

DOJ Antitrust Ace, Dechert Tech Partner To Join Latham

By Vin Gurrieri

Law360, New York (July 16, 2014, 5:46 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has lured a trial attorney from the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division to bolster its competition practice and a financial services and technology attorney from Dechert LLP, the firm announced this week.

Partner Lawrence Buterman, who was a part of the antitrust division's networks and technology enforcement section, was the government's lead attorney in a suit accusing Apple Inc. of conspiring with five book publishers to restrain competition and drive up e-book pricing.

Buterman said Wednesday that Latham is a firm he has admired for quite some time and that its trial capabilities and the opportunity to work with some of the legal industry's top antitrust litigators were major factors that attracted him to it.

"The thing that really intrigued me and that makes Latham unique is the ability of the firm to provide comprehensive solutions to antitrust issues," Buterman said. "The firm's ability to handle every single antitrust issue a company may face is beneficial to clients ... and got me excited to join a wonderfully talented group of lawyers."

Buterman joined the DOJ in 2009 as part of a campaign by the Obama administration to bolster its litigation capabilities and make antitrust enforcement a priority. Prior to his stint at the DOJ, Buterman was an associate at Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP and counsel at Chadbourne & Parke LLP.

At the DOJ, Buterman also handled the government's case opposing a \$288 million tie-up between H&R Block Inc. and TaxACT software developer 2SS Holdings Inc., a deal the government argued would lessen competition for digital do-it-yourself tax preparation software and ultimately harm consumers.

The government won an injunction blocking the deal **in October 2011**, a ruling that Buterman said was, at that time, the first successful merger challenge by the DOJ in eight years.

Buterman said that his experiences at the DOJ prepared him well for private practice by giving him a good sense of how the antitrust division operates and how the government goes about shaping litigation strategies — a responsibility Buterman himself had in his role as lead attorney in several of the department's cases.

"All my experiences at the DOJ in trials and investigations are things that I'll be able to use to the benefit

of clients,” Buterman said.

In a broader sense, Buterman said that antitrust law is extremely stimulating, and the intersection of antitrust law and economics is something he particularly enjoys.

“Antitrust law touches on a lot of different areas, including intellectual property,” Buterman said. “It really provides an opportunity to work closely with companies when they are engaged in some of their most intense moments. Its an exciting environment to practice law.

Michael Egge, co-chairman of the firm’s global antitrust and competition practice group, said Buterman's credentials are “stellar” and that finding first-chair antitrust lawyers with substantial trial experience like Buterman are rare because many antitrust cases never make it to trial.

“Larry boasts high-profile victories throughout his career, as well as a deep understanding of the government’s priorities and practices related to antitrust enforcement,” Egge said. “We’re thrilled to welcome Larry to the Latham partnership and to add his substantial strategic capabilities and experience to our platform and our clients.”

When Buterman officially joins Latham in September, he is expected to split his time between the firm's offices in Washington D.C. and New York.

Jimmy Brandt, managing partner of Latham's office in New York, lauded Buterman's hiring as “an excellent addition to our renowned litigation group.”

“In particular, it will be great to have a former government antitrust enforcer on the ground here in New York to work with clients in the banking and pharmaceutical industries as they face increasing threats from both government and private antitrust litigation,” Brandt said.

Buterman earned his law degree from the Columbia University School of Law in 2000.

Additionally, Latham & Watkins also announced Tuesday that it has snared financial services and technology attorney Vivian Maese from Dechert to join its corporate department in New York.

Maese previously worked as in-house counsel at Salomon Brothers Inc., Citigroup Inc. and the New York Stock Exchange, as well as a managing director at Morgan Stanley in charge of its global workforce. She will focus her practice on strategic transactions that involve both technology and financial services regulation.

She will handle on a wide array of matters that involve global financial institutions, emerging companies, technology and outsourcing practices. She will also contribute to Latham's broad mergers and acquisitions and capital markets practices and IP litigation capability, the firm said.

“Financial institutions face an increasingly regulated and automated landscape, and changes to the delivery of financial services will continue to reshape the industry,” Maese said. “Technology has been the driving factor in creating new ‘financial’ businesses, and it will continue to fuel innovation in the sector. This makes for a dynamic and complex environment — one which Latham understands from all angles on a global scale.”

Maese earned her law degree from Brooklyn Law School and obtained her undergraduate degree from

Hunter College.

Upon joining Latham, Buterman and Maese will join a firm that boasts more than 2,100 attorneys in over 30 offices worldwide.

--Editing by Christine Chun.

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