

Mayer Brown Nabs Ex-Venable Investment Expert

By **Kaitlin Ugolik**

Law360, New York (December 13, 2011, 2:34 PM ET) -- Mayer Brown LLP has hired former Bear Stearns & Co. corporate counsel and Venable LLP partner Rory M. Cohen for its growing New York corporate and securities practice, the firm announced Dec. 7.

Cohen, who focuses on advising private investment funds in formation, broker-dealer transactions and compliance issues, joined Mayer Brown as a partner Dec. 5, the firm said, with the hope of leveraging his experience with the firm's global platform.

"The ability to augment my practice with the breadth and depth of Mayer Brown's industry leading experts will undoubtedly benefit clients," he said.

Cohen, who earned his law degree from Boston University and a degree in business administration from the University of Michigan, began his career doing asset management and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement work at Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, the predecessor to K&L Gates LLP.

In 1999 he went to work as an investment analyst, spending time as associate general counsel at Prudential Securities Inc., where he advised on development and implementation of advisory and wrap fee programs and compliance and disclosure issues.

Cohen then moved to Bear Stearns & Co., where he served as managing director. He counseled several of the investment bank's subsidiaries on asset management, fund access, third-party seeding platforms and private fund due diligence and distribution.

"My time in-house and previously as an investment analyst have afforded me opportunities to experience firsthand real-world legal, operational and other challenges faced by investment managers and other financial service firms and to timely design practical solutions around them," he said.

During his time at Venable, Cohen assisted clients in forming private funds and investment management companies as well as advised seed funding and revenue sharing arrangements.

"Rory brings to Mayer Brown almost 20 years of experience in working with investment managers and private investment funds, particularly in hedge fund formation, distribution and regulatory compliance," New York partner Phil Brandes, a co-leader of Mayer Brown's global corporate & securities practice, said in a statement. "[He] will further broaden our ability to serve the needs of investment managers and private investment fund clients."

Mayer Brown, which has offices in the Americas, Asia and Europe advising some of the world's largest companies in corporate and securities deals and litigation, has recently expanded several of its offices worldwide.

In October, the firm added white collar defense and compliance expert Kelly B. Kramer to its Washington practice and former Simmons & Simmons LLP aviation finance consultant Stuart Miller to its Hong Kong office.

--Editing by Eydie Cubarrubia.

All Content © 2003-2011, Portfolio Media, Inc.