

MoFo Adds Capital Markets Partner From Jones Day

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (October 15, 2018, 5:18 PM EDT) -- Morrison & Foerster LLP has added an attorney from Jones Day with more than 17 years of experience in capital markets and mergers and acquisitions as a partner in its New York office.

John T. Owen spent the past 12 and a half years at Jones Day, where he worked on multimillion-dollar transactions in a variety of industries such as financial services, life sciences and technology. Owen says he was attracted to Morrison & Foerster because of the firm's reputation and global footprint.

"[I found] the firm's incredible reputation both domestically and internationally — including representing some of the world's biggest technology companies on their biggest transactions — exciting, [along with] the global footprint. In particular, the firm's incredible work it does in Asia, since I do a good amount of work there," Owen said.

The graduate of the University of Texas School of Law has spent a large portion of his career working in Asia, most notably at Jones Day's Hong Kong and Singapore offices. During his time there, Owen oversaw transactions in and all over the continent, which he says presents unique challenges.

"I love the interesting nature of doing work in emerging markets like India where transaction structures are newer and [it] takes more collaborative work," Owen said.

One of the highest-profile deals he worked on was the \$9 billion merger between French aerospace companies Zodiac Aerospace and Safran, helping to advise Safran on structuring the tender offer and acquisition, which combined the entities into the world's third largest aerospace company.

Owen also helped represent aerospace company Transdigm in its U.K. subsidiary's offering of \$500 million senior subordinated notes, which the company used to help regain the cash spent on acquiring aircraft part manufacturers Extant Components Group Holdings and Kirkhill.

"There are several things I really enjoy about capital markets," Owen said. "It's an inherently collaborative practice, underwriters and issuers working together toward a common goal, and also the complexity around transaction structuring and disclosure and the financial aspects of the transactions."

Since 2014, Owen has also been on the board of directors at the Ali Forney Center, a community center that helps more than 1,000 LGBT homeless youths a year with housing, health care, meals and other forms of assistance.

"I think there is a very significant issue in New York and other large cities of homeless LGBT youth; they come out to their families and get kicked out of their homes and left on the streets," Owen said. "This is an organization that really helps these homeless youth. We have a tremendous number of success stories of homeless youth becoming truly reintegrated back into society and having very successful professional and personal lives."

As the world continues to become more globalized, Owen says one of the key developments in capital markets over the next 10 years will be the continued growth and further development of emerging economies.

"I think that international offerings will continue to increase and that markets like India in particular will continue to mature and become more outward-facing with more U.S. listings and more high yield listings as these markets continue to grow and evolve," Owen said.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

Correction: An earlier version of this story misstated which parties in Owen's quote were "working together toward a common goal." The error has been corrected.