

MoFo Hires 8th Corporate Partner In 7 Months

By Tracey Read

Law360 (July 25, 2022, 3:11 PM EDT) -- Morrison Foerster LLP has added a partner who specializes in fund formation and asset management — its eighth global corporate partner to join the firm this year.

Besides being a partner in the firm's corporate department, Derek Steingarten will co-chair the firm's investment management group, Morrison Foerster announced Monday.

Steingarten was a partner at K&L Gates LLP in New York before moving to Morrison Foerster, according to his LinkedIn page.

In a joint video interview with managing partner Eric Piesner on Monday, Steingarten said the firm's culture was why he made the move.

"MoFo is just an amazing group of people," Steingarten said. "It's hard to imagine 1,000 lawyers working together and pulling in the same direction at this level of quality and dedication. It's just a standout firm — stand-up quality and dedication, really active in the fund space and sophisticated on the regulatory pieces that I need in my practice."

Steingarten counsels clients on the complex legal and business challenges related to fund formation, governance and regulation. His practice spans multiple areas of law, including corporate and securities laws, and integrates Employee Retirement Income Security Act, banking laws, commodities laws and tax laws.

Steingarten also has many years of board-level experience managing governance and 1940 Act regulatory oversight for registered funds and their service providers, including oversight of investigations and regulatory enforcement and examination responses.

Piesner said Steingarten's broad skill set with many areas of expertise was exactly what the firm had been looking for in a new partner.

"And so it was pretty exciting when Derek came onto our radar screen and became a possibility for us," Piesner said. "Funds is a growing part of our practice at the firm, and there's continuing demand from a broad swath of our clients to have expertise in the intersection of managing money and the law. And, you know, Derek just fits in perfectly with us culturally, and in terms of what he's able to bring to the



Derek Steingarten

table for our clients."

Eric McCrath, co-chair of Morrison Foerster's global corporate department, called Steingarten an accomplished lawyer who brings exceptionally strong experience with an impressive and diverse roster of clients.

"Derek's presence bolsters the firm's investment management and funds practices, while complementing our REIT and capital markets practices and our strengths in the technology and financial industry verticals," McCrath said in a statement.

"His arrival also further enhances our ability to advise clients operating in the investment management, fund formation, M&A, private equity, fintech and crypto spaces on their most complex investigations and regulatory enforcement matters."

Other recent corporate hires were Matthew Ferry, Michael Glaser, Daphne Higgs, Mike LaPlante, Paul Navarro, Teresa Tate and Steven Tyndall.

The firm said it is also concentrating on growing its corporate capabilities in New York. Corporate department co-chair Mitchell Presser and partners Omar Pringle, Aly El Hamamsy and Larry Medvinsky, have all joined the New York office since 2020.

Steingarten was also a partner in Goodwin Procter LLP's financial institutions group in Boston, according to his LinkedIn page.

Earlier in his career, he worked for the government of Canada within both the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Justice, the firm said.

He earned his bachelor's degree with first class honors from McGill University and his L.L.B. magna cum laude from the University of Ottawa. Steingarten is admitted to practice in New York and Massachusetts, and is fluent in French and Spanish, the firm said.

Steingarten said he's excited to continue to grow his practice and expand the firm's investment management and funds footprint in New York.

"I started my career in Boston, and I was there for 15 years and then moved to New York six or seven years ago," he said. "And there's no question that being in the New York space and just walking around Manhattan now that people are starting to come back into the office, that there's an ease of running a financial services and fund-oriented practice in New York that is really extraordinary."

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.