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Ex-Prosecutors Find New Home In Private Practice

Wiggin and Dana adds to growing stable of white-collar defense lawyers

By DOUGLAS S. MALAN

Government regulators have never been so sharply focused on the conduct of corporations than they are now. And with business booming, some Connecticut law firms are eager to add attorneys to defend white-collar clients.

New Haven's Wiggin and Dana recently did just that, bringing aboard two former federal prosecutors as partners to help clients in cases involving corporate compliance, government investigations and internal audits.

James I. Glasser joined the firm after 19 years in the U.S. Attorney's office in Connecticut, most recently serving as counsel to U.S. Attorney Kevin O'Connor and chief of the criminal division. Joseph W. Martini arrived at Wiggin from Pepe & Hazard in Hartford, for whom he practiced after serving as federal prosecutor for nine years.

Among the established white-collar practice groups in Connecticut, there are few strangers and numerous ties to the U.S. Attorney's office.

Glasser previously had served as supervisory assistant U.S. attorney in Bridgeport, the same position Alex V. Hernandez left in June to become the centerpiece of Pullman & Comley's new four-lawyer, white-collar practice group in Bridgeport.

Hernandez joined the U.S. Attorney's office in 1990 when he was hired by then-U.S. Attorney for Connecticut Stanley A. Twardy Jr., a Stamford-based partner in Day Pitney's 20-member, white-collar defense and internal investigations practice.

"What you learn in conducting investigations [in the U.S. Attorney's office] is invaluable either in responding to government investigations or conducting investigations for clients," David B. Fein, chairman of Wiggin and Dana's white-collar practice group, told the Law Tribune earlier this year.

Wiggin launched the practice group in 1997, and has increased its stable to 14 lawyers. The group includes seven former prosecutors with experience in: U.S. Attorney's offices in the Southern District of New York and Connecticut; the Federal Reserve Bank's Enforcement Division in Manhattan; and the Manhattan District Attorney's office.

Glasser will represent individuals and corporations that are the subject of criminal prosecutions, grand jury investigations and internal corporate investigations. He will also counsel people being investigated under anti-money laundering laws, the Bank Secrecy Act, and the USA Patriot Act, among other federal laws.

Martini focuses on criminal defense in white-collar cases, internal investigations, corporate compliance and criminal appeals. He regularly represents individuals and entities being investigated for fraudulent activities, money laundering and municipal corruption. ■



With the addition of James I. Glasser, left, and Joseph W. Martini, Wiggin and Dana now has 14 lawyers in its white-collar practice group.

Mia Mialfronte