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Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Morrison Cohen Adds Labor Partner From Lowenstein

By **Scott Flaherty**

Law360, New York (April 06, 2012, 2:07 PM ET) -- Morrison Cohen LLP has bolstered its employment practice, adding as a lateral partner an experienced labor and employment attorney from Lowenstein Sandler PC, Morrison Cohen announced April 2.

Keith A. Markel, who joined Morrison Cohen's employment, compensation and benefits department on April 4, has spent more than a decade representing a range of institutional clients, hedge funds and other businesses in a number of employment litigation matters, including state and federal discrimination claims, breach of contract suits, and wage and hour disputes, the firm said.

Markel has also represented employers in administrative proceedings held by regulatory bodies like the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and by the U.S. Department of Labor, as well as state and local human rights and labor agencies, according to the firm. He has handled a number of arbitration proceedings in front of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority for wrongful termination, unjust enrichment and alleged violations of state labor laws.

"We are very excited about having Keith join our shop. He brings with him a terrific skill set and wonderful client relationships," David Scherl, Morrison Cohen's chairman, said in a statement.

Scherl continued, "He will add depth to a strong practice area of our firm, and we expect that there will be great client prospect synergies for us to target as a team. We are all looking forward to what we anticipate to be another important lateral addition to our partnership."

Markel told Law360 Friday that he was drawn to Morrison Cohen because of its reputation for representing midmarket businesses and its strong presence in New York.

"They were attractive to me because a lot of my client base comes from that world," Markel said.

He added that his meetings with other Morrison Cohen attorneys, both before taking the position and since he has started, have given him the impression that there was a real collaborative spirit that "permeated" the firm.

"I met with almost every partner at the firm before I came over," Markel said. "The feeling I got was, 'Wow, these are a great bunch of people to work with.'"

Markel said Morrison Cohen is designed so that he can work with partners in other practice

groups, thereby expanding the services the firm can offer to its clients and giving him the chance to further develop his own client base.

This synergy, added to the quality of the other lawyers at the firm, he said, made him feel like Morrison Cohen would be a great place to continue his career.

"All the attorneys here are really on their game. I feel lucky to be part of the team," Markel said. "In my 15-year career, this is the best fit."

Markel, who also counsels smaller businesses on how to avoid potential employment violations and litigation, has written a variety of articles on employment law issues, the firm said.

Before joining Lowenstein Sandler, he served as counsel at Dickstein Shapiro LLP and as an associate at Liddle & Robinson LLP.

Morrison Cohen, which is headquartered in New York, has built a specialty in representing midmarket companies, typically with annual revenues of less than \$1 billion. It also regularly represents financial institutions and high-net-worth individuals in a variety of legal matters.

--Editing by Cara Salvatore.

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