

Mayer Brown Elevates 3 To Gov't Affairs, Int'l Trade Leadership

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (January 12, 2023, 4:02 PM EST) -- Mayer Brown LLP has promoted two new co-leaders in its international trade practice and added another co-leader to its public policy, regulatory and government affairs practice, the firm announced Thursday.

Tim Keeler and Nikolay Mizulin will take over as co-leaders of the firm's international trade practice, while Howard Waltzman will join Phil Recht as co-leader of the firm's public policy, regulatory and government affairs practice. Keeler and Mizulin will take over for Duane Layton, who has led the group for 15 years and will continue his international dispute settlement practice with Mayer Brown, the firm said.

Jeremy Clay, the firm's managing partner, said in a statement that the firm's new leaders would do an excellent job of fulfilling the firm's goals in their new roles.

"Tim, Nikolay and Howard are highly regarded by our people and clients and will be a great asset to our global leadership team," he said.

Keeler will continue his work related to representing clients before the Treasury Department's Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and heads the firm's practice related to that group. His work involves advising clients on high-profile international trade law and other policy issues, the firm said.

Keeler joined the firm in 2009 after working with the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Senate's Finance Committee in a number of senior roles, the firm said.

In a statement to Law360 on Thursday, Keeler said that having practiced at the firm for 14 years, it was his honor to now be selected for a leadership role. He was looking forward to "keeping a foot in the public policy space," as well as continuing his practice related to CFIUS, he said. One short-term goal for Keeler is to host "in-person meetings of the full team for the first time in years," he said.

Mizulin works with clients on international and European Union trade law, the firm said. His focus includes World Trade Organization settlement disputes and other trade remedies and sanctions. Based in Brussels, Mizulin joined the firm in 2011 from Hogan Lovells.



Tim Keeler



Nikolay Mizulin

Mizulin studied law at the University of Oxford, international law and economics at the World Trade Institute and international law at Moscow's State Institute of International Relations, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Mizulin said he was chiefly focused on sanctions issues and other work related to his international trade team.

"An explosion of sanctions and supply chain work and related enforcement in 2022 was a major test for any international trade practice," he said. "We have successfully passed it and look forward to capitalizing on all the great work that we delivered to our clients in the EU, UK and U.S. last year."

He added that in the short term in his new role, the team was focused on "supporting our sanctions team in meeting the increasing number of client inquiries," which included hiring new employees.

Waltzman, who is based in Washington, D.C., works on communications and technology law issues, and joined the firm in 2007, Mayer Brown said. Prior to jumping to Mayer Brown, he worked as chief telecommunications and internet counsel for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the firm said.

Along with his work in technology and communications law, Waltzman represents trade associations, helping those groups understand legislative issues like those related to mobile and internet services.

Waltzman earned his law degree from the George Washington University Law School, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Waltzman said he was looking forward to working alongside Recht.

"Mayer Brown is doing a lot of groundbreaking work in this space," he said. "Over the next couple of months, we want to increase our group's profile so that companies understand the nature of our work and the value of our services."

Recht, the firm's other public policy, regulatory and government affairs co-leader, is based in Los Angeles and joined the firm in 1999, Mayer Brown said. His practice focuses on legislative and enforcement litigation matters involving state, federal and local governments, the firm said.

Recht focuses his practice on transportation, infrastructure, tribal gambling, health care and other issues, the firm said. Before he joined Mayer Brown in 1999, he worked as chief counsel and deputy administrator in the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the firm said.

--Editing by Rich Mills.