

Mayer Brown Snags Pensions Pro From Dentons

By **Cara Mannion**

Law360, New York (December 5, 2016, 5:05 PM EST) --Pensions veteran and former Dentons partner Jay Doraisamy has joined Mayer Brown LLP's London office, bulking up the firm's pension practice with her 22 years of experience working on large pension arrangements in a variety of sectors, from energy to banking.

Mayer Brown scooped up the seasoned attorney as the newest addition to its seven-partner pensions team, according to a statement Thursday. Doraisamy's resume covers a wide variety of pensions advisory work, including funding, scheme closures and amendments, benefit redesign projects and defined benefit/contribution schemes, the firm said.



Jay Doraisamy

A variety of reasons fueled Doraisamy's move, including Mayer Brown's strong track record of working with some of the largest pension schemes in the U.K., such as the BT Pension Scheme, she told Law360 in an email Monday. She said she was also drawn to the pensions group's expertise drawn from the firm's other practice areas.

"Mayer Brown ticks all these boxes and more," she said.

Doraisamy's pensions work spans across a slew of industries, including energy, banking, transportation, chemicals, manufacturing and water, according to the firm. She said each sector's pensions requirements can vary because there are different laws applicable to each area, which in turn affect her application of pensions laws.

Philippa James, head of the London pensions practice at Mayer Brown, told Law360 in an email Monday that Doraisamy's experiences mesh well with the group's current client portfolio, which particularly has a footprint in the energy and financial services sectors. The new hire's track record of dealing with large and complex matters will come in handy, she said.

"Jay's particular experience of large schemes will be a huge plus for the Mayer Brown pensions team in delivering solutions to the most complex challenges faced by schemes and achieving excellent client service delivery," she said.

One example of such experience is Doraisamy's work advising a trustee about Sea Containers Ltd.'s pension issues, which resulted in a U.K. pensions regulator's first-ever imposed financial support direction in 2007.

The Bermuda-registered container leasing company, which set up a service company in the U.K., filed for bankruptcy in 2006. Trustees of two pensions schemes raised concerns to the U.K. Pensions Regulator's Determinations Panel about the bankrupt company's financial support of the two schemes. The regulator ultimately found Sea Containers benefited from the U.K. service company and imposed its first financial support direction, which orders a company to put in place financial support, like a parent company guarantee, for a benefit pension scheme.

Doraisamy called this case a defining moment in her professional life.

She began her legal career at Lovells, now known as Hogan Lovells, where she completed her training contract and qualified in 1992. In 1994, she then moved as partner to Hammonds LLP, which was acquired in 2011 by Squire Patton Boggs LLP. In 2009, she joined Eversheds LLP, where she headed the London office's pension team. After two years with Eversheds, she switched over to Dentons and worked there for four years.

Doraisamy graduated from University College, London, in 1989 and completed the Law Society Finals at Chester College of Law in 1990.

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.