

## Ex-BHP Chief Compliance Officer Rejoins Mayer Brown

By John Petrick

*Law360 (November 9, 2018, 10:59 AM EST)* -- Mayer Brown LLP has welcomed back an alumna of the firm, adding her to its anti-corruption and compliance practice, fresh from her three-year stint as chief compliance officer for Australian-based mining, metals and petroleum company BHP.

Audrey Harris has rejoined the firm in Washington, D.C., as a partner and co-leader of its global anti-corruption and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act practice, Mayer Brown announced on Oct. 24.

From 2015 until recently, Harris was based in Melbourne for BHP, where she led a global ethics and compliance unit with a team of attorneys and other professionals spanning four continents.

In that role, Harris offered guidance in trade sanctions, anti-corruption, competition, export controls, ethics and investigations, state and commercial secrets and market conduct compliance.

During her first run as a partner at Mayer Brown, Harris advised individual clients and corporations on an assortment of enforcement matters. She also defended clients in U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement actions, FCPA investigations and anti-terrorism and money laundering cases.

"It's exciting to be home and to be back," Harris told Law360. "I knew there would be a time around now that would be the right time for me to take this experience back into private practice and help other companies achieve what BHP has and continues to."

In today's environment, Harris said, it doesn't take much to rock a company's world. "It can be a tweet. An email that has been released. Something like that can actually have global impact on a stock before any kind of enforcement action," she said.

"So it's about dealing not only with enforcement risks, but to see risks more holistically. To partner with your client right now through the minefield is a real market differentiator, in terms of counsel not only helping the company protect their interests, but really growing them and growing the business," Harris said.

Larry Urgenson, co-leader of Mayer Brown's anti-corruption and FCPA practice, said Harris' sophisticated



Audrey Harris

understanding of global corporate compliance and enforcement issues will be a powerful asset.

"In this increasingly aggressive enforcement environment, the need for companies to operate globally in proactively assessing corruption risks has never been greater," he said in a statement.

"Audrey augments our risk-mitigation capabilities and continues the expansion of our global anti-corruption capabilities across the U.S., U.K., Brazil, France and China."

Harris is a magna cum laude graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and a former associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.