

Mayer Brown Adds Ex-SEC Enforcement Pro In DC

By **Evan Weinberger**

Law360, New York (March 18, 2014, 5:25 PM ET) -- Mayer Brown LLP on Tuesday announced that it has reeled in Matthew Rossi, a former top U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement attorney, as its latest hire in its already strong securities litigation and enforcement group.

Rossi, whose first day at Mayer Brown was Tuesday, will work out of the firm's Washington office, where he will bring his extensive experience in litigating cases involving asset managers and other investment advisers to the firm.

"Matt is a highly regarded securities lawyer and litigator with a distinguished career in both government and private practice, and we are thrilled to have him join Mayer Brown," said Daniel Masur, partner-in-charge of Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C., office.

Rossi spent five years at the SEC, beginning as a senior counsel to the Asset Management Unit in the securities regulator's Enforcement Division before rising to the role of assistant chief litigation counsel. The Asset Management Unit focuses on misconduct by investment advisers, private funds and registered investment companies.

Upon his promotion, Rossi said that while his portfolio moved beyond asset managers and other investment advisers, he continued to focus on those areas.

And that focus will continue at Mayer Brown, Rossi said.

"Mayer Brown has a tremendous practice representing large corporations, financial services clients and a securities enforcement practice that is robust, impressive and I very much want to be a part of that," he said in a telephone interview.

Rossi led the SEC's efforts in several high-profile enforcement actions against large investment advisers and related entities, with a particular focus on fraud and compliance matters.

Among the cases Rossi, 49, spearheaded was a 2012, \$3.1 million settlement with Quantek Asset Management LLC over allegations that the Miami-based hedge fund misled investors.

Rossi also was part of the SEC teams that brought cases against former Freddie Mac CEO Richard Syron and other top officials at the bailed-out mortgage giant as well as a Baton Rouge, La.-based investment adviser named Walter Morales and his firm, Commonwealth Advisers Inc.

Both of those cases are still pending.

The newly minted Mayer Brown partner also investigated insider trading, market manipulation and Regulation SHO violations, false investment adviser fee disclosures and unsuitable investment recommendations, and helped revise the SEC's examination procedures for asset managers.

That experience will be invaluable to Mayer Brown, said Richard Rosenfeld, a co-leader of Mayer Brown's U.S. securities litigation and enforcement group.

"His knowledge of the ever-changing regulatory landscape, especially pertaining to [the Dodd-Frank Act], will be of tremendous value to existing and potential clients facing investigations and enforcement action by regulators," Rosenfeld said.

Before joining the SEC, Rossi was a litigation partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.

Rossi earned his law degree from Cornell Law School in 1994, as well as a master's degree in international relations from the University of Chicago in 1990. He is a graduate of Le Moyne College.

--Editing by Chris Yates.