How does your pay stack up? Click here to take the Law360 survey.

Ex-Prosecutor Opens Defense Shop From Former Firm Office

By Anna Sanders · (Listen to article

Law360 (April 4, 2025, 2:43 PM EDT) -- A former federal prosecutor with more than three decades of experience launched his own litigation shop out of his old law firm's New York office in an arrangement he said will afford him greater freedom over cases

and clients. Trial attorney Paul Murphy launched Murphy Legal PLLC last week to focus on a variety of white collar prosecutions, government

probes, securities enforcement matters, corporate internal



Paul Murphy

investigations and complex civil litigation. The new defense firm is subleasing Murphy's existing office space in midtown Manhattan at litigation boutique Levine Lee LLP, where he most recently worked as a partner.

"I find the ability to help clients through their most difficult legal issues the most rewarding part of the job," Murphy told Law360 Pulse on Friday. "Starting my own firm just gives me wide latitude on a variety of fronts, including when it comes to matters I choose to take on, and that's really the reason for the whole new venture."

Murphy said that operating out of his former office at Levine Lee is a model that gives him "flexibility," noting his former partners have been "incredibly supportive of the move." Having his own firm also removes the potential for conflicts with other Levine Lee attorneys' representative matters.

"It's a model that's been used before to great success in litigation," he said. "For me, it opens up a lot of possibilities to take on what I want, while still working with my former partners."

Murphy's practice involves advising publicly traded companies, officers and directors, fund managers, executives and business owners in a swath of legal matters including regulatory enforcement and federal criminal prosecutions. Murphy particularly focuses on allegations of securities and commodities fraud, healthcare fraud and corporate malfeasance, according to his new law firm biography. He's litigated numerous trials in federal criminal and civil cases.

He also has experience working on cross-border investigations and prosecutions involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and international fraud schemes during his 14-plus years as a federal prosecutor handling white collar criminal cases and national security matters.

Between 2014 and 2019, Murphy served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, eventually becoming the chief of the Economic Crimes Unit overseeing all securities fraud matters, according to his biography. Before that, Murphy worked nine years in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut, serving as deputy chief of the Financial Fraud and Public Corruption Unit.

Murphy's time in both those prosecutorial offices included work on a variety of fraud matters, tax evasion, market manipulation and money laundering, according to his biography. He supervised white collar criminal prosecutions spanning an array of business crimes at publicly traded companies, hedge funds and other financial institutions.

Looking ahead, Murphy said he expects a full federal crime and enforcement caseload even if there's less regulation under the new administration hemmed by President Donald Trump. Murphy declined to comment on any specific administration directly.

"There's a general view that there will be less regulation," Murphy said. "But I also think what you'll see is the government taking a lot of affirmative action in ways that we haven't typically seen before, and I do expect that will result in a lot of litigation."

Murphy left government work in February 2019 to become a partner for Teitler & Teitler LLP in New York. He joined Levine Lee as a partner in February 2022.

A graduate of St. John's University School of Law, Murphy began his professional career as a law clerk for U.S. Circuit Judge Joseph McLaughlin of the Second Circuit in 1990, according to his LinkedIn profile. Murphy then worked as an associate for Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C., between 1992 and 2001.

Murphy joined the federal government just days after the Sept. 11 attacks as an associate counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice. He stayed there until becoming a federal prosecutor in 2005, working on international terrorism investigations.

--Additional reporting by Clarice Silber. Editing by Nicole Bleier.

For a reprint of this article, please contact reprints@law360.com.

0 Comments

Paul Murphy

Your name will appear next to your comment. If you do not disclose your full name, your comment will be deleted. Your email address will not be visible to the public

Tell us what you think (1,500 characters max)

Comment

Related Articles

Abell Eskew Adds Ex-SDNY Prosecutor And Veteran Litigator

Ex-US Prosecutor For NJ, Conn. Joins Levine Lee As Litigator

BigLaw Litigators, DOJ Standout Form Levine Lee

Law360 Securities Editorial Advisory Board

WilmerHale Snags Former SEC Branch Chief In Calif.

Useful Tools & Links Add to Briefcase

Save to PDF & Print

Rights/Reprints Editorial Contacts

Related Sections

Aerospace & Defense Compliance **New York** White Collar

Law Firms

Levine Lee Murphy Legal PLLC Teitler & Teitler Williams & Connolly

ዲ Ask a question! »

 \square

 \mathbf{M}

LinkedIn Corp.

Companies

Government Agencies

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of

New Jersey U.S. Department of Justice

Judge Analytics

powered by Lex Machina® Joseph M. McLaughlin

Law360 Pulse → Lawyer Satisfaction

The 2025 Lawyer Satisfaction Survey

Law firms and the legal profession are facing new uncertainties, shifting the stress levels, economic pressures, and overall contentment of lawyers in private practice, according to the 2025 Law360 Pulse Lawyer Satisfaction Survey.

Top 10 trending in A

Ask a question! >>

National Security Atty Who Lost Clearance Sues Trump Admin

Boeing Battles Bid To Depose Engineer In 737 Max Fraud Suit

Meta Wins \$168M Verdict Against NSO Over WhatsApp Hack

DOD Says It Has Standing To Halt Labor

High Court Lets Transgender Troop Ban Take

Russia Loses DQ Bid In Ukraine Case Over

Mobile Cos. Ramp Up Call For Spectrum, But

Arbitrator's Tweet

Alex Jones' Atty Seeks Discipline Pause In Sandy Hook Leak

Face Hurdles House OKs Economic Espionage Act

Targeting Russia, China

SDNY Taps Sullivan & Cromwell Atty To

Lead Criminal Division

Ask a question! >>