

Mayer Brown Adds Skadden M&A Vet In New York

By **Katryna Perera**

Law360 (August 11, 2021, 8:16 PM EDT) -- After a four-decade-long career at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, corporate and securities lawyer Martha McGarry has dodged the firm's mandatory retirement policy and joined Mayer Brown as a partner in New York.

McGarry, who has experience in mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and shareholder activism, will co-lead Mayer Brown's U.S. M&A practice.

According to a press release from Mayer Brown issued last week, McGarry has worked on deals and transactions with companies including American Express, Coca-Cola and the Hershey Company.

In a phone call with Law360, McGarry said she chose to join Mayer Brown because she faced an impending mandatory retirement date at Skadden, where she became the first female partner of the firm's M&A group in 1985.

McGarry said she sought a new firm that had many of the same attributes as Skadden, and she found it in Mayer Brown.

"The international footprint of offices of both Skadden and Mayer Brown is remarkably similar and the range, the breadth and the depth of regulatory practices which support corporate work in general and transactions is also very large and deep at Mayer Brown as it was at Skadden," McGarry said.

She also praised the high caliber of lawyers at Mayer Brown and the "warm and collegial atmosphere."

Mayer Brown is a global law firm with 1,700 lawyers across 26 offices -- including roughly 200 each in its New York, London and Hong Kong offices -- who advise companies and financial institutions on high-stakes litigation and complex transactions, according to the press release.

McGarry said corporate and securities litigation had always interested her because of its strategic problem-solving and ever-changing nature.

"The issues are always different because every company is different. The economic conditions change constantly, so the challenges are always changing. No two deals were alike; there is nothing repetitive about it," she said.



Martha McGarry

When asked how the M&A and corporate governance spaces have changed over the years, McGarry said she had seen an increasing number of public companies engaging in cross-border activity.

"[Companies are] realizing ... not only do they have potential customer markets all over the world, but there are startups all over the world entering their space which would be very attractive to partner with, so I would say the breadth of their activities and their growth prospects has changed significantly," McGarry said.

In the press release Jodi Simala, co-leader of Mayer Brown's global corporate and securities practice, said the firm is "energized" at the prospect of working with McGarry.

"Martha is an outstanding lawyer, with a breadth of skills, body of work and history of premier client service that make her a great addition to the Mayer Brown team," Simala said.

McGarry co-founded and served on the board of W.O.M.E.N. in America, a professional development and mentoring organization for promising young female leaders in business.

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.