

Biden Taps Mayer Brown Nat. Sec. Head For Peace Institute

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (March 23, 2023, 10:20 AM EDT) -- The co-leader and co-founder of Mayer Brown LLP's national security practice has been tapped by President Joe Biden to serve as a member of the U.S. Institute of Peace's board of directors, the firm announced Tuesday.

John J. Sullivan joins the U.S. Institute of Peace after working as a partner in Mayer Brown's New York and Washington, D.C., offices, the firm said. The U.S. Institute of Peace was founded by Congress in 1984 and works towards resolving violent conflict throughout the world.



John J. Sullivan

Sullivan is the former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, serving in that role from December 2019 to September 2022, the firm said, covering "the most challenging period in U.S.-Russia relations in generations." He has four decades of diplomatic experience serving under five U.S. presidents.

Sullivan rejoined Mayer Brown in January, according to his firm profile. He first joined the firm in 1993 and was a co-founder of its national security practice. He is also a member of its Supreme Court and appellate practices.

Sullivan is the former Deputy Secretary of State, nominated to the post by former President Donald Trump and confirmed in a 94-6 Senate vote in 2017. He also served as acting Secretary of State from March to April 2018, which the firm said was among the longest tenures of history for anyone in that position.

Sullivan has served in several presidents' cabinets besides Trump's, including Presidents George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, according to his firm profile.

For George H.W. Bush, Sullivan worked as counselor to then-Assistant Attorney General J. Michael Luttig in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

For George W. Bush, Sullivan served as Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and in his first term he was appointed by former Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld as deputy general counsel for the Defense Department, according to his firm profile.

For six years, from 2010 until the Trump administration, Sullivan served as chairman of the U.S.-Iraq

Business Dialogue, an advisory committee focusing on relationships between the two countries that's made up of business leaders to help build commercial relations, the firm said.

Sullivan earned his law degree from Columbia Law School.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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