

Ex-National Economic Council Deputy Joins Mayer Brown

By Julia Arciga

Law360 (July 7, 2020, 8:55 PM EDT) -- Former White House economic adviser Andrew Olmem has returned to Mayer Brown LLP, joining the firm's public policy, regulatory and political law practice after taking part in the development and coordination of U.S. economic policies in various sectors.

"It's exciting to go back," Olmem told Law360, referring to his time as an associate at the firm almost two decades ago. "I had a great experience as an associate, and Mayer Brown helped me develop as a lawyer and gave me skills I have used my entire career."



Andrew Olmem

Olmem joined the National Economic Council in 2017, serving as its deputy director and as special assistant to the president for financial policy. During his time at the NEC, he coordinated the Trump administration's policies on financial services, housing finance and fintech.

He also played a key role in the recent passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act and led the White House's efforts to pass the Economic Growth, Regulatory Reform and Consumer Protection Act in May 2018.

"I'd been at the White House for three-and-a-half years. For any White House, that's a long time," he said. "Plus, the focus at this point in a presidential term shifts from policy-making to implementation, so it's a natural break."

He previously served on the Senate Banking Committee for more than seven years, serving as Republican chief counsel and deputy staff director. He was involved in the committee for the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act and deliberations on the Dodd-Frank Act.

"I've been very fortunate to have served in two senior positions in government in the Congress and the White House — not many people get to serve on both sides of Pennsylvania Ave.," Olmem said. "In each of those positions, I had significant policy-making responsibilities, especially with respect to financial services policy. As a result, I gained a lot of practical experience on how to address complex regulatory and legal issues and oversee crisis management."

In private practice, he has worked as a partner at Venable LLP and started his legal career practicing

corporate and securities law in Mayer Brown's New York office.

Raj De, the managing partner of Mayer Brown's Washington, D.C., office, said in a statement that Olmem's experience in the public and private sectors makes him well-positioned to service the firm's clients as a "pragmatic, extremely knowledgeable and effective counsel."

"His government experience is truly unparalleled," De said. "His return to Mayer Brown enhances the firm's strength in complex, high-profile and high-stakes Washington regulatory and enforcement matters."

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.