

Mayer Brown Nabs Dickinson Wright White Collar Atty

By **Abigail Rubenstein**

Law360, New York (October 11, 2010) -- Mayer Brown LLP has snagged former federal prosecutor and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act expert Michael Volkov from Dickinson Wright PLLC to boost its white collar defense practice.

Volkov joined Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C. as a partner Oct. 5, just two years after leaving the government to join Dickinson Wright.

"Mayer Brown is probably one of the most important global law firms with offices all across the world, and that is absolutely critical now in the White Collar world. Now that FCPA prosecutions, compliance and investigations have become so important, having global capabilities is even more important for serving clients caught in the cross-hairs of the problem," Volkov told Law360 Monday.

So Volkov, who estimates that he spends about half of his time counseling clients on FCPA matters, determined that the firm was "a great fit."

In addition to FCPA issues, Volkov concentrates his practice on white collar defense, including helping clients who are facing criminal antitrust enforcement, internal investigations and government relations.

And while many defense attorneys may have passed through a prosecutor's office for a brief stint, Volkov spent 17 years as a federal prosecutor in the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

He also has experience on Capitol Hill, having served as chief crime and terrorism counsel for the Senate Judiciary Committee and chief crime, terrorism and homeland security counsel for the House Judiciary Committee.

Volkov has also worked as a deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legislative Affairs of the US Department of Justice and a trial attorney in the DOJ's Antitrust Division.

“One thing about my practice is that it's really a problem solving type of approach because I've had a lot of exp in D.C., and I know how to get things done in D.C.,” Volkov said.

“If you understand how agencies and enforcers and parts of the government work, you can figure out more readily what they're looking for, what they need, and what they want from your client, and then you can figure solutions that are win-win for both sides as opposed to digging in your heels,” Volkov explained.

Volkov noted that he has enjoyed the move to private practice more than he expected to because he finds helping clients address their problems satisfying — even when the clients get themselves into sticky situations like the client caught on videotape by an FCPA sting operation stating “I love bribery.”

“A solution can come about if you work in creative way and be realistic,” Volkov said.

Mark W. Ryan, partner-in-charge of Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C. office said in a statement: “Michael has an outstanding track record of bringing unique problem-solving approaches to complex client problems.”

“His impressive blend of skills, along with his relationships with key administration officials, policymakers on Capitol Hill, and especially with leading officials in the US Department of Justice, will benefit our clients around the world,” Ryan said.