

Mayer Brown Snags White Collar Duo From Irell & Manella

By Lauren Berg

Law360 (September 17, 2019, 9:28 PM EDT) -- Mayer Brown LLP said Tuesday it had hired two former Irell & Manella LLP trial attorneys, both veteran litigators with experience prosecuting and defending white collar criminal cases and securities matters, as partners in its Los Angeles office.

Former federal prosecutor Jason Linder will split his time between Mayer Brown's Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., offices, and leading securities litigator Glenn Vanzura will be headquartered in LA, the firm said. At Irell & Manella, Linder was the head of the global investigations and anti-corruption practice, and Vanzura focused on complex securities matters.

Linder's interest in the law grew from a desire to do public service, he told Law360 in a phone interview Tuesday, so after he received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, he earned his law degree at Harvard Law School.

After starting his career in private practice, Linder worked as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida in Miami before joining the U.S. Department of Justice's Fraud Section. He most recently served as a senior trial attorney, leading the DOJ's multijurisdictional Foreign Corrupt Practices Act unit in Washington, D.C, where he led some of the agency's most complex international white collar criminal investigations, including securities fraud violations.

Last November, Linder represented the government when the Third Circuit rejected arguments that the ultimate economic benefit of two Russian energy projects advanced through bribes from Philadelphia-area businessman Dmitrij Harder should have been considered a mitigating factor. Harder was sentenced to a five-year prison term for violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

When Linder left the government to join Irell & Manella, it was to help executives and their companies facing those same types of investigations. He spent two years heading Irell's global investigations and anti-corruption practice, where he worked on white collar criminal defense, helping people and companies face some of the most existential threats that could unravel them.

"I want to do as much good as possible," Linder said. "On the criminal law side, you get to sleuth and put



Jason Linder



Glenn Vanzura

puzzles together, and you persuade people to tell you things they don't want to tell you.”

“And on this side, I get to help clients navigate government investigations and internal investigations,” he said.

At Mayer Brown — where he will advise corporations and executives on government and regulatory actions, internal investigations and corporate compliance matters in addition to white collar criminal defense — Linder said he is looking forward to the opportunity to help companies continue doing what they do best without being derailed.

Linder said he will have a much wider range of clients at Mayer Brown, but that he has experience in myriad industries, from oil and gas and manufacturing to transportation and life sciences.

“You name an industry and I’ve worked in it,” Linder said.

Vanzura had a front row seat to the law after he graduated with his bachelor’s degree in business economics from the University of California, Los Angeles and worked as a litigation consultant at Cornerstone Research, specializing in securities and antitrust matters.

It was while working on those complex securities cases that he decided he wanted to take the driver’s seat, which is what drove him to earn his law degree at Stanford Law School, he told Law360 in a telephone interview. Vanzura worked at Irell & Manella for 14 years and said his experience could be divided into three buckets: shareholder litigation; government investigation, litigation and criminal matters involving the DOJ and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission; and complex business litigation.

“I get to work with some of the most sophisticated clients in some of the most complex matters,” Vanzura said.

Vanzura represented former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. banker Matthew Korenberg when he was investigated for five years by the SEC for allegedly passing suspected insider trading tips. The SEC ended its investigation in July 2014.

Like Linder, Vanzura also has experience representing corporations, executives and employees in a wide range of industries, including real estate, casino gaming, biopharmaceutical, automotive and entertainment.

At Mayer Brown, where he will focus his practice on securities class action and derivative litigation, white collar criminal defense, internal corporate investigations, SEC investigations and enforcement actions, and complex business litigation, Vanzura said he is looking forward to joining a firm with a broad platform and diverse clients in diverse industries who are facing complex litigation.

“I’m excited to be part of a firm that is on a strong upward trajectory in the California market,” Vanzura said. “To be part of a growing and vibrant firm is exciting.”

Philip Recht, the partner-in-charge of Mayer Brown’s Los Angeles office, said in a statement Tuesday, “Jason’s extensive white collar and investigations experience in both the public and private sectors,

coupled with Glenn's class action defense and complex commercial litigation experience, build upon our local trial experience and add significant heft to our overall securities and investigations capabilities in California and beyond."

--Additional reporting by Matt Fair. Editing by Jill Coffey.

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