

## Steptoe Finance Chair Joins Morgan Lewis In Chicago

By **Adrian Cruz**

*Law360 (August 2, 2024, 4:12 PM EDT)* -- The chair of Steptoe LLP's financial services practice has joined Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's Chicago office as a partner, the firm said Thursday.

Stacie Hartman joined Morgan Lewis on Thursday after 5½ years at Steptoe, according to the firm's announcement. She told Law360 Pulse on Friday that she was drawn to Morgan Lewis because of the presence of a number of former colleagues along with its global platform and collaborative culture.



Stacie Hartman

Hartman said heading the Steptoe financial services practice helped her learn more about fostering a collaborative working team, which she said fits Morgan Lewis' culture.

"I know from prior experience that the Morgan Lewis investment team is of the highest caliber," Hartman said. "Joining Morgan Lewis offers opportunities to expand my own practice in ways I couldn't resist, the breadth and depth is extraordinary and I'm excited to be part of a firm that's so well-known for its collaborative culture and emphasis on partnership."

Hartman, a graduate of Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, said she represents financial services clients including financial institutions, exchanges, futures commission merchants, trading firms and individual traders on matters such as regulatory and government investigations, complex litigation and enforcement in front of federal agencies.

Before joining Steptoe, Hartman spent 22 years at Schiff Hardin LLP, according to her LinkedIn page.

"Having led major cases before U.S. courts and in enforcement proceedings before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and other federal financial agencies, Stacie augments our broad market-leading global investment management team as a significant advocate for our financial institutions clients and their regulatory and enforcement matters," firm Chair Jami McKeon said in a statement Thursday.

Hartman said the constant changes in both the financial industry and government agencies such as the CFTC are among the biggest challenges her clients are currently facing, adding that the upcoming election, changes in CFTC leadership and increased emphasis on enforcement along with growing financial penalties contribute to the dynamic nature of the industry.

"There's been an ever-increasing growth in the level of the civil monetary penalties, and we have seen them impose monitors in a few cases," Hartman said. "The changing regulatory and enforcement climate really lends itself to creating greater challenges for clients, and the Morgan Lewis team is really well poised and well positioned to help clients navigate these challenges."

A Morgan Lewis representative told Law360 Pulse that Hartman's hiring is the latest of 13 hires since 2022 in a drive to grow the firm's investment management practice. Other hires include the July addition of London-based partner Ted Craig and the June addition of partner Leonora Shalet in New York, and in March, the firm added a trio from Perkins Coie LLP's investment management team, including Todd Zerega, who had been that firm's investment management practice co-chair.

"The firm's dedication and investment into this phase was very attractive during my process leading up to joining," Hartman said. "They've made a number of strategic hires and really always have an eye towards the future of where client demand is coming in."

--Editing by Stephen Berg.