

## First Chair In El Chapo Trial Departs EDNY For Mayer Brown

By **Emilie Ruscoe**

*Law360 (July 14, 2020, 6:59 PM EDT)* -- An attorney who led the prosecution of drug kingpin Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán Loera is now a partner at Mayer Brown LLP, the firm has announced.

After over a decade in federal practice, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Gina Parlovecchio has landed in the private sector from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, where she served the past four years as chief of the office's International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section and was lead trial counsel in the high-profile El Chapo case, Mayer Brown said Monday.



Gina Parlovecchio

In her new role, Parlovecchio will be based out of the firm's New York offices and will support the firm's global practice groups that cover white collar defense and compliance, and regulatory and investigations.

Speaking by phone Tuesday, Parlovecchio, who started the job this week, told Law360 that all of her new colleagues have been "so helpful, and really accommodating, given the virtual environment that we're in." She joins Mayer Brown as its Big Apple team remains remote, though it's aiming for a soft reopening in August, she said.

Parlovecchio joined the Eastern District in January 2009. During her time there, she worked with the office's General Crime and Organized Crime and Racketeering sections, and was a co-chief of the Anti-Money Laundering Strike Force and a deputy chief of the International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section before she eventually led that section.

Richard Spehr, the leader of Mayer Brown's global litigation and dispute resolution practice, highlighted Parlovecchio's successes handling prominent and complex cases in a statement Monday.

"Gina's significant experience handling a wide range of white collar matters and stellar reputation, both within government and the private sector, make her a terrific addition to the firm's expanding regulatory, enforcement and investigations team," he said.

Parlovecchio said Tuesday that she's uniquely positioned to serve Mayer Brown clients facing the challenges posed by the pandemic and its effects on the economy alongside all of their other affairs.

Specifically, she cited her expertise in the areas of money laundering and the Bank Secrecy Act, paired with her experience as lead trial counsel coordinating, among many other things, "thousands of exhibits and dozens of witnesses and evidence collection from multiple jurisdictions" in the El Chapo matter.

She anticipates that global investigations, particularly those concerning financial institutions, will remain a priority for federal law enforcement and regulators and said that such investigations will continue to grow in size and complexity and importance going forward.

Prior to joining the government, Parlovechio was in private practice at the now-shuttered firm Heller Ehrman LLP and clerked for Fifth Circuit Judge Edith Brown Clement. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from Cornell Law School, where she was a member of Cornell Law Review.

She started in her new role on Monday.

--Editing by Michael Watanabe.