

Latham Adds Top Litigators to Partnership Ranks

BY CHRISTINE SIMMONS

Serrin Turner, the Southern District assistant U.S. attorney who secured the conviction of the founder of black market website Silk Road, is joining Latham & Watkins in March as a litigation partner.

Turner has served as the lead cybercrime prosecutor responsible for complex cyber investigations and prosecutions. In February 2015, Turner and Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Howard won the conviction of Ross Ulbricht, who built the Silk Road website using Bitcoins as the means of exchange and linking drug dealers and buyers.

Turner, 42, also prosecuted about five operators of Liberty Reserve, which the government has described as an underworld cyber-banking system that laundered illicit proceeds for criminals.

His cybersecurity background is expected to help meet client demand to both pre-empt and respond to legal action from cyber threats and breaches, a now common event for



corporations. Turner said he'll advise companies in breach preparedness, investigations and litigation.

"I'm very familiar with the threat environment" and difficulties posed to corporations, he said, adding it's a fast-moving practice area as cyber criminals adapt through new technology.

In addition, Douglas Yatter, 39, joined Latham Monday in its white-collar defense practice. Yatter was in the Division of Enforcement at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commis-

sion, where he most recently served as chief trial attorney. He was a leader of enforcement matters such as the investigation of the shortfall in customer funds at MF Global Inc., leading to an agency suit against the company and ex-CEO Jon Corzine.

Meanwhile, Gregory Hannibal, from Davis Polk & Wardwell, has joined Latham as a tax partner and eight counsel have been elected to Latham's partnership, including Veronica Relea in the New York finance practice.