

Kirkland Antitrust Pro Joins MoFo In San Francisco

By Craig Clough

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Morrison & Foerster LLP recently welcomed a new partner from Kirkland & Ellis LLP experienced in criminal and civil antitrust litigation to join its global antitrust law practice and investigations and white collar defense group in San Francisco.

Eliot Adelson moved to MoFo earlier this month after 15 years at Kirkland, with deep experience working in the Bay Area while representing many Japanese and American companies on antitrust, cartel and internal and governmental investigations cases.



Eliot Adelson

"This is a perfect fit for me," Adelson told Law360. "First, as a San Francisco litigator, there is no better place to be than Morrison & Foerster. Not only locally here, but they also have a broad international presence."

Adelson graduated from law school at Northwestern University in 1999 before going to work as a deputy district attorney for Alameda County for several years. After a brief stint at a midsize firm in Walnut Creek, California, he moved over to Kirkland.

"I had a fantastic mentor at Kirkland, Jim Mutchnik, who was the head of Kirkland's antitrust group, and he was looking for some help out in San Francisco representing a client," Adelson said about what got him involved in antitrust litigation. "And because I had a criminal background, it fit into what he was looking for, and over the years he taught me a lot about antitrust law and I turned that into a career."

During his time at Kirkland, one of Adelson's more notable cases was representing Nexstar Media Group in a putative class action alleging that companies conspired to fix the prices of local television advertising. He also represented many Japanese clients, including Hitachi on a price-fixing case and Toyota Industries Corp. in its acquisition of Cascade Corp.

David Cross, an antitrust partner at MoFo's Washington, D.C., office, said Adelson's experience with Japanese clients combined with his antitrust and cartel experience was one of the things that interested the firm in bringing him on.

"The West Coast has been a real hotbed for antitrust litigation, and with the type of litigation that Eliot does, like cartel work, and so having folks like him right there on the ground in California sort of gives us

the final piece to the growth strategy we've had," Cross told Law360.

Adelson said the combination of different types of law is what he finds most interesting about antitrust and cartel cases.

"The cases are a nice intersection of criminal and civil law, and I get to work on both sides of a case," he said. "The facts are usually pretty good, and the defenses are pretty detailed from a factual, economic and legal perspective, and I really get to explore different types of businesses, different people, different industries, and get a broad exposure to all types of cases, people and places."

Morrison & Foerster has more than 1,000 lawyers in 17 offices in the United States, Asia and Europe, including an office with more than 120 lawyers in Tokyo.

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.