

Mayer Brown Adds Dentons Global Advisors Team In DC

By **Christine DeRosa**

Law360 (November 14, 2023, 4:16 PM EST) -- A four-person public policy team has jumped from Dentons Global Advisors to Mayer Brown LLP, just over a year after the group had joined its former firm.

The team, which is led by partners Matthew "Mac" Bernstein and John Merrigan, joined Mayer Brown's public policy, regulatory and government affairs practice in Washington, D.C., the firm said in a Tuesday statement. Rounding out the team is senior advisor Jessica Woolley and public policy advisor Stephanie Jebeyli.

This is the team's first full week with Mayer Brown, a firm spokesperson told Law360 Pulse on Tuesday, as Bernstein and Merrigan joined on Nov. 6, and Woolley and Jebeyli joined on Nov. 8.

"Mac and John have a wealth of experience in a range of legal and policy areas — from government investigations to high-stakes rulemakings and litigation," Howard Waltzman, co-leader of the public policy, regulatory and government affairs practice, said in the statement.

"As our clients continue to navigate an extremely turbulent geopolitical business climate, we are thrilled to welcome this exceptionally dynamic team, which complements our preeminent roster of lawyers and lobbyists across the globe," said Phil Recht, who co-leads the group alongside Waltzman.

All four new hires joined the firm from Dentons Global Advisors, which they joined in October 2022.

Before the group moved to Dentons Global Advisors, they worked together at DLA Piper, where Merrigan co-led the firm's federal law and policy group.

Bernstein, a Georgetown University Law Center graduate, has more than three decades of experience representing businesses, public sector and non-profit enterprises on complex strategies, Mayer Brown said. He works with U.S. and foreign government policymakers on international policy, sustainable development and public international law matters, and advises and represents clients before both Congress and the executive branch, according to the firm.

"Mayer Brown has a first-rate Washington presence and an unparalleled reputation as an international



Matthew "Mac" Bernstein



John Merrigan

legal powerhouse," Bernstein told Law360 Pulse. "The brand and quality of legal expertise at Mayer Brown really attracted us to the firm — it's what we need to advise clients on their most complex and high-stakes legal matters."

Bernstein added that the team hopes to continue expanding Mayer Brown's reputation as a go-to firm across the world for policy work and for complex and sensitive Washington issues.

Merrigan, a Loyola University Chicago School of Law graduate, has more than 50 years of experience representing corporate, non-profit and sovereign clients before the U.S. government on various matters such as regulatory compliance and complex policy matters, the firm said.

"The firm's roster of talented lawyers — integrated across regions, products and industries — is impressive," Merrigan told Law360 Pulse. "The firm's expertise in areas, including litigation, energy, trade, [Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States] and sanctions, will be extremely valuable to clients."

Woolley has nearly 20 years of experience, Mayer Brown said, advising clients on issues such climate innovation and resilience, economic policy, foreign policy and development and international trade. She previously worked on Capitol Hill for several representatives, including Reps. Melissa Bean, D-Ill., and Baron Hill, D-Ind.

Jebeyli represents businesses, nonprofits and sovereign clients on various issues, including congressional and administrative investigations, regulatory compliance and public advocacy before government branches and agencies, Mayer Brown said.

"This dynamic team is a well-known fixture of the D.C. government-related law practice scene," Liz Stern, the managing partner of the D.C. office, said in the statement. "The team's arrival exemplifies our position as a government practice player in the D.C. market and will be a boon to clients across our international platform."

--Additional reporting by Jack Rodgers. Editing by Dave Trumbore.