

Supreme Court Pro Jumps From Gibson Dunn To Mayer Brown

By Jimmy Hoover

Law360, Washington (November 28, 2018, 6:22 PM EST) -- Saharsky will co-lead Mayer Brown's appellate practice alongside Andrew Pincus, another well-known member of the elite Supreme Court bar, the firm announced Wednesday.

Saharsky joined Gibson Dunn in November 2017 after spending a decade as an assistant to the U.S. solicitor general. She was part of a wave of experienced female attorneys who left the SG's office during the first year of the Trump administration.

In an interview with Law360, Saharsky said she enjoyed the work and her colleagues at Gibson Dunn, but that she "just came to believe that Mayer Brown was a better fit."

Saharsky said she had considered joining Mayer Brown after leaving the SG's office but settled on Gibson Dunn, whose appellate practice includes heavyweight partners like former U.S. Solicitor General Ted Olson. Saharsky "stayed in touch" with Pincus, against whom she has argued cases, and "ultimately came to the view that Mayer Brown is the right place for me."

Pincus said in a statement that Saharsky "will be an invaluable resource as we continue to defend our clients' interests at every level of the US judicial system."

She said she was drawn to Mayer Brown's history as one of the first dedicated Supreme Court practices, and its similarities to the SG's office. "That's just something that's incredibly familiar and attractive to me," she said.

The practice was shaken in August when its founder, Stephen Shapiro, was shot dead in his home in Northfield, Illinois, at age 72. He was hailed as a "giant" of the Supreme Court bar who "literally wrote the book on Supreme Court advocacy."

During her time as an assistant to the U.S. solicitor general, Saharsky argued 29 cases before the Supreme Court, more than any other female advocate during that period.

In a statement, Michael Lackey, the leader of Mayer Brown's global litigation and dispute resolution practice, welcomed Saharsky to the firm. "Nicole is among the leading women Supreme Court advocates in the US," he said. "She will be a terrific addition to the firm's premier appellate practice."



Nicole Saharsky

The move adds gender diversity to what has traditionally been a male-dominated practice group. In October, Law360 reported that Mayer Brown was among four major Supreme Court firms to not have had a female advocate present a case in the last 10 years.

Prior to her tenure at the Office of the Solicitor General, Saharsky was an associate at O'Melveny & Myers LLP for three years.

She has a law degree from University of Minnesota Law School, where she served as lead articles editor of the Minnesota Law Review, and an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University.

Saharsky sat down with Law360 last month to discuss gender diversity on the Supreme Court bar.

"A few years ago, I did my first triathlon and one of my friends afterwards was like, 'Well, if you could do a triathlon, I figured I could do one, too.' If that's what it takes to have some women who are in law school think, 'Well if she can do it, I can do it,' I'd be happy to help them have that feeling," she said.

--Additional reporting by Dorothy Atkins, Diana Novak Jones and Annie Pancak. Editing by Breda Lund.