

Latham Adds Ex-Orrick Partner In DC

By Jack Rodgers

Law360 (March 29, 2022, 11:22 AM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has added a former Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP partner to its Washington, D.C., office, whose practice will focus on financial, corporate and regulatory law, the firm said Monday.

Parag Patel joins the firm's emerging companies, financial institutions and financial technology industry groups as a partner, the firm said. Patel also will assist with Latham's corporate department as a member, with his practice mostly focusing on emerging payment and financial technology and the surrounding regulatory issues.



Parag Patel

Along with that work, Patel also offers legal advice to non-bank lenders, banks and technology companies on transformative financial technology regulations and payment technology regulations. He advises corporations and other private equity groups on mergers and acquisitions as well as on investing in emerging financial technology.

In a statement, Patel expressed his excitement to have joined the firm.

"Latham continues to develop a leading emerging companies and financial technology regulatory platform that I have long admired," he said. "The combination of its first-rate global platform and diverse regulatory and transactional offerings will create exciting opportunities for my clients."

Latham's Washington, D.C., managing partner, Dan Lennon, said in a statement Monday that along with the firm's recent addition of Orrick corporate attorney Barrie VanBrackle, Patel would expand the firm's corporate ability in the district. The firm also added to its broker-dealer regulation and compliance practice last December, nabbing Marlon Paz from Mayer Brown, who joined Latham in Washington and New York.

"Parag is an entrepreneurial lawyer who takes a collaborative approach to finding innovative solutions for clients," Lennon said. "His experience compliments our broader offerings and pairs well with the recent addition of Barrie VanBrackle. Their strategic practices will further strengthen our capabilities in the payment space."

Patel began his career as an associate counsel for Funding Circle USA, a small business lending company in 2014. Following almost two years with that company, Patel spent almost three years as a counsel with Capital One, before moving on to Orrick in 2018, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Patel studied economics and history at the University of Georgia and earned his law degree from the University of California Berkeley School of Law in 2013. Patel also has experience as a judicial extern for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and as a student intern for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Since 2019, Patel has served as a board member on the Organ Preservation Alliance, a nonprofit organization whose mission it is to promote the study and funding of biomedicine focused on preserving organs and transplant surgery, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Rafal Gawlowski, who leads Latham's financial institutions' industry group, said in a statement that there is a general demand for expert financial technology and payments practitioners.

"As a diverse array of companies, from banks to technology companies and social media platforms, look to expand into this area, we are thrilled to add Parag to our team to meet their complex and nuanced needs," he said.

John Chory, who leads the firm's emerging companies practice, added to Gawlowski's comment that financial technology and other emerging tech had expanded their need for Patel's practice.

"Parag's significant experience working both in private practice and in-house brings a unique perspective to market trends and the changing needs of our clients," he said.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.