

Fla. Prosecutor Joins Mayer Brown's White Collar Group In DC

By **Cara Salvatore**

Law360, New York (September 13, 2013, 5:53 PM ET) -- A former managing prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida has moved to Mayer Brown LLP, joining the firm's litigation and white collar practices in Washington, D.C., as a partner, the firm confirmed on Friday.

Marcus Christian, a former executive assistant U.S. Attorney with extensive public-sector experience who started at the firm Sept. 9, said he decided to move to Mayer Brown because of its strength in the litigation and white collar areas.

"It's something I had thought about for a while," Christian said on Friday. What drew him was that "litigation's one of the largest departments in the firm" and "being part of a global firm with great capability and dealing with some of the complex issues" that Mayer Brown handles.

In his role at the U.S. attorney's office, Christian was responsible for the district's criminal, civil, appellate and asset forfeiture divisions.

"A lot of people don't know this, but the Southern District of Florida is No. 1 in terms of per-capita FTC complaints for identity theft," Christian said. "In terms of prosecutions for financial fraud and health care fraud, it's No. 1 in the country."

The district is also a leader in cases taken to trial, according to Christian.

"The Southern District of Florida's tried more federal criminal cases over the past decade than any other district," he said. "Of course prosecutors want to reach plea agreements if possible, but that's kind of part of the culture: making sure that AUSAs are ready, willing and able to go to trial if necessary."

Michael Lackey, partner in charge of Mayer Brown's Washington office, said he was excited about his new hire.

"The insights Marcus gained during his tenure at the U.S. attorney's office will enable him to help clients successfully navigate the ever-changing white collar defense and compliance space," Lackey said. "Among other strengths, his extensive False Claims Act experience will complement our existing capabilities in this area of the law."

With the jump to Washington and Mayer Brown, Christian is particularly enthusiastic about the chance to apply the eye of a prosecutor to corporate detective work.

“Internal investigations is one of the [big] areas,” Christian said. “Our corporate clients have problems, or issues arise, and they need a seasoned investigator to come in and figure out where the issue lies.”

Before joining the U.S. attorney's office, Christian served as the chief of staff to former U.S. Rep. Peter Deutsch, D-Fla.

His public-sector experience also includes time at Take Stock In Children Inc., a Florida nonprofit that provides education scholarships to deserving low-income students, where he started as chief operating officer and legal counsel and eventually became president. The nonprofit's mission is to make a college education available to needy students.

“[TSIC] was a group that took low-income children and said, if you stay out of trouble and get good grades, you can go to college,” Christian said. “In that way, I consider the organization to have been, in many ways, helping to prevent crime by helping people find a good path in life.”

--Editing by Chris Yates.

All Content © 2003-2013, Portfolio Media, Inc.