

Latham Snags Williams & Connolly Litigator In DC

By **Cara Salvatore**

Law360 (April 1, 2020, 9:18 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins has hired a Williams & Connolly litigation partner with subspecialties in trade secrets, copyright and finance for its Washington, D.C., office.

Partner Nicholas Boyle, speaking with Law360 on his first day at the new firm, said Latham and its two-and-a-half dozen locations around the world open up a premier platform for clients of his with "litigation in multiple countries or multiple jurisdictions simultaneously."

"I wanted to go somewhere where I could do that in one firm, as opposed to having to find co-counsel in different jurisdictions ... That is a process that can be difficult and fraught, and you can end up with uneven representation," Boyle said.

Though Boyle has his subspecialties, he is overall a generalist in litigation, with experience in arbitration as well as practice areas like employment, antitrust and private equity. Latham is "really A+ across the board," Boyle said, and it directs considerable energy and resources to the five-year-old complex commercial litigation group he's joining.

"They're very focused on that practice area and increasing its size and prioritizing it within the firm. And my background, coming from a sort of 'I am here to service the client and help them solve their dispute needs in whatever field it happens to be,' means that we're a good fit for one another," Boyle said.

Boyle met as many as 50 Latham partners face to face during his interview process, before the COVID-19 pandemic had gripped the country. But his first day's work took place from home, and he, like most others in the legal field, will be working remotely for the time being.

It's similar straits for most U.S. courts, Boyle acknowledged, where the majority of upcoming trials have now been pushed off. But other litigating work continues — briefs and expert reports, offers of remote video depositions, even "drafting cross-examinations for use at trial — whenever that happens," Boyle said.

Boyle's career experience comes from a variety of business disputes. In December, a Missouri federal judge entered a \$500 million judgment and permanent injunction for Boyle's client CoStar in long-running litigation with rival Xceligent over accusations that Xceligent helped itself to CoStar's subscription databases and brazenly lifted photos and information from its website. Xceligent filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in late 2017.

Boyle also recently helped HSBC sink a suit by Deutsche Bank over failed mortgage-backed securities when a New York appeals court said Deutsche missed California's four-year statute of limitations, overruling a lower court's finding that the claims were brought in time.

Meanwhile, Latham recently hired another former Williams & Connolly litigator, Adam Perlman, bringing him on in January.

Also this week, the firm brought on an M&A partner in Singapore, Mark Cooper.

--Additional reporting by Jon Hill and Tiffany Hu. Editing by Haylee Pearl.