

Mayer Brown Nabs Solvay Pharma GC

By **Erin Marie Daly**

Law360, New York (October 11, 2010) -- Mayer Brown LLP has grown its litigation team in Washington with the addition of former Solvay Pharmaceuticals Senior Vice President and general counsel Shannon Thyme Klinger, who will concentrate on antitrust and the defense of complex litigation matters.

Klinger, who joined Mayer Brown as a partner on Oct. 4, is set to focus her practice on providing legal, regulatory and strategic business counsel to pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies and health care providers, the firm said Wednesday.

Klinger said Monday that she decided to go with Mayer Brown due to the firm's reputation as the legal provider of choice for the pharmaceutical industry.

"I really feel this is a tremendous opportunity," she said. "Mayer Brown's experience in key areas in the pharmaceutical industry and its global platform gives me a great chance to succeed from a legal perspective."

Klinger has an extensive work history in the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to heading to Mayer Brown, she oversaw all legal matters in the U.S., Canada and Mexico in her role as senior vice president and general counsel at Solvay Pharmaceuticals, including product acquisition and licensing, U.S. Food and Drug Administration legal-regulatory strategy, litigation, risk management and corporate governance.

Before her stint at Solvay, Klinger acted as vice president of marketing compliance and associate counsel at Barr Pharmaceuticals, where she provided legal advice related to all facets of innovator drug development, including product

licensing and development, clinical trial execution, labeling negotiations, advertising and promotion, and the defense of product liability and other litigation.

She also led the development and implementation of a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance program in more than 25 countries, including Croatia, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Klinger's move to Mayer Brown marks her return to the law firm world. She formerly practiced at Alston & Bird LLP, where she concentrated on antitrust and white collar criminal defense, with a particular emphasis on health care fraud and abuse matters and the defense of claims brought pursuant to the Civil False Claims Act.

She said she decided to head back to private practice given the bevy of legal issues in light of the current health care reform.

"I feel like I can be a valuable asset to help health care companies work through these issues," she said.

Klinger holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Shannon's wealth of knowledge in the global health care and pharmaceutical industries will help us accelerate our momentum in these sectors," said Mark W. Ryan, partner-in-charge of Mayer Brown's D.C. office. "In addition, her experience in the antitrust and white collar areas will be a significant asset to the firm and our clients."

Mayer Brown has more than 1,600 lawyers in 21 offices worldwide, with approximately 875 practitioners in the Americas, 425 in the European Union and 300 in Asia.