

## Mayer Brown Picks Up US Prosecutor In Chicago

By **Megan Stride**

*Law360, Chicago (January 09, 2013, 7:15 PM ET)* -- Mayer Brown LLP has brought Chicago federal prosecutor Greg Deis back into its fold, adding the public corruption specialist as a partner in its litigation and dispute resolution practice and its white collar defense and compliance group, the firm said Wednesday.

Deis worked as an associate at Mayer Brown for four years before jumping in 2007 to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, where he prosecuted law enforcement officers and public officials on bribery and other charges.

Deis told Law360 that moving back to Mayer Brown would allow him to litigate sophisticated cases in both the civil and criminal spheres, a professional challenge he said he was eager to take on at the firm where he worked several years earlier.

"I knew the amazing talent of the lawyers here," Deis said, describing the firm's litigation practice as one of the top groups in the country.

The former prosecutor added that his private practice would focus on counseling clients in internal investigations and taking on white collar defense work, particularly in the context of grand jury investigations and enforcement proceedings.

Deis also said he planned to tackle complex commercial litigation, and added that he hoped to help Mayer Brown continue to grow its qui tam False Claims Act litigation services and to represent clients involved in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act matters, which are generally international in scope.

"The fact that the firm has a global footprint makes a lot of sense for someone who wants to do white collar work as I intend to do," Deis said of Mayer Brown's worldwide reach.

At the U.S. Attorney's Office, Deis pursued public corruption cases involving allegations of fraud, extortion, bribery and tax violations.

He was part of the trial team that handled the case against William Cellini, known as a political insider in Illinois who was charged with taking part in an alleged plot to extort campaign contributions for former Ill. Gov. Rod Blagojevich. Cellini was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit extortion and one count of aiding and abetting the solicitation of a bribe in November 2011.

Outside the public corruption sphere, Deis also prosecuted alleged associates of the Sinaloa and Los Zetas drug cartels. Those probes involved the seizure of roughly \$20 million and \$12 million in criminal proceeds, respectively, Mayer Brown said.

Deis has tried more than a dozen criminal and civil cases to verdict, according to his new firm.

"Greg has an excellent record of accomplishment as a prosecutor and in private practice," Andrew Marovitz, a co-leader of Mayer Brown's global litigation and dispute resolution practice, said in the firm's announcement.

"His proven skills in all aspects of the litigation process will benefit our clients and add depth to our outstanding litigation team in Chicago, particularly in the white collar arena," Marovitz added.

Deis' move to the world of private practice follows several other high-profile departures from the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago over the past year.

Most notably, former U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald revealed in May that he was stepping down from his post after more than ten years in office. Fitzgerald, who was the longest-serving U.S. attorney in Chicago and oversaw the criminal prosecutions of former Illinois governors George Ryan and Rod Blagojevich, joined Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP in October.

In June, news broke that former Assistant U.S. Attorney Reid Schar, who also worked on the Blagojevich corruption case, was leaving the office to jump to Jenner & Block LLP's Chicago outpost.

And Steptoe & Johnson LLP said in July that it had expanded its white collar practice into Chicago with the addition of Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Niewoehner, another prosecutor on the Blagojevich case.

The top federal prosecutor spot in Chicago is currently held by Gary S. Shapiro, who is serving as Acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois until a permanent appointment is made.

--Additional reporting by Brian Mahoney and Max Stendahl. Editing by Eydie Cubarrubia.