

Mayer Brown Draws Proskauer Compensation Pro To Chicago

By **Django Gold**

Law360, New York (October 18, 2012, 2:14 PM ET) -- Mayer Brown LLP announced Monday that it has strengthened its employment capabilities through the recruitment of a seasoned Proskauer Rose LLP benefits and compensation expert to the firm's Chicago office.

James C. Williams, who recently served as a partner in Proskauer's employee benefits, executive compensation and Employee Retirement Income Security Act litigation and tax practices in that firm's Windy City office, has joined Mayer Brown as a partner in its employment and benefits group, where he will bring to bear his years of experience guiding clients through the complex pay and benefits challenges facing employers.

Maureen Gorman, a Mayer Brown partner who co-leads the firm's global employment and benefits group, heralded Williams' arrival.

"Jim brings to Mayer Brown a proven 30-year track record of achievement in executive compensation and benefits matters, including those related to transactions," Gorman said. "His experience and capabilities will further enhance our ability to assist our global corporate clients with complex benefits-related issues."

In his lengthy career, Williams has developed a concentrated expertise on matters related to both compensation and benefits. The attorney counsels clients across a range of sectors, including public and private companies, universities, tax-exempt organizations, government entities and companies that provide benefits services to other employers.

Williams routinely advises employers on designing and operating retirement plans, including pension plans, profit sharing plans, 401(k) plans and various others. He additionally helps employers review these plans for compliance before the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of Labor.

As a compensation counselor, Williams assists his clients in developing equity compensation arrangements, including stock options and related pay plans. In this capacity, he has configured complex global equity arrangements for U.S. multinationals, and he also assists foreign multinational corporations in extending their equity pay plans to executives in the U.S.

Williams also represents clients in facing the benefits challenges posed by mergers and acquisitions activity, including in negotiations, post-transaction benefits integration and the conducting of due diligence. In this capacity, Williams also advises clients on tax issues arising from “golden parachute” plans.

In speaking of his new employer, Williams expressed enthusiasm at what prospects lay ahead.

“The breadth and depth of Mayer Brown’s capabilities and resources and the tremendous abilities and experience of its lawyers, both in Chicago and globally, combine to make this a tremendously exciting opportunity for me,” he said.

Williams earned his law degree from the University of Connecticut. He received his undergraduate diploma from Georgetown University.

--Editing by Rebecca Flanagan.

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