

Revolving-Door Roundup: Krieger Kim & Lewin, Arent Fox

By Jody Godoy

Law360, New York (November 7, 2017, 6:05 PM EST) -- Three federal prosecutors in Manhattan struck out on their own to create the new firm Krieger Kim & Lewin LLP in October, while other ex-government attorneys recently decamped to Arent Fox, Covington & Burling, Venable and others.

Robert Capers

Switching over to private practice is an adjustment, especially after a two-decade career in the government. Former Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Robert Capers recently told Law360 he considered the ease of the transition when he took a job co-leading the white collar practice at Arent Fox LLP.

Capers was at the helm for a busy two years when the office filed some of the highest-profile white collar cases in the country. On the corporate side, those included foreign bribery cases against Odebrecht, Och Ziff and JPMorgan. Brooklyn prosecutors also went after individuals tied to corruption in world soccer, former executives at hedge fund Platinum Partners, and ex-pharma executive Martin Shkreli, who was convicted in August.

Before that, Capers had held various leadership roles in the U.S. Attorney's Office. But it was a former colleague from his days in the Manhattan District Attorney's office, now an Arent Fox partner, that drew him to the firm.



Robert Capers

Paul Krieger, Edward Kim and Nicholas Lewin



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Three supervisors at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York made a rarer move in October, leaving together to form Krieger Kim & Lewin.

Paul Krieger previously led the office's complex fraud and cybercrime unit and prosecuted corruption among lawmakers in New York and New Jersey. Krieger told Law360 that he and his new partners Edward Kim and Nicholas Lewin will run a lean operation representing individuals and organizations in government matters and complex litigation.

"Our hope is to grow, but we want to grow smart. We are not going to grow beyond our means and our ability to be competitive," Krieger said.

While there are other small firms headed by former government attorneys, Krieger said the trio did their homework and saw room for another — particularly one led by three recent SDNY alumni with overlapping skill sets.

Kim is another former complex fraud and cybercrime chief who oversaw the fraud case against executives at KIT Digital Inc. and the cybercrime and fraud prosecution of Chinese nationals who allegedly traded on information stolen from hacked law firms, among other matters. Lewin served as special counsel to FBI Directors Robert Mueller and Jim Comey and later made his name prosecuting al-Qaeda leaders.

Between the three of them, the Ivy League-educated partners bring past experience from Covington & Burling LLP, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP and Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP.

Rebecca Monck Ricigliano

The top deputy to New Jersey's attorney general who also boasts federal prosecutor experience made for Crowell & Moring LLP, where she's now a partner.

Rebecca Monck Ricigliano recently told Law360 that the firm's culture was as much a draw as its capabilities in the white collar arena. Ricigliano joined the attorney general's office in 2014 where she got involved in crafting policies aimed at lowering opioid abuse. Before that, she was a federal prosecutor in Manhattan and practiced at a predecessor firm to Morvillo Abramowitz Grand Iason & Anello PC.

Ricigliano is not the only ex-government attorney to join Crowell & Moring this year. Others include a former head of the DOJ's health care strike force, the ex-chief of staff at the Department of Homeland Security and, most recently, a departed DOJ antitrust attorney.

Petal Walker

In Washington, D.C., WilmerHale welcomed back a former attorney who recently served as chief counsel to a commissioner at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Petal Walker had left the firm as a senior counsel two years ago in order to advise Commissioner Sharon Bowen. In that role, Walker advised Bowen on a range of issues relating to derivatives regulation, including cybersecurity and



Rebecca Monck
Ricigliano



Petal Walker

margin requirements. Walker also represented the CFTC in meetings with financial institutions and other regulators and managed the work of the Market Risk Advisory Committee. She rejoins her prior firm as a special counsel.

Bowen recently resigned from the commission after vacancies left only one Democratic commissioner and a Republican, and caused the agency's work to grind to a near-halt.

Barry Pershkov

A specialist in exchange traded funds took the leap from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission over to Chapman and Cutler LLP this month, landing a job as a partner in Washington, D.C.

Barry Pershkov was a part of the SEC's division of investment management, where he was involved in a subcommittee that studied sudden turbulence in the ETF market that occurred in August 2015.

Before joining the government, Pershkov spent a good chunk of his career at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP with a four-year stint in-house at ETF sponsor ProShares.



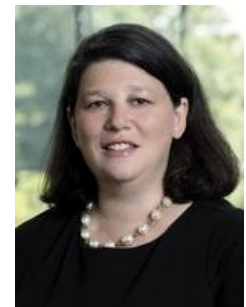
Barry Pershkov

Sarah Levine

Jones Day brought aboard a former government attorney with a combined 10 years of experience at the SEC, DOJ and the White House, installing her as a partner in Washington, D.C., focused on securities matters.

Sarah Levine spent around seven years at the SEC, where she litigated cases including one alleging former executives at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac downplayed the mortgage lenders' exposure to subprime loans. The agency eventually settled with the executives.

By the time the SEC entered the deals, Levine had moved on to become an associate White House counsel and later the head of the DOJ office that defends the federal government in civil litigation. Levine was previously an associate with Ropes & Gray LLP.



Sarah Levine

Thomas M. Newman

Over in San Francisco, Perkins Coie picked up tax expert Thomas Newman, who has 12 years under his belt as an assistant U.S. attorney in San Francisco and two years in the DOJ's tax division.

One of Newman's cases was against a real estate investor for failing to file tax returns. The defendant, Luke Brugnara, was later charged with defrauding an art dealer. The Ninth Circuit recently upheld Brugnara's seven year sentence.

Before his prosecutor days, Newman was with the Internal Revenue Service and represented the agency in tax court.



Thomas Newman

Wade Weems

Kobre & Kim hired a former DOJ national security trial attorney who the firm said would be headed to its Shanghai office, pending Chinese government approval.

Wade Weems got his start as an associate at Williams & Connolly LLP before embarking on a career with the State Department. Weems then spent four years on a special assignment prosecuting fraud connected to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

In his latest role at the DOJ, Weems prosecuted a fuel-theft scam run by U.S. soldiers and went after an official who took bribes from a contractor looking to win business in Iraq.



Wade Weems

Evan T. Shea

And last but not least, Venable LLP recently hired the chief of the money laundering section for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Maryland.

Evan Shea worked alongside then-U.S. Attorney Rod Rosentein, who is now the deputy attorney general. Shea's cases included multimillion-dollar embezzlement schemes and tax fraud.

Before becoming a prosecutor in 2012, Shea had practiced with King & Spalding LLP.



Evan Shea

--Editing by Philip Shea.