

Milbank Snags Former Manhattan Federal Prosecutor

By **Carmen Germaine**

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Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP has expanded its white collar investigation and regulatory enforcement practice with the addition of a former Manhattan-based assistant U.S. attorney, the firm announced Tuesday.

Adam Fee will join Milbank as special counsel in its litigation and arbitration practice group, bringing more than five years of experience with the U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York, where he led a number of high-profile investigations and prosecutions in cases involving financial corruption and international terrorism.



Adam Fee

Fee told Law360 Tuesday that he was eager to be part of Milbank's growing white collar practice, reuniting with fellow former prosecutor Antonia Apps, who joined the firm in September 2014.

"I think most AUSAs would agree that it's always a hard decision about when to leave, especially in the Southern District because there's always another big case coming down the pipeline," Fee said.

He noted that he was also attracted to the firm thanks to Milbank's global head of litigation George S. Canellos, who is an SDNY alum and served as co-director of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's enforcement division before rejoining the firm in February 2014.

"There's a lot of good people here and lawyers I respect," Fee said.

In his new position at Milbank, Fee will advise a range of financial institutions, corporations and individuals facing government and internal investigations, focusing in particular on white collar defense, regulatory compliance and complex civil litigation.

Though Fee will be involved in a broad range of subject areas, he said he anticipates many of his cases to have an international bent, drawing on his experience at the U.S. Department of Justice, where nearly all of his cases required coordination with regulators and enforcers in other countries.

"[In] legal practice today, as I've come to understand it, there are very few cases that don't involve dealing with more than one country's regulators," he said.

As a member of the DOJ's terrorism and international narcotics unit, Fee focused on corruption, bribery and terrorism in cases largely targeting international defendants. He led several significant cases, including securing a six-year prison sentence in May 2014 against Alfonso Portillo, the former president of Guatemala, on bribery and money laundering charges.

Fee also co-led a case alleging Russian banker Evgeny Buryakov acted as a spy while in the United States. A federal judge in July 2015 rejected Buryakov's claims he was protected by diplomatic immunity, and the case is still ongoing.

In a third noteworthy case, Fee worked on the investigation and eventual prosecution of three al-Qaida members convicted for bombing U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998.

Fee joined the DOJ in September 2010 after working for two years as an associate focused on white collar criminal defense and investigations at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, achieving what he says was a long-term goal to become a prosecutor.

"I knew pretty early on I wanted to be a prosecutor by the time I entered law school," Fee said. "I had it in my mind to try to get that job."

He joined Sullivan & Cromwell after clerking for U.S. District Judge Richard J. Sullivan from 2007 to 2008 and began his legal career in September 2006 as a legal clerk for U.S. District Judge Joseph F. Bianco.

Fee received a bachelor's degree in political science in 2003 from Yale University, where he also played "not well" on the varsity football team and earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 2006.

--Editing by Christine Chun.
