 2024, 4:04 PM EST) -- Antitrust and the life sciences were areas of focus in the Washington, D.C., legal market in recent weeks, with team leadership hires made by firms such as Norton Rose Fulbright, Paul Hastings LLP and Crowell & Moring International LLC.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate confirmed the first woman to be chief counsel at the Internal Revenue Service, and a former top aide to Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., headed to Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies.

Here are the latest legal hiring developments in the nation's capital.

Winston & Strawn Atty Returns to Norton Rose as Antitrust Lead

Norton Rose Fulbright announced Tuesday that Neely Agin rejoined the firm to serve as the U.S. head of its antitrust practice.

Agin had been with Winston & Strawn LLP for six years and previously was with Norton Rose for more than two decades.

She guides companies through merger review and clearance processes, and other antitrust investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission, and has extensive experience working on an array of antitrust issues in the retail, energy and healthcare sectors.

Paul Hastings Adds FDA Practice Chair From King & Spalding

Paul Hastings LLP announced Feb. 26 it brought on Eva Temkin from King & Spalding LLP to chair its new U.S. Food and Drug Administration practice.

Temkin, who had been with King & Spalding for three years, held a variety of roles at the FDA from 2017 to 2021.

She led policy development at the agency relating to biological products as director of policy for the Office of Therapeutic Biologics and Biosimilars. She also served as associate chief counsel at the FDA's Office of Chief Counsel.

Paul Hastings Hires 6-Partner IP Team from Allen & Overy

Paul Hastings LLP also hired a litigation team from Allen & Overy LLP to boost the firm's intellectual property practice, including some based in D.C., the firm said Monday.

The Washington lawyers are Shamita Etienne-Cummings and James Gagen. A firm spokesperson said an additional D.C.-based attorney will be named once they've officially left Allen & Overy.

Also joining the firm were Lisa Nguyen and Eric Lancaster in Palo Alto, California, and Grace Wang in New York.

The group works across Big Tech and related industries, including artificial intelligence, e-commerce, software and hardware systems, internet, telecommunications, mobile devices, consumer electronics, and payment systems.

Senate Confirms First Woman To Top IRS Attorney Post

The U.S. Senate on Feb. 29 confirmed Marjorie Rollinson to be chief counsel at the Internal Revenue Service, making her the first woman to be confirmed for the role.

President Joe Biden nominated Rollinson for the post in June, and the Senate approved her confirmation by a vote of 56-41.

Rollinson most recently worked as the deputy director of the national tax department at EY, formerly known as Ernst & Young. She previously worked for the IRS from 2013 until 2019, and was named associate chief counsel international in 2016.

She was sworn into her new position Wednesday. As part of her chief counsel role, she will also serve as assistant general counsel at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The IRS chief counsel's office has about 2,600 employees.

Cozen O'Connor Adds Welch Aide To Gov't Affairs Team

Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies said Monday it hired Meagan Foster, who was a top aide to Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., in its federal government affairs team.

Foster launched her federal government career 15 years ago, working as a legislative assistant in the office of then-Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska. Her other experience includes working for Sen. Tom Udall, D-N.M., and for the NTCA – Rural Broadband Association and the U.S. Telecom Association.

She joined Welch's office in 2020, when he was in the U.S. House of Representatives. She served as his legislative director and deputy chief of staff.

Sidley Adds Wiley Leaders

Sidley Austin LLP said Tuesday it brought on litigation partners Gregory Williams and Richard Smith from Wiley Rein LLP.

Williams will serve as a co-leader of Sidley's global arbitration, trade and advocacy practice. He was previously head of the global disputes practice at Wiley, while Smith had been co-chair of Wiley's commercial litigation group.

Blank Rome Adds White Collar Team From Akerman

Blank Rome LLP on Feb. 26 announced the addition of a team from Akerman LLP to its white collar defense and investigations group, most of them based in D.C.

Joining in the district were Kathleen H. Shannon, Jason F. Emert and Ekinsu Çebi Elkei. New York-based Bradley "Brad" Henry joined as vice chair of the white collar defense and investigations group.

The team advises both U.S. and international clients on criminal defense and government investigations, internal investigations, and compliance, the firm said.

Crowell & Moring Int'l Names Global Life Sciences Head

Crowell & Moring International LLC, the global government relations, public policy and public affairs affiliate of Crowell & Moring LLP, said Tuesday it hired Joseph Damond as the new chair of its global life sciences group.

He joined from Edelman Global Advisory, where he was the global chair of health policy.

His previous experience includes working as deputy vice president for international affairs for the trade group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and as vice president of international government relations for Pfizer.

Other Notable Moves

Dentons said Monday it brought on Hogan Lovells partner Kim Pagotto for its real estate practice.

Baker Botts LLP said Monday it added Matthew Gurch from Stoel Rives LLP in the energy, projects and transactions section of its global projects department.

Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP said March 1 it hired Stephen Forster, who was an in-house attorney for drugmaker Otsuka Pharmaceutical, to advise life sciences companies on drug pricing and commercial contracting matters.

Spencer Fane LLP said Feb. 28 it entered the D.C. market and hired three McKool Smith intellectual property attorneys who specialize in high-stakes patent and trade secrets disputes: Blair Jacobs, Christina Ondrick and John Holley.

WilmerHale said Feb. 28 it brought on Neena Shenai, who helped build the global trade legal department at healthcare technology company Medtronic, in the firm's international trade, investment and market access practice group.

White & Case LLP announced Feb. 27 that Rachel Rodman, a former counsel with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, joined the firm's white collar team from Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP, where she led the firm's fintech enforcement and litigation practice.

Miller & Chevalier Chtd. said Feb. 26 it hired a government contracts attorney Ashley Powers, who most

recently worked as a senior counsel in the contract law division of the CIA's Office of the General Counsel.

Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP said Feb. 26 it hired Beau Rothschild as a government affairs principal from Chamber Hill Strategies.

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