

MoFo Appellate Co-Chair Takes Reins Of Expanding DC Office

By Kyle Jahner

Law360 (March 30, 2018, 8:58 PM EDT) – Morrison & Foerster has made a former assistant to the U.S. solicitor general the managing partner of its Washington, D.C., office, putting him at the helm of the firm during a period of rapid growth and transition, including design of and a planned move into a brand new office.

Joseph Palmore, who joined the firm in 2014 after time at the Federal Communications Commission and the Department of Justice, will continue to co-chair Morrison & Foerster's appellate and Supreme Court practice, according to Wednesday's announcement. He told Law360 he plans to expand on the firm's recent success in attracting lateral hires and government officials.



Joseph R. Palmore

"We've seen a lot of growth in the D.C. metro area. Our attorney headcount is up 25 percent over the last five years, and we project future growth as well," Palmore said. "Growing the D.C. office to serve our national and international clients is a focus of the firm."

In the last few years Morrison & Foerster has hired a number of big names out of government. In 2014, Charles Duross joined the firm after heading the Justice Department's foreign corruption division, and the next year the firm added James M. Koukios, deputy chief of the DOJ's anti-fraud section. In 2016, John P. Carlin, an assistant attorney general for national security, and Ali Zaidi, the White House Office of Management and Budget's associate director for natural resources, energy and science, came onboard.

In addition to growing the firm, especially in practices such as national security, government contracts and white collar, Palmore will be charged with moving its D.C. office. He is working with architects to design what he expects to be the firm's nerve center in the nation's capital for decades — 81,300 square feet of space in the top floors of the building under construction at 2100 L St. NW. Morrison & Foerster, which will be the anchor tenant, is slated to move into its new digs in 2021.

"It's challenging ... trying to project the needs of an international law firm. It's making us think about who we are, how we organize ourselves and how we organize our workspace," Palmore said.

Palmore, who enjoys the diversity of cases that comes with appellate practice, said he embraces a culture of collaboration at the firm that others also have cited as an asset. He said lawyers in the firm

often work across different office locations and practices, which “replicates the model that I liked about government work, where everyone’s working together to grow.”

--Editing by Bruce Goldman.

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